

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 33rd Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 31st March 2014
in Dunshalt Village Hall.

PRESENT: 1. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], 2. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 3. Christine LITTLE [Auchtermuchty], 4. Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], 5. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Valerie WEIR [Gateside]

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Auchtermuchty Community Centre on Monday 24th February was accepted by those present.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING: none

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

4.1 **Binn Eco Farm**; the Secretary reported on an application to change the operating permit held. At present the permit states that the operation should not allow offensive odours to be detected outside the installation's boundary. The application is to change this to include the provision that where steps have been taken to counter such odours, no penalties shall be levied even where such steps have failed and odours are detected beyond the installation's boundaries. Cllr. Heer has been asked to support residents in Abernethy objection to the application. The Secretary suggested that the Community Council writes supporting action aimed at preventing such a change. AGREED.

4.2 **TayPlan**; briefing events are available to members concerning the current position of TayPlan. They are to take place in Dundee and Perth [Perth Thursday 17th April 6.30pm]. Members should contact the Secretary [ASAP] if they wish to attend.

4.3 **Lochiehead planning application**; a local resident has contacted the Community Council to object to the proposed development. The argument that the development would constitute a visual improvement, as the current buildings are ruinous and unusable appears overstated. It was raised that this may act as a precedent for developments in the countryside with any unused building taken as a pretext for housing development. It was also felt that recent developments of this type tended to be uncharacteristic of the areas that they were set in – a failing of the Planning department. The increase in traffic on the minor road that serves the area caused some concern as the claim that residential traffic will replace agricultural traffic seems nebulous if the buildings are indeed ruinous and unused. The Secretary suggested the Community Council make a comment on the potential traffic problems. AGREED.

5.0 POLICE MATTERS:

5.1 **Community Engagement meeting 24th March**; a number of local issues including theft from works vehicles and vandalism of parked cars were raised. Speeding and driver behaviour, anti-social behaviour and crimes of dishonesty are to remain the focus of the local team. The new Fife Local Policing Plan 2014 is now available online and comments are encouraged.

5.2 **Gateside**; a deliberate dog attack on a hen/turkey run has caused concern to local residents.

- 5.3 **Rural Watch**; Cllr. Heer informed the meeting of this new take on the Farm Watch scheme. When signed up, participants will receive emails of incidents of note within the area.
- 5.4 **Next Community Engagement Meeting**; as the planned May CEM coincides with the next Community Council meeting it was hoped to arrange both at the same location to allow participation. The Secretary will contact the local police team.
- 6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]
- 6.1 Dunshalt; none
- 6.2 Gateside;
- 6.2.1 **Roadside litter**; complaints have been passed on and local action is required. It was asked if the traffic to the Binn Farm complex was responsible as a result of poorly secured loads.
- 6.2.2 **Road condition A912 to Perth & Kinross border**; it was reported that there has been some works undertaken, but again it appears that areas in need of repair are untouched if not detailed, despite their proximity to areas being repaired.
- 6.3 Strathmiglo;
- 6.3.1 **Cash Feus road sign**; the road sign at the junction of Cash Feus and the A912 is in need of repair. It has been reported through Fife's online service but no action has been taken.
- 6.4 Auchtermuchty
- 6.4.1 **Drinking in public**; the street signs making the public aware of the drinking in public ban are considered small and in too small a number. It is thought the biggest impact of the ban will be noticeable in the summer months.
- 6.4.2 **Disturbances at the Cross**; late night/early morning disturbance is reported to still be causing concern among local residents with alcohol apparently available outside licensing hours. It was agreed that this should be reported to the police who may be able to establish the source and make report to the Licensing Committee if necessary.
- 7.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:
- 7.1 Scottish Water, Fire Hydrant, Sandygates; George Aitken was impressed by the speed with which a reported leaking fire hydrant was dealt with by Scottish Water.
- 8.0 PLANNING: The Secretary reported applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting not already discussed within the meeting.
Of note;
- 8.1 Wind turbines near Bowhouse Farm; it is noted that an Environmental Impact Assessment has been deemed necessary for the site.
- 9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: [not already covered during the meeting.] The Secretary will continue to forward correspondence to members, unless they state otherwise, from the various organisations with connection to the Community Council.
Of note:
- 9.1 Myres Castle; it is noted that an application has been made to the Licensing Committee concerning Myres Castle.
- 10.0 AOCB; none
- 12.0 Date and venue of next meeting.
Monday 28th April, at 7.30pm, Gateside Memorial Hall.