

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 38th Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

PRESENT: 1. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], 2. Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty], 3. Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], 4. Christine LITTLE [Auchtermuchty], 5. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 6. Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], 7. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], 8 Valerie WEIR [Gateside]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. McDairmid and 8 members of the public.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: none

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Strathmiglo Village Hall on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May was accepted by those present.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.1 Locality Budget [4.2]; Jane Kerr asked if any suggestions had been put forward since the last meeting. None are known.

3.2 Road signs [6.1.1]; Cllr. Heer informed the meeting that he had raised the issue with Transportation and had been told that a program of cleaning was to be instigated.

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

4.1 **Provision of play equipment;** [taken at this point rather than AOCB] queries were made by members of the public attending concerning the provision in Auchtermuchty of play equipment suitable for the toddler upward age group – in particular in the Low Road play area, though other areas would be considered. They were seeking advice as to how they might obtain permissions, planning and funding to enable the provision of suitable play equipment. The Chair recommended that they make contact with the Strathmiglo skatepark group who have recently undertaken such works. The meeting was informed that contact had already been made. Cllr. Heer suggested a number of possible sources and contacts that could be used once a more detailed idea of what was wanted had been established. He recommended that they attend the Auchtermuchty Community Association [ACA] where an 'ad hoc' group may be formed to take the matter forward, the alternative would be to form a separate organisation requiring a constitution, bank account, committee members etc. It was agreed that they would attend the ACA, the Secretary will inform them of the date and place of the next ACA meeting.

4.2 **Westbank Housing Development;** a number of those members of the public present were attending the meeting to make known their objection to the application to develop land west of West Bank [14/01947/PPP] and to seek the Community Council's support. The Chair after pointing out that this was the second application concerning this area and that the Community Council needs reasons to submit an objection, he opened the discussion to the floor. Points raised included

- Restricted access
- The question of how 'preferred status' had been granted
- The availability of alternative sites
- The variety of wildlife species now being observed in the area

- The history of flooding – though Fife Council had no official record of flooding as a result of communication with local residents a flood survey is to be carried out

A technical survey had been carried out, at the request of local residents, by John Davie – an experienced advisor to building developments, detailing in particular the shared access to the proposed development through the West Bank cul-de-sac. His conclusion was that Fife Council could not permit this as the number of dwellings accessed through the cul-de-sac would exceed current limits set by legislation.

On questioning Mr Davie felt that to meet the required standards for an access road the developer would have to spend an unjustifiable amount of money and would require additional land that was not available. The Secretary asked if all the details of Mr Davie's findings had been attached to the objection made by the residents. Mr Davie stated that the findings had been delivered electronically and in paper copy to the planning department. Further contributions gave anecdotal evidence as to the problems the site has thrown up over the years.

Cllr.Heer reminded the meeting, that as the TayPlan is a broad-brush approach and the FifePlan will not be adopted until 2017 neither would not be relevant to this issue. The current status of the area is that it is outside the settlement envelope and the developers would have to make a very strong case for it to go ahead. He also pointed out that there was a number of possible development areas already existing in NE Fife so there was no great pressure on the Auchtermuchty area for large developments.

It was agreed that the Community Council would carry forward its objection from the previous application;

Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo Community Council object to planning application as the proposed houses lie outside the current development envelope of Auchtermuchty, the site is not zoned for housing, the proposed houses do not satisfy any of the conditions necessary to justify housing in the countryside, that there is already land in Auchtermuchty zoned for future housing and included in the Local Plan and the increase in road traffic would make an already narrow entrance to Auchtermuchty even more dangerous.

## 5.0 POLICE MATTERS:

5.1 **Community Engagement Meeting [CEM];** the last CEM was reported on at the last meeting.

5.2 **Next CEM;** the date and venue have not yet been set for the next meeting. It is expected that the policing arrangements for the Commonwealth Games may influence any decision.

6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]

## 6.1 Auchtermuchty

6.1.1 **Orchard Flat road sign;** Cllr Heer to pursue the fate of the broken sign.

6.1.2 **Mournipea road works;** there is to be two weeks of road closure [9am-3pm] in the area from the 11<sup>th</sup> August. Access around 12' noon will be made possible. It appears that some effected residents have not been informed.

6.1.3 **Roadside posts;** a number of white marker posts have appeared on the Newburgh Road with no warning. While there is good reason to mark junctions they have also been placed to mark driveways to private residences. [Thanks were expressed however for the 'dangerous bends' sign erected in the same area.]

6.1.4 **Town Hall;** renovation works have started and will be on-going for the next 5 weeks.

6.1.5 **Low Road Park;** the resurfacing carried out in the area is already failing to the disappointment of residents.

## 6.2 Dunshalt

6.2.1 **Community Association;** minutes of the Community Association recent meetings have been received.

6.2.2 **Dunshalt-Falkland road;** work is needed in removing 'blown soil' from the footpath and roadside.

**6.3** Gateside

- 6.3.1 **Road build-out A91;** it is thought that the build-out at the western exit to the village has been reduced in size but is being 'clipped' by a number of vehicles. Cllr. Heer will ask for it to be inspected.

**6.4** Strathmiglo

- 6.4.1 **Grass cutting at road junctions;** the Chair queried whether Fife Council have altered their policy for cutting roadside verges and at road junctions as it appears to be allowed to grow to some considerable height.

**7.0** OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- 7.1 BT broadband;** there is no further news though cable laying has been seen in the area.

**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 Lochiehead House – though the application was refused a local review has been requested.

- 8.2 'Old Surgery' Auchtermuchty – this has not yet come before committee.

**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** Living Lomonds Partnership; a representative had asked to come to the July meeting of the Community Council, it was agreed to invite them to the August meeting.

- 9.2** Auchtermuchty War Memorial Project; there is to be a wreath laying ceremony followed by an exhibition in the Parish Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. A Community Council representative will attend and lay a wreath in the name of the Community Council. It is noted that the exhibition will run for the following week.

- 9.3** Edinburgh Drumhead Service; representatives of the Community Council were invited to attend the service on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. It was agreed to accept the 2 tickets made available, members interested should contact the Secretary.

**10.0** AOCB

- 10.1 Disposal of road-surface waste; Cllr MacDiarmid has the assurance of Fife Council that the practice of 'dumping' waste materials from road works in the burn by the side of Mournipea will stop.

**11.0** Date and venue of next meeting.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014, at 7.30pm, Dunshalt Village Hall.