

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 1st Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. David MACDIARMID, Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], Susan JACK [Gateside CA]

- 1.0 Election of office bearers; Cllr. Heer congratulated past and present Community Councillors for a well run organisation, then asked for nominations for the stated posts.

Chair; George Aitken, [pro. A. Muirhead, sec. C. Little]  
Vice- chair; Jane Kerr, [pro. A. Muirhead, sec. G. Aitken]  
Secretary; Alan Muirhead, [pro. G. Aitken, sec. R. Harding]  
Treasurer; Bill Torrance, [pro. G. Aitken, sec. C. Little]

All nominations were unopposed and accepted. Cllr. Heer then handed the Chair to G. Aitken.

- 2.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Valerie WEIR [Gateside]

- 3.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Memorial Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October was accepted by those present.

- 4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1 Community Council elections [9.2] under the terms of the constitution it was agreed to co-opt Bobby Thomson [Gateside] on to the community council. On a related point Cllr. Heer had contacted Bill Welsh [Fife Council] concerning the number of Community Councillors that could be drawn from each community given the vacancies that exist. He was advised that three from each community [Auchtermuchty, Dunshalt, Gateside and Strathmiglo] was preferred but where this was not possible then an extra one or two from for example the larger communities would not raise an objection.

- 5.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

- 5.1 **Binn Farm Wind Turbines;** at the liaison group meeting, monies to be donated to surrounding communities was raised and the Chair recommended that the method of how this was to be done should be discussed. A formula for division based on population size, proximity to the site and perceived impact may have to be drawn up, or there may be a need to bring in an outside agency such as Foundation Scotland.  
Further meetings are planned, though it has to be remembered that the development is still at the planning application stage and it may be many years before monies are forth coming. The Community Council has yet to decide whether it will object to the development [such an

objection would not affect access to funds], even though it will be under Perth & Kinross' planning system it is hoped that the Community Council opinion will be sought due to the proximity to the site. The Secretary informed the meeting that there is an ad hoc arrangement where information sent out to Perth & Kinross Councillors it is also to be sent to Fife Councillors in this ward.

- 5.2 **FIFEplan;** the Secretary put this on the agenda to allow members to comment. It was suggested that the Community Council continue looking for and recommending areas that they consider suitable for development to prevent the communities from stagnating. It was noted that land use for the development of "affordable housing" has been shown to be looked on more favourably by the planning authorities even when on the edge of a community's boundary.

## 6.0 POLICE MATTERS

- 6.1 Community Engagement Meetings [CEMs]; there is a state of confusion concerning dates of and indeed the future format of CEMs. The last scheduled meeting had the officer reported to have attended on the 5<sup>th</sup> November with members of the public and Councillors turning up on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Cllr. Heer will enquire in to what the future may hold for CEMs in the Howe.

## 7.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]

### 7.1 Auchtermuchty

- 7.1.1 **War Memorial;** it was noted that damage was done by a car hitting the memorial. It was not known if this had been reported.

### 7.2 Dunshalt; none

### 7.3 Gateside

- 7.3.1 **Gateside Inn;** it is noted that a change of use application has been submitted.  
7.3.2 **Main road railings;** there has been local discussion on the feasibility of railing on the south side of the A91 towards the Memorial Hall from the A912 junction. Cllr. Heer will report on a Ward meeting where the matter is still being considered.

### 7.4 Strathmiglo

- 7.4.1 **Clock Tower renovation;** B. Torrance asked if it was known why the application for renovation works on the Clock Tower had been withdrawn. Cllrs. Heer and MacDiarmid will pursue.  
7.4.2 **West Road bridge repairs;** Cllr. Heer will pursue.  
7.4.3 **Skate board Park planning;** questions have been raised locally concerning the amount of time that the application is taking to get to a decision. Grants of funds had time limits placed on them and there is a fear that these monies may be lost if works have not started within the specified period. Cllrs. Heer and MacDiarmid will pursue.  
7.4.4 **A912 drainage near Pillars of Hercules;** this problem appears in the days following heavy rain and is thought to be the result of blocked drains with the water running down the carriageway. It was felt that action needs taken prior to winter freezes.  
7.4.5 **Incorrect maps;** Kirk Wynd Strathmiglo, along with a number of other locations in the area, is being wrongly located on road maps and SATnav systems. While this is an irritation it is more concerning when it appears that Fife Council are using the faulty maps for their works. It is hoped that Fife Council will take care to ensure that maps and plans used are correct.

## 8.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS;

- 8.1 BT junction box; planning has been refused for a junction box to be located near the junction of Madras Road and High Street, Auchtermuchty [14/02784/FULL] This may cause the faster broadband service being delayed. Cllr. Heer will inquire. It is hoped that

Strathmiglo and Gateside will be connected to the faster broadband service some time in December.

- 9.0 PLANNING: The Secretary reported applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting not already discussed within the meeting.  
Of note;  
9.1 Change of use Gateside Inn; Susan Jack reported that the Gateside Community Association had discussed the possibility of a community take over of the Inn with no success and as a result felt that they were in no position to object to the change of use. The Community Council will make its decision when an application for development is submitted.
- 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: none
- 10.0 AOCB;  
10.1 Gateside bus service; Cllr. MacDiarmid informed the meeting that he had been petitioned concerning the loss of bus service through Gateside causing difficulties including those attending the Surgery. It was noted that there has been a change in contracts held with bus companies and that many 'services' were in fact 'placer' runs where buses involved in the school run were returning to base and picking up passengers on route. The petitioners were looking to the Community Council for support in their campaign to re-establish the service. It was agreed that the Community Council were against the lowering of standard of bus service through the area.
- 12.0 Date and venue of next meeting.  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015, at 7.30pm, Dunshalt Village Hall.