

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 14th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 28th March 2016
in Dunshalt Village Hall.

PRESENT: 1. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], 2. Raymond HARDING [Auchtermuchty] 3. Susan JACK [Gateside] 4. Christine LITTLE [Auchtermuchty], 5. Ian MACCAULAY [Dunshalt], 6. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 7. Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], 8. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo] 9. Valerie WEIR [Gateside],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. MacDairmid

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Strathmiglo Village Hall on Monday 29th February, having been circulated to members, was accepted by those present.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.1 6.1.1 A91 road surface Auchtermuchty; it appears that July is the likely date for repairs to be carried out.

3.2 6.1.2 Upper Town Hall Auchtermuchty; there is no news of repairs and it was noted that the future of the hall is uncertain as estimated, with sale being a possibility, cost of the repairs is considerably more than the value of the property. Community ownership has been considered, with the formation of a Community Trust.

General discussion followed concerning the implications to community groups if they were to take on the responsibility for the building.

3.3 6.2.3 Dunshalt local shop; a meeting is likely to be held in the near future to explore possibilities. Although at present the property is being sold as a going concern, it is likely that it will be sold and converted into a domestic dwelling.

3.4 6.3.1 A912 Gateside/Bein Inn; Fife Council officials reported to Councillors that repairs would require the road to be closed, to justify this the repair would then be scaled up to a major repair but at present there are no funds to cover the cost and as a result no date has been set. It was agreed that the road is in a very poor condition, that with the volume of traffic and no repairs this is likely to get a lot worse.

3.5 6.3.2 Knox's Pulpit; Cllr. Heer informed the meeting that Bob Weston had explained that as works were being undertaken parts of the pathway have been disturbed – they are trying to source repair materials from the local area – but once finished the area would be landscaped and they ask walkers to find alternative routes temporarily. There was a concern that a considerable amount of money is being spent on the formation of these paths but there appears to be little to keep them maintained

3.6 6.4.1 Strathmiglo Tolbooth ; work on the Tolbooth has ceased as conservation plans are being corrected to provide more detail as to how the work is to be carried out.

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS: None

- 5.0 POLICE MATTERS:
- 5.1 Pop up Bob; there has been evidence that figure Pop up Bob has been seen around the area. It was generally agreed that the figure is very life like and has a positive effect on traffic.
- 6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]
- 6.1 **Dunshalt;**
- 6.1.1 Cycle Paths; local residents have raised concerns that paths in the area are being obstructed by soil erosion from neighbouring fields. "Howe to Connect" was introduced and recommended to the meeting by Ian MacCaulay as a positive method of connecting the communities. Cllr. Heer pointed out that there was a Connectivity group already established and various organisations are working on pathways in the area. It was generally felt that these pathways should be formed into a coordinated network. It was agreed that Bob Weston and Alison Irvine be invited to the next meeting.
- 6.2 **Gateside;**
- 6.2.1 Dog notices; the meeting was informed that notices instructing dogs to be kept on leads have appeared on the pathway following the old railway line. It is thought that they were installed by the local landowner.
- 6.2.2 Path funding; the Gateside and District CA have applied for funding to repair the pathway leading from the steps at the old railway bridge.
- 6.3 **Strathmiglo;**
- 6.3.1 Potholes; it was expressed by some members that the management of pothole repair by Fife Transport is very poor, with no agreement in approach between the levels of service, e.g. officials state potholes nearby should be repaired at the same time, workmen state they are under instruction only to repair those marked/listed on their job sheet. With restrictions on budgets biting it was thought that the most efficient system would be wanted.
- 6.3.2 Dog fouling; it was noted that the penalty for not clearing up after your dog has increased and it was hoped that this may have some impact on the problem. It was agreed that owners need to be reported in order for this to happen.
- 6.4 **Auchtermuchty;**
- 6.4.1 Forest Hills Hotel; the name board for the hotel has been removed, this was thought to be as a result of storm damage.
- 6.4.2 Auchtermuchty/Den of Lindores speed limit; a query was raised concerning the Community Council's position on the speed limit for the B936 at 50mph. It was agreed that the Community Council had taken no position concerning the speed limit.
- 6.4.3 Water seepage High Street; water has been seeping through the road for some time and the question was raised as to possible repair. It was thought that there had been evidence – road marking – that the repairs were to be undertaken shortly.
- 7.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS;
- 7.1 Rural Broadband; Cllr. Heer recapped information given at the previous meeting of the Community Council.
- 8.0 PLANNING: The Secretary has drawn applications that appeared on the Fife list to the attention of members reminding them that these can be accessed by members directly from the Fife Council website and indeed they can sign up to have the weekly list emailed directly to them.

Of note; there was general agreement, again, concerning the vagaries in what is and is not passed by planning. The question of who was responsible for spotting/reporting alterations where no planning application had been made was also raised.

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 Sale of local farms; It was noted that a number of farms in the area are to be sold covering a significant proportion of the constituency.

11.0 Date and venue of next meeting.
Monday 25th April 2016, at 7.30pm, Gateside Memorial Hall