

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 3rd Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 28 January 2019  
in Dunshalt Village Hall

PRESENT: Helen BOWMAN [Auchtermuchty], Maaïke COOK [Strathmiglo], Jane FREER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], Valerie WEIR [Gateside]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, PC Parker and 1 member of the public.

- 1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Vice-Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors and members of the public  
  
Apologies: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDAIRMID
- 2.0 Police Matters: PC Parker apologised for the non-attendance of officers at meetings due to the shift patterns of the current system, he was only able to attend the first part of tonight's meeting by rearranging his day off. As the system is about to change there is the intention that officers will be available to attend meetings, there is also a new Community Officer about to be put into post.
  - 2.1 Community Newsletter; currently the newsletter is Auchtermuchty centric [as Gateside and Dunshalt get their own] but Strathmiglo will be included more fully in future. PC Parker then recapped those topics occurring in this month's newsletter, highlighting the progress of the Speedwatch initiative and its need for coordination assistance and more volunteers and the actions taken by officers to aid local community groups.
  - 2.2 Drug dealing; it was brought to the attention of the meeting that the car park area by the Strathmiglo Church is being used to supply drugs. PC Parker asked that any first hand information should be passed on at the time or as soon as possible. The change in shift patterns may allow for more police presence given accurate intelligence. The use of 'undercover' officers was raised, but this would be a command decision based on such intelligence.
  - 2.3 Burnside/Yellowhill Road; it was reported that emergency services are attempting to use the Yellowhill Road - signed as a restricted road - to access communities north of Burnside. This appears to be the result of inaccurate SatNav and it was hoped that this information could be circulated to officers. It appears that this is a wide scale problem with no easy solution. It was suggested that centralised coordination to collate errors and communicate these to the companies involved by Fife Council could perhaps be looked at.
- 3.0 Declarations of Interest: none  
There was discussion as to what constitutes the need to make such a declaration. There was a suggestion that a legal definition was sought but the general feeling of the meeting was that common sense should prevail. It was agreed to raise the topic at the coming Community Councillor training that members are attending and feedback to the next meeting.
- 4.0 Minutes of Meeting: the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre were accepted.
- 5.0 Matters Arising:
  - 5.1 4.1 Millflat; it was reported that no decision will be made on the application before March 2019. The Fife Road Safety Officer has become involved and has apparently deemed that named access points are unsuitable.

- 5.2 6.3.1 Grit bins; most of the grit bins removed have been reinstated. [Use them or lose them!]
- 5.3 6.3.3 Wi-Fi in Gateside Memorial Hall; no progress as yet, possible solutions are being investigated.
- 5.4 7.2.4 Burnside bridge; responsibility for the maintenance and repair of this bridge is under discussion with Fife Council.

## 6.0 Other Business;

- 6.1 Election of Chair; it was noted with much sadness that George Aitken, Chair of the Community Council, had passed away early in December. The Vice-Chair took the opportunity to express the Council feelings that he will be much missed as a stalwart member and active participant in the life of the Community Council and Association. The well attended service in Strathmiglo Church was testament to the esteem he was held in and the recognition of his contribution - often at an extremely practical level of making flower boxes, the siting of benches and the measuring of potholes - to the community. He will be much missed. Nominations were asked for position of Chair. Susan Jack was nominated, seconded and elected unopposed. At this point Susan Jack took the Chair.
- 6.2 Local Community Plan; discussion took place concerning the recent meeting [24<sup>th</sup> January] organised by Fife Council to examine the "vision statement" that had been produced. It was generally felt that more audience input would have been looked for rather than the presentation of a generalised 'wish-list'. It was thought that the meeting could work if it were now followed up with further meetings featuring more public participation as to how the 'nuts and bolts' of the "Vision" may be achieved. How the Community Council should respond was raised, and it was agreed that -because of the differences between the communities - each Community Association would either highlight 2 or 3 specific items/topics of concern or follow the suggested examination of place process with the Community Council collating the responses.
- 6.3 Community Council Survey; the Secretary recommended that members look at the survey and complete it as an individual.

## 7.0 Fife Council

### 7.1 Dunshalt

- 7.1.1 Co-option of new member; it was noted that Matthew McDonald has been co-opted as a Community Councillor for the area of Dunshalt, paperwork is being completed.
- 7.1.2 Burning of materials; it was reported that local farms are still burning materials despite changes in the legislation. It was thought best that contact should be made with SEPA as and when the problem is occurring in order for action to be taken. [Pollution Hotline 0800 80 70 60 or event reporting at <https://apps.sepa.org.uk/EnvironmentalEvents/>]
- 7.1.3 Community Shop; they are awaiting 'leader' funding, there appears to be a longer lead in time than expected. Building warrants for alterations granted.
- 7.1.4 Fergusson Bequest; as few residents take up the opportunity to attend the Christmas parties funded it is hoped to have some community consultation to use the funds for other purposes.

### 7.2 Gateside

- 7.2.1 A91 road condition; it was noted that the condition of the A91 [Main Road] on the southern carriageway between the A912 junction and Old Town is reaching a dangerous state and repairs are urgently sought.
- 7.2.2 Speeding; again the issue has been raised that the Camera Safety team arrive in the area too late in the day. It is the period around 6am that is giving concern.
- 7.2.3 No.23 bus route; it has been reported that the No. 23 bus is failing to stop in the morning to pick up for children going to school. It was thought best to initially report this directly to the Bus Company [Stagecoach]
- 7.2.4 Gateside Mill; sections of the Mill are being demolished with no local notification. It was asked of Councillors if this was allowed without planning permission. The current state of the area - rubble piles etc. - is raising safety concerns that children will be attracted to the area.
- 7.2.5 Mislaid cheques; the Treasurer is now dealing with the issue/reissue of mislaid cheques made out to Gateside Community Association.

### 7.3 Strathmiglo

- 7.3.1 KGV Park wall; it was noted that repairs have begun to the wall in the NW corner of the park.
- 7.3.2 A912/Toll Bridge area; it was requested that the white lines in the area are made heavier and ridged - as done at the side of motorways - as an inexpensive way to alert drivers that they are crossing the middle of the road. The problem occurs regularly due to the slight chicane leading to a number of near misses between vehicles.

### 7.4 Auchtermuchty

- 7.4.1 Noticeboard; a question was asked as to why the Community Council does not have a noticeboard in Auchtermuchty to disseminate information. It was pointed out that the other three communities have erected notice boards at their own expense and have not relied on the Community Council to fund theirs.

### 8.0 Other Service Providers;

- 8.1 Health Centre; the letter detailing the new appointment system is thought to be unclear and causing confusion amongst locals, it was suggested that the Centre be asked to reissue the information in a clearer format. The Secretary will request a meeting with the practice to discuss the issue.

### 9.0 Planning Applications; The Secretary drew attention to applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting.

Of note; Binn Farm; notification of an application to extend wind turbines by 9m. This application will be heard by Perth and Kinross Planning Committee.

### 10.0 Correspondence; nothing that has not been circulated to members via email.

### 11.0 AOCB

11.1 Community Council procedures; a number of issues were raised concerning confusion as to how the Community Council functions including the date of AGMs, constitutional functions and Treasurer reports. As it was considered 'late in the day' it was agreed to raise these matters at the next meeting, in the meantime the Treasurer will ensure that all members are emailed financial reports for previous years.

### 12.0 Date and venue of the next meeting of the Community Council.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 7.30pm, Gateside Memorial Hall.**