

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

**Minute of the 9th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 28th  
October 2019 in Dunshalt Village Hall**

**Present:** Susan JACK [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty] Helen BOWMAN  
[Auchtermuchty], [Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Marj KEDDIE  
[Auchtermuchty], Bobby THOMSON [Gateside]

**Attending:** Cllr. Andy HEER.

**1.0 Welcome & Apologies:** The Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors and members of the public

**Apologies:** Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Maaike COOK  
[Strathmiglo], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], Valerie WEIR  
[Gateside], PC.'s Parker and Goudie.

## **2.0 Police Matters**

2.1 The police have communicated that it has been extremely difficult to come to the Community Council meetings, due to the fact that their shift patterns no longer correspond with the Community Council meetings.

2.2 Volunteers are being sought to take part in the 'Speed Watch' campaign in local areas.

**3.0 Declarations of Interest** It was agreed to make these when appropriate.

## **4.0 Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 30th of September 2019 in A.C.C.**

4.1 Helen Bowman requested that 5.1 be amended, where she stated that the 'People in Place' initiative would be difficult to function at the Community Council in our situation and would perhaps be better tackled at a Community Association level. She would like the amendment to remove 'At a Community Association level' to be replaced with, 'Within each of the four communities.'

4.2 The remainder of the minutes were accepted as being correct.

## **5.0 Matters Arising:**

5.1 Two meetings have been held this year, regarding community and planning therein. The first meeting was held in the Victoria Hall on 24 January 2019 entitled 'Place Making' and the second meeting was held in the County Buildings, on 14 September 2019 by the Planning Advisory Service, and supported by Fife Council entitled 'Community Council Training In Placemaking.' Can the members of the Community Council please look at all the slides that were previously provided, and come up with ideas which could lead to community empowerment when dealing with planning, i.e. allowing communities throughout the planning process to access plans, and to bring about planning changes within their communities that will enhance their area. Can you please bring your ideas to the next meeting to be held on Monday 25 November in Gateside.

5.2 Wind Turbines; Still ongoing. They are currently trying to get an advisor on finance.

5.3 Low Road Planning; Although Gladman representatives were invited to attend the meeting, they are not present. John Davie attended the meeting in order to bring us up to date on information regarding the site. Please see 6.2 under 'Other business'.

5.4 Roadworks Auchtermuchty; Traffic management is working very well. Unfortunately when they laid the new road on Burnside it brought the road up to the height of the pavement. This could lead to several of the houses on Burnside being subject to serious flooding during periods of excessive and/or prolonged rainfall. It is not possible to just raise the pavement as the entrances to the houses are on pavement level. Problem is with road engineers.

The whole of the High Street is scheduled to be resurfaced.

5.5 Street Lighting; The problem of outages has been ongoing since April 2019. When it is fixed it lasts an average of 10 days, however Scottish Power have said that they think they have identified the source of the problem.

5.6 Scottish Water; Unfortunately the Auchtermuchty water tank hasn't been working for sometime. Scottish Water by-passed this tank and this has caused bursts which in turn caused flooding. It has been noted that there is a body of water at the foot of Millflat onto the High Road which covers the entrance, which is of great concern if either it is added to, or the colder weather causes it to ice over. Shona to report on this at the next meeting.

## **6.0 Other Business**

6.1 **Health Centre Meeting;** This meeting is to be held tomorrow Tuesday 29th October. The Chair and Secretary along with 2 representatives from Falkland Community Council will attend the meeting which will be a general chat, rather than a formal meeting. Points to address include (1) the appointments system, as it is very difficult to get an on the day appointment. It is necessary to make as many calls as is possible after 8 a.m. but you are still not guaranteed to obtain an appointment. Possible changes to be discussed are using a queueing system similar to that already widely used in other areas and providing an on-line appointment booking system. (2) Suggesting new ways to enhance the service using text as a means of reminding the individual about the appointment. This could possibly lead to less appointments being missed.

It was noted that people who are deaf find it very difficult to see who the doctor is calling if they are unable to read their lips, as the chairs are all side on, rather than facing the reception desk. It was suggested that perhaps the receptionist could collect the individual when the doctor is due to call them - but if the receptionist is on the telephone, or involved with a patient at the desk, that could potentially be impossible.

It is very important to emphasise that accessing the Health Centre and the services that they offer is generally a positive experience with little to no problems to report.

FLU immunisation clinic open morning held recently was a complete success.

6.2 **Low Road Development.** Helen Bowman and John Davie had a meeting on 21st October with two representatives from Gladman - Michael Izzi (Land Director) and Luke Garrett (Chartered Surveyor). This was not under the auspices of the Community Council but John reported back to the meeting. It was a positive meeting but it was clear that Gladman already had well developed plans for the Low Road and had already met with a Fife Council planner. Their plans were not in the area of Stratheden Place designated for housing in the current Fifeplan.

Following this meeting John developed plans which he had already shown to Willie Rennie MSP during Willie's summer tour. Willie had been very positive and suggested we could take the placemaking formula forward as a means of developing our ideas for Auchtermuchty and he cited Crail as an example.

John said that a previous application at Millflat had been withdrawn, which was the only site where the landowner was willing to sell and a builder was ready to build, however that site has proved to be completely inadequate and it should never have been put into the Local Plan. People in

Auchtermuchty are entitled to new housing, and there has only been 6 houses built in the last 13 years, which is very inadequate. Lots of communities around Fife are feeling so dejected by the plans that have been forced upon them by Fife Council, that they have decided to develop their own plans. The plan that Gladman produced at the meeting with John and Helen showed a string of houses which ran parallel with Carswell Wynd, it then ran down past the nursing home. The plan showed houses that ran into the field, in the shape of a V. They explained this was a 'vista' so that the houses didn't encroach upon the views of the Lomond Hills. However this area is not zoned for housing. The road down to the Health Centre is substandard and the plan showed far more than 20 units. Fundamentally this plan was very flawed. Gladman do not appear to be interested in the area zoned for housing behind the garage.

John Davie said that he would like to meet and have a discussion with 3 Councillors - aside from the Community Council, to explore ideas, to put forward towards the local plan. Villages are very difficult for Councils to plan out. We should ask all the local villages to work out a plan that suits them best, and then get the Community Council onboard before the consultation starts.

## **7.0 Fife Council**

### **7.1 Auchtermuchty;**

7.1.1 There is a painter and decorator 'Ronnie Ryan' who lives on the High Road. He parks improperly leaving little room for anyone else in that area. He currently owns two large white vans and two cars. The Secretary suggested that they approach the man in question with their complaint. It was generally felt that the lower end of the High Road should be a one way system, beyond the Westbank junction. It is dangerously narrow, and oncoming traffic can on occasion take up too much of the road, leaving the cars on the wall side being squeezed into the wall, and there is always the danger of scraping your car in the process.

### **7.2 Dunshalt;**

7.2.1 No-one present from Dunshalt. Village shop; We haven't heard any word from Dunshalt, but understand that there has been a painter in the premises.

### **7.3 Gateside;**

7.3.1 The School premises; the Gateside Community Association are still pursuing its use for extended nursery provision. There will be a public meeting to be held on 27th November, which will be held in Strathmiglo Community Centre. It was questioned why it was not being held in Gateside? It is understood that the building will be 'moth-balled' in October with the scheme for closure being instigated by Fife Council.

7.3.2. There will be a Halloween Walk between the railway bridge and the mill.

### **7.4 Strathmiglo;**

7.5 Query - a water tank went wrong that affected Strathmiglo but there is no one here from Strathmiglo to comment on the matter.

## **8.0 Other Service Providers**

8.1 Nothing other than as in 5.5 and 5.6 above.

## **9.0 Planning Applications**

9.1 Applications; the Secretary drew attention to applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting.

## **10.0 Correspondence**

10.1 If you are querying that you might be receiving correspondence from the Curling Club, the correspondence is actually from the Community Council Secretary owing to a problem with the Community Council email account.

**11.0 Any Other Competent Business.**

None

**Date and venue of next meeting of the Community Council.**

**Monday 25th November 2019, 7.30pm, Gateside Village Hall**