Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 18th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m. on 25th January via Zoom conferencing online facility

PRESENT: Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Susan JACK [Gateside], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER,

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors and members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PS Manuel and PC's Haddow and Lowe.

2.0 Police: [the Secretary will forward any points raised]

3.0 Declarations of Interest: it was agreed to make these when appropriate.

4.0 Minutes of Meeting: the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th November were accepted as correct with one clarification;

4.1 7.3.1 Any safety works will not be carried out at the same time as the resurfacing but at a later date.

5.0 Matters arising:

5.1 5.1 Dryside parking; [the Chair acknowledged a personal interest in the issue] PS Manuel contacted the Community Council to confirm that officers have been taking proactive action at Falkland Hill, John Know's pulpit etc. and indeed closed one of the car parks to stop people attending. Additional staffing have been organised for the following weekend [29th-30th January] regarding increased footfall, traffic issues and possible COVID breaches. The Chair has been in contact with Fife Council [via Derek Crow] with the option of a temporary restricted order being used. Cllr. Heer has also been pursuing the issue and feels more needs to be done. The general feeling was that a temporary [12 months] measure should be sought followed by a review of the situation looking towards a permanent solution.

5.2 5.2 KGV Park, Strathmiglo; planning application for replacement container has been submitted but no progress on site.

5.3 5.3 66 bus service; it was noted that the No. 66 service has been extended to Kinross with a change in its timetable [believed to have begun 4th January].

5.4 5.4 B936 20mph; ongoing process.

5.5 7.4.4 White lines, Strathmiglo; request still being pursued, it was acknowledged that a number of similar items in the area - e.g. A91/A912 road signs - are still awaited.

6.0 Other business: none

7.0 Fife Council:

7.1 Auchtermuchty

7.1.1 Low Road; a replacement wall is to be built

7.1.2 Pothole Low Road; the pothole near the park has been reported.

7.1.3 Whisky bond; the question of ownership of this building, to allow the possibility of development, is still being pursued.

7.1.4 Defibrillator; 1st committee meeting has taken place with a general meeting to follow. In a related matter the Chair informed the meeting that the Rotary group have funds available to which community groups can apply.

7.1.5 Clink car park; blood has been seen over an area near the car park. It was thought it may have been the result of an injured pet. Shots have been heard in the area but it was not thought that the two were connected. It was thought prudent to inform PC Pacholek [Fife's Wildlife Crime Liason Officer] to make hime aware of the situation. Information concerning wildlife crime can be obtained at https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/report-wildlife-crime

7.1.6 Dog fouling; the issue was raised yet again, it was agreed that irresponsible owners are the problem not the dogs. Contact with the Dog Warden was called for and it was suggested that a letter sent to the Courier/Fife Herald. Cllr Heer will obtain leaflets to be distributed in the area.

7.1.7 Snow clearing; it was noted that a path, near Millflat, leading to the village shop and used by senior citizens was only gritted after a request was made. It was felt that a more 'neighbourly' spirit from local residents would have aided the situation.

Information detailing roads/pavements/grit bin locations is available on the Fife Direct website. https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-parking/roads-and-pavements/road-maintenance/roads-and-gritting

7.2 Dunshalt

7.2.1 Litter bin request; it was hoped that litter bins could be placed at Cash Mill Cottage corner and Ladybank Road at the edge of the village due to the increase in foot traffic/ dog walkers lately. Cllr. Heer will pursue.

7.2.2 Edenshead Church; the church group are proposing a fund raising on-line quiz in the near future, open to all.

7.3 Gateside

7.3.1 Road surfacing; the date of the works has been put back to 12-15th February.

7.3.2 Memorial Hall; the hall has been successful in a lottery fund application and although the hall is at present closed for use it is hoped works will be undertaken. They wished to note that an application to the Fife Environmental Trust for funds continues to be a very bureaucratic procedure.

7.3.3 School memorabilia; Cllr. Lothian is pursuing this issue.

7.3.4 Visitor parking; the overspill from the Glendale parking issue is affecting the Bower Park/Station Road area.

7.3.5 Well done Fife; plaudits have been awarded to Ian Wallace and his group for work undertaken in regard to Bower Park.

7.4 Strathmiglo

7.4.1 Covid support group; it was noted that the work of the support group is carrying on but the food bank/swap shop has been discontinued due to vandalism of the items left.

7.4.2 Flood Forum; the Community Council has been registered with the forum and can access information. The Secretary forwards all communication to members but will removed their name from

the email list if they wish. Ian McCaulay has signed up for on-lining training offered. In a related matter, it was noted that work has been undertaken to clear the River Eden and banking from Dunshalt towards Strathmiglo. It is uncertain if SEPA have been consulted.

7.4.2 Police involvement; it was noted that police officers have recently spoken to youths and their families regarding anti-social behaviour.

7.4.3 High Street/ West Road junction; the road surface in the area is deteriorating and holes deepening.

7.4.4 Cash Fues lorry parking; on Cash Fues on the approach to the Toll Bridge the kerb/pavement and road surface is being damaged, it is thought that this may be due to the parking of a heavy vehicle.

7.4.5 Strathmiglo Community Association; an archive of the Association's Minutes over its 75 years is being built and old Community Council minutes have been found. These will be passed on to the Secretary/Chair.

8.0 Other Service Providers:

8.1 Health Centre; a question was raised as to the Centres information dissemination. Information may appear on the Centre's Facebook page that does not appear on the Centre's website so both should be consulted. The issue of non-computer using patients and how they are expected to obtain this information was also raised.

9.0 Planning:

The Secretary gave a brief summary of those applications in our area. Members were reminded that they could be added to a Fife Council mailing list to receive weekly updates directly through development.central@fife.gov.uk.

9.1 Enforcement orders; it was noted that an enforcement order relating to a wall at Cash Mill Cottage had not been followed up. Cllr Heer assured the members that orders were being enforced and will pursue.

10.0 Correspondence:

The Secretary forwards on to members all relevant correspondence received.

11.0 Any Other Competent Business:

11.1 Fife Coast and Countryside Trust; Chair is aware that an internal [to Fife Council] discussion is taking place regarding the future of the FCCT making it likely that the Ranger service will be replaced by Wardens with a smaller remit. It was felt that this was a retrogressive step and would result in a significant loss of service to the communities. While it was acknowledged that budgets are having to be increasingly tight, in the current situation with increasing recreational use of the countryside it was felt that this would be a counter-productive move. The Chair asked who in Fife Council is responsible for negotiating the duties of the FCCT for the monies they receive? Why has there been a move away from a sustainable for all approach to one focussing on recreational use? It was asked why a wider group of those affected by possible changes to the role of the FCCT was not involved in the discussion. Members are asked to contact the Chair is they wish a copy of the correspondence on the issue.

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

Monday 22nd February at 7.30pm via Zoom online.