Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 19th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m. on 22nd February 2021 via Zoom conferencing online facility

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed Community Councillors and Fife Councillors..

Apologies: Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Bobby THOMPSON [Gateside], PC's Haddow and Lowe.

2.0 Police: the Secretary will pass on any points raised by members.

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 25th January were accepted as correct with one clarification;

4.1 5.1 "John Know's pulpit" should read John Knox's pulpit.

5.0 Matters arising:

5.1 5.1 Dryside parking; Chair has not heard of any progress concerning the parking order requested, Police and Fife Coast & Countryside have been present more often. Cllr. Heer is to meet Derek Crowe [Fife Council] and will raise the issue. Though farm operations are not being currently affected vehicles from outside the area have been present, one blocking Station Road for a period of time.

5.2 5.2 KGV Park, Strathmiglo; Planning application has not yet been decided. It was noted that the temporary fence erected had been pulled over and was causing a hazard. The contractor has been contacted by local residents, it was thought with repairs to the park wall complete that the fence could be removed.

5.3 5.3 No. 66 bus service; it was noted that the updated timetable has been posted.

5.4 5.4 B936 20mph limit; the meeting was informed that there have been a large number of similar requests made and with limited staff Fife Transportation will take time processing them. Cllr. Heer will raise issue with Derek Crowe.

5.5 11.1 Fife Coast & Countryside Trust; the Chair had written in a personal capacity, as per declaration of interest previously stated, focussing on the lack of wider consultation and received a reply concerning the changes to the service. Cllr Lothian has also been in communication and the Secretary will forward to members the reply from Jeremy Harris. It is noted that Fife Councillors are to discuss the restructuring proposed.

6.0 Other business: none

7.0 Fife Council:

7.1 Dunshalt;

7.1.1 Litter bins; requested litter bins now in situ.

7.1.2 Blocked drains; question was asked as where these are reported. It was determined that the same section on Fife Direct for reporting potholes would be appropriate. https://online.fifedirect.org.uk/lagan/roadfault/ or call 03451 55 00 11 if situation is likely to cause immediate danger.

7.1.3 River clearing; work has been conducted on the north bank from Dunshalt to Cash Mill Cottage, though it was noted that planned work opposite Bellfield Farm cottage, Strathmiglo has not been carried out yet leading to substantial damage to the north river bank in the area.

7.2 Gateside;

7.2.1 Road surfacing; a convoy system is in operation that appears to working well.

7.2.2 School car park; the fence separating the car park, which is being used, is in a dilapidated state with the access gate open. The matter was reported but as it comes under School Estates this seems to have delayed a response. It was suggested that Kirsty Haddow [Fife Police] be contacted as it could be considered a community safety issue.

7.2.3 School memorabilia; Chair is undertaking responsibility for local discussion.

7.2.4 Station road; the the grass verge of Station Road is being damaged by large vehicles accessing farm property causing problems for local residents. Councillors have been in communication concerning issue, recommend contact with farm to ask drivers to be more careful.

7.2.5 Play Park; local residents consider the equipment in the play area to be outdated. They are planning to look into possible replacement.

7.3 Strathmiglo;

7.3.1 Street lighting repair; the Community Association have contacted Fife Council applauding a Council worker who persevered, through appalling weather conditions, to repair a fault in a large number of street lights in the West Road/Cash Fues area and have them working within 24 hours of reporting.

7.3.2 Road conditions; the road surface in a number of areas in the village has suffered from the bad weather of late. B. Torrance will survey and report the worst of the faults.

7.4 Auchtermuchty;

7.4.1 Low Road wall; this has been fully reinstated.

7.4.2 Station Road car park; it was noted that a section of the wall between the car park and the river has been damaged by a vehicle with the stonework dropping to the river bank.

7.4.3 Defibrillator; there is the intention to change the colour of the old phonebox used to house the defibrillator but the group have been told that this will require planning permission [with full fees to be paid]. A request was made for the Community Council to make the application. It was questioned as to why the change of colour [Dunshalt CA have spare primer and paint from renovating their phonebox], Secretary will discuss matter will group.

7.5 Grit bins; it was thought logical to have all grit bins checked and refilled, if necessary, after bad weather conditions rather than local residents having to request a refill. The meeting was told that this would require withdrawing manpower from other areas such as pothole repair etc. as it is the same department that deals with these issues. It was noted that not all grit bins have a contact number, to request a refill, on them.

7.6 Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo joint headship proposal; it was noted that this issue is causing concern to some parents and a petition is being circulated. It was considered appropriate for the local Community Associations to publicise and lead the discussion in the communities, the Community Council will become involved if required.

8.0 Other Service Providers;

8.1 Flood Forum; I. McCaulay took part in the Digital Spotlight Forum - though mainly for local Authority representatives. Points raised included the move from sandbags to inflatable or self supporting devices as temporary flood barriers and the leasing with local Fire & Rescue teams. He will put together and circulate a 'Powerpoint' to help discussion.

8.2 Covid 19 + vaccination in NEF; the Secretary is to take part in an online event with Public Health Fife, if members have questions they wished raised send them on to him. He will send out any interesting information gathered.

8.3 Scottish Power; after the power outage in Strathmiglo there was a question of where to find further information. The outage was caused by a fuse burning out [evident by burn marks on the transformer casing] it was hoped to find out if the unit was to be replaced/updated as a whole in the proposed infrastructure spending.

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.

Of note; the change of use in Kilnheugh, Auchtermuchty from a cafe to take-away service, a sign of the recent times.

10.0 Correspondence; The Secretary forwards on to members all relevant correspondence received.

11.0 Any Other Competent Business;

11.1 Litter; J. Kerr asked, given the current state of the verges between Strathmiglo and Falkland, if there was a history in the community concerning the adopting of a section of road to litter pick. As the financial pressures continue to grow Fife Council will have even more limited resources to carry out this function. It was noted that Fife Council will support local initiatives, equipment etc., but there were safety concerns with the A912 and any such work would have to be very carefully undertaken.

11.2 Community Council membership; the Chair thought that consideration be given to the vacancies that have appeared on the Council and that a recruitment drive be considered with particular emphasis on a younger age group.

12.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Monday 29th March at 7.30pm via Zoom.