Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 on the 30th August via Zoom conferencing online facility

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, and 3 members of the public Andrew MCCAFFERTY, Josh FEAKINS, Scott STRACHAN

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

Apologies: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], PC's Haddow and Lowe

2.0 Police: the Secretary will as always pass on any points raised by members to officers. Incident in Dunshalt on the 7th August has further raised concerns over traffic calming.

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 28th June were accepted as correct.

5.0 Matters arising: none not on the agenda

6.0 Other business:

6.1 Millflat development; there are no changes to the proposed application. It was suggested that this proposal was a fair one for the site and although there were issues, any alternative may present more. [Shona Drysburgh made a declaration of interest at this point as she neighbours the property.] There was still concerns regarding the access which was opposite the parking area on the High Road and what would happen if the land was sold on to another party. The access point to the High Road would form a 'bell' curving into the development – the pavement would follow the shape – with the intention to make access and sight lines easier. The expected increase in demand for parking in the area is a concern to local residents, it was suggested that additional parking within the development could be requested at the time of a full planning application. The landowner, once planning in principle has been granted, will be selling on to a developer who will actually build the houses – they would be bound by any conditions laid out by Fife Planning. The Chair noted that it was stated that though no road accident had been reported in the area, it could not be implied from this that the new junction would be safe. It was suggested that the Community Council accepts the proposal as it stands and reserves comment/objection once a more detailed formal planning application is made by a developer. The Chair pointed out that comments could be made by individuals in the mean time. The fact that such comments cannot be read on the planning website as they are submitted is a concern, this has resulted from a change in procedure where comments are held, vetted and then published to prevent mis-use of the platform. It was also noted that it may be some time before the proposal is put to Fife Planning Committee.

The Chair again thanked Andrew McCafferty, Scott Strachan and Josh Feakins for their attendance and willingness to enter into discussion concerning the development and they left the meeting.

Further discussion took place concerning the development including the fact the land in question is being left unattended – often considered a ploy to gain support for development, the lack of pavements in the area and the suggestion that a

community buyout of the land would bring control of the development into the hands of the community – though they would be equally bound by any conditions laid out in the Planning in Principle.

6.2 New Coop/Post Office; the Chair apologised as she has still to compose a letter to Derek Crowe [Fife Council] concerning the idea of a new pedestrian crossing in the location of the 'new' shop. It was suggested that with the proposed transfer of Post Office services to the site this would create a greater demand for a crossing and comment could be made in the letter. The resulting number of crossings on the Low Road was commented on and thought excessive. It was suggested that the crossing at the top of Stratheden Place could be removed if/when a light controlled crossing was established at the bottom of Crosshills.

6.3 B936 speed restrictions; the proposal from Fife Roads is to place a 20 mph speed restriction on Distillery Street and Burnside from Arnott Street to the Cupar Road. Both elected councillors and the Secretary [commenting as an individual] immediately raised concerns and expressed the desire that the restrictions should begin on Newburgh Road as it enters Auchtermuchty and extend to the existing 30 mph sign on Station Road. It was noted that the Auchtermuchty Campaign against Speed have already accepted Road's proposal. The issue will come before the Area Committee and if no objection made put to full Committee where Councillors can object and request that it is extended on the grounds that it would provide consistency with speed restrictions in the area and would be best done now rather than have the additional areas added at a later date.
The Community Council will submit a note expressing that it would support extending the 20 mph speed restriction to cover the whole length of the B936 as it passes through the town.

7.0 Fife Council:

7.1 Gateside;

7.1.1 Speeding; there has been local discussion over a request for a 20mph limit, though accepted as unlikely, but it was hoped that some form of 40mph buffer zone approaching the village could be an option.

7.1.2 Play park; designs for possible layout are being drawn up.

7.1.3 Memorial Hall; in the process of being redecorated.

7.2 Strathmiglo;

7.2.1 KGV Park container; the storage container is now in situ and in use by the local football club, though size and appearance is an issue to local residents. There are still changes to the footpath to be implemented and is is hoped that anti-climb paint will be used on the roof to prevent anti-social behaviour. It was thought that some measures will have to be taken to lessen the impact of its presence either by screen planting, repainting or combination of measures. [It was noted that the football club intend to form a junior team for youth in the village]

7.2.2 Picnic in the Park; due to inclement weather the picnic had been postponed and will now take place on the 5th September.

7.3 Auchtermuchty;

7.3.1 Defibrillator; the project is moving on and it is hoped that the training of Community 1st Responders will also be undertaken.

7.3.2 Street lighting; Scottish Power are to be working in the area to solve known problems. It was commented that new street lighting appears 'darker' than the older standards. It was thought that this may be due to the light being more fo-

cussed and therefore restricting the area covered and the newer units may have been designed to be used closer together than the existing standards allow. Cllr. Heer will maintain a watching brief and report any issues.

7.4 Dunshalt;

7.4.1 Ladybank Road roadworks; it was noted that local residents would like an update as to the progress of the work

7.4.2 Traffic calming; this is being examined resulting from the incident on the 7th August, local residents would like more.

7.4.3 Village Hall; it is intended to open the hall 'normally', previous users are being invited to book. It is the aim to restart events previously occurring in the village.

8.0 Other Service Providers; all information received is forwarded on by the Secretary.

8.1 Post Office; covered in previous item.

8.2 Cooperative; an alcohol licence is being applied for the new premises.

8.3 Health Centre; [related to 11.3 of June's minutes] there is local concern related to lack of a phone queuing system and the difficulties that can arise when attempting to make an appointment. It was thought that staff shortages may have been a contributory factor, though a new GP is to start shortly the Nurse Practitioner has yet to be replaced.

8.4 Strathview Care Home; the current manager – Margaret Chowdry – is retiring and due to be replaced.

9.0 Planning; The Secretary had sent out a list of the 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. It was noted for the interest of members that a Certificate of Lawfulness is issued when no Planning Permission is required.

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

11.0 Any Other Competent Business;

11.1 Fife Councillor's 'heads-up'; the Chair suggested that Councillors may like to bring Fife wide issues that are being discussed within Fife Council that are relevant to our communities to the meeting. It would be hoped that this would be an agenda item for future meetings. Cllr. Heer raised the time planning applications are taking to be processed, the consequences that are arising, and the shortage of Environmental Health Officers to the point where Fife will have difficulty fulfilling its statutory duties, as examples of such issues.

11.2 Future Community Council meetings; it was hoped to restart 'in person' meetings, and as Strathmiglo has a large main hall to allow some social distancing, the Hall Committee will be approached to see if it is available for the 27th September meeting.

11.3 Dryside parking; the situation appears to have been resolved by the 'opening up' of alternative areas for walkers. [It was noted on a related matter that the reorganisation of the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust is complete]

11.4 KGV Park Strathmiglo; it was raised that mobility scooters and wheelchairs have difficulty entering the park due to the design of the entrance gates. Cllr. Heer will look into the matter.

12.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Monday 27th September at 7.30pm, Strathmiglo Public Hall, details to be confirmed.