Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 on the 25th October 2021 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre [a simultaneous Zoom conferencing facility was trialled]

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PC's Haddow and Lowe

2.0 Police: the Secretary will as always pass on any points raised by members to officers. No report this month though there was discussion as to whether reports were monthly or quarterly, the Secretary will enquire. An additional request was made, as well as the number of firearm licence checks made by officers during the period covered by the report could "hate" crimes be specifically numbered rather than included in the general anti-social totals.

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 27th September were accepted as correct.

5.0 Matters arising:

5.1 **5**.1 Millflat, Auchtermuchty; application is thought to be going to Planning on the 17th November.

5.2 5.2 New Co-op Auchtermuchty; there has been no reply to the request for Co-op support in the positioning of a pedestrian crossing, Chair will press Co-op for reply but in meantime write to Fife Council [John Mitchell]. Cllr. Heer informed the meeting that no crossing was put in the planning application, despite the Community Council request to have one included, as the plans had been unopposed. It was reported that Fife officers felt that it would be expensive at this point to undertake an investigation as to whether the pedestrian crossing near the junction with Stratheden Place could be moved nearer the junction with Crosshills. The Secretary reminded the meeting that monies had been set aside for traffic calming measures in the Low Road and, as these had not occurred, must still be available to cover the cost of a crossing.

5.3 5.3 B936 Auchtermuchty; a new revised proposal takes the restricted area from the northern boundary to the Cupar Road/Burnside junction. The Secretary has written to request that restriction also include the southern section of Burnside and Station Road to the southern boundary.

5.4 5.4 Speeding, Gateside; a further request for a uniform approach to speeding in the area was made. While local action, home-made pop-up-bobs, may be interim measures they cannot replace a coordinated approach to the problem. With a new administration due in May2022 and only two Committee meetings before that it was felt that little could be achieved until the new Committee was formed. It was suggested that the issue could be brought up at hustings prior to the election.

5.5 7.4.1 A912 road closure; it was hoped that better contact is established between Perth & Kinross and Fife Council concerning such issues as there was a great deal of local confusion caused by the lack of warning. Cllr. Heer informed the meeting that this was being undertaken.

6.0 Other business:

6.1 Carswell Wynd planning application; this development has been refused on a number of grounds including it being outwith the town envelope and the proposed access to the Low Road. It was thought worth remembering that the reasons for refusal will effect any future proposal for the area.

7.0 Fife Council:

7.1 Auchtermuchty;

7.1.1 Street lighting; comment has been made that the new light fittings appear not as effective as the originals. It was thought that this may be due the distance between the old standards that they have been attached to not matching the design of the new fittings. In a related matter it was thought that the wearing of bright or high visibility clothing should be encouraged particularly with cyclists.

7.2 Dunshalt;

7.2.1 Burnt out car; localised damaged to flower beds/'train', the area has been cleared.

7.2.2 Core Paths; a local survey has taken place. Cllr. Lothian enquired but there appears little funding available, maintenance may have to rely on volunteers or grant applications.

7.2.3 Gully clearing; in the past parked cars have prevented the clearing of the gullies, it is hoped that if the Community Association are given the date that they could ask residents to move the cars on the morning the street is due to be cleaned.

7.2.4 Dunshalt CA; interest has been shown in developing the play park – refresh/replace equipment. Funding can be applied for to match monies raised locally. Small group activities are being organised to tackle issues on an ad hoc basis.

7.3 Gateside;

7.3.1 100th Anniversary of hall; a vintage tea and World War 1 themed exhibition is to be staged. While primarily for locals if spaces allow an invitation will be made to others in the area to book places.

7.4 Strathmiglo;

7.4.1 Road condition; the High Street from the western approach past the school towards the West Road junction is in a general state of disrepair.

7.4.2 KGV Park; trees between the skatepark and the play park area are becoming very dense shading out grass in the area. Perhaps an expert opinion could be sought.

7.4.3 Clocktower illumination; the timings of the clock-face lights appears out of sync. This may be rectified by the change from BST but may need looked at.

7.4.4 Litter pick; a recent litter pick was well attended but may need repeated after a shorter period of time.

7.4.5 Core Path; in an attempt to formalise a circular path including the Community Woodland, the stretch between the Strathmiglo/Dunshalt path and Mansfield road is to be surveyed to see what is needed to make the route more obvious.

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

8.1 Electricity supply; a number of minor interruptions were reported.

9.0 Planning; The Secretary brought to the members attention 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 Allocated officers; the Secretary noted that a number of allocations on the lists that do not have an allocated officer is growing and wondered why this was occurring.

9.2 Application times; concern is growing over the time application, even basic ones, are taking to go through the system. Reasons were explored including, working from home and not having access to information, lack of staff, absenteeism.

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'; National government "Leveling up" funding allocations have been announced by Fife Officers where decisions were taken without Fife Councillors being consulted. A sizable sum of money was involved. Lack of time to consult appears to be the reason given. It is hoped that a list of projects can be drawn up to be referred to if and when further monies become available. Amongst other suggestions from the meeting were Community Youth programmes and a new Community Centre for the area.

11.2 Zoom conferencing; the trial of a simultaneous online meeting was technically possible within the Auchtermuchty Community Centre but other venues do not have the wifi available. It will be decided at a later date whether all meetings held at the centre will be broadcast. It was also decided that the winter meetings in November and January will take place via the Zoom conferencing facility.

12.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Monday 29th November, 7.30pm, via Zoom, details to follow.