Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 26th meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 31st January 2022 via Zoom conferencing facility.

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

Attending: Cllr. Andy HEER, Mark CLUNIE [Auchtermuchty Community Trust (ACT)], Russell HARRISON [ACT], Brian SLATTERY [ACT]

1.0 **Welcome and Apologies**: The Chair welcomed all those attending and apologised for the cancellation of the November meeting.

Apologies: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

2.0 **Declarations of interest:** these will be made when appropriate.

3.0 **Police**: the monthly report was received showing the number of calls from the various communities regarding such matters as road traffic incidents, assisting members of the public and concern for persons. Fortunately only one crime was recorded.

3.1 Drones: it has been reported to Community Officers that the use of a drone, in the Cash Feus area of , had been noticed a few days before dogs were disturbed during the evening and residents saw torchlight in area. Whether they were related is unknown but it thought prudent to pass on the information.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th October were accepted as correct.

5.0 **Matters Arising:** the Chair will take matters arising as each community is dealt with.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Eco Wind Farm Benefit Fund: a meeting has been arranged [Thursday 3rd Feb.] by Foundation Scotland for communities involved to form a Stakeholder Working Group develop a Fund Strategy that will determine the criteria and methodology by the funds are to be made available and priority local themes. Once a Fund Strategy has been developed the working group will fold and applications for funding will be dealt with by Foundations Scotland. The Chair and Secretary will attend and report back. Any suggestions as to priorities or allocation criteria for the monies should be passed on to the Chair or Secretary. Information concerning existing community groups, population make-up local facilities etc is needed for a brief presentation to be made by each community at the meeting, please send this on to the Chair.

6.2 Local Place Plan: Brian Slattery [ACT] spoke to the meeting concerning the establishment of a Steering Group whose aim would be the formation of a Local Place Plan for Auchtermuchty with the aim to achieve a community facility/activity hub. He is initially looking for members from Auchtermuchty. Mark Clunie [ACT] spoke as a representative of the 'Bellevue Colts', a potential user group, and their need for such a local venue. The Chair asked what the Community Council could do and was told that it could assist in gathering membership of the Steering Group. Bill Torrance expressed the opinion that, while the facility would most likely be built within Auchtermuchty, membership of the Steering Group should be open to all within the Community Council's area, as should the facility. It was agreed that it would up to the Steering Group to decide on the catchment area of the facility. Cllr. Heer outlined possible sources of funds that could be available for such a development. General discussion in the meeting applauded the efforts made so far and offered support in their endeavours while expressing the desire for all the communities in the area to be involved. Brief discussion was held regarding the preferred site, south of the Low Road, and its current position in the planning process. The Chair expressed the opinion that all the communities within the Community Council area should consider forming a Local Place Plan to highlight local priorities and needs.

6.3 Community Council Elections: the Secretary brought members attention to correspondence from Fife Council regarding the extension of the time between elections, resulting in Community Council election

that should have been held in 2022 now being held in 2023. You are to be a Community Councillor for an extra year.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 Councillor's update: Cllr. Heer informed the meeting that, due to monies received as a result of the Covid emergency, Fife Council's finances are at present 'okay' but the future will see major savings needing to be made with obvious effects on services provided. Council officers are beginning to return to working from council premises and it was acknowledged contacting Fife services via phone had been difficult even though more staff had been taken on. A variety of Fife Council's departments are having difficulty recruiting/retaining staff including Environmental Health and are struggling to keep up with the workload.

7.2 Auchtermuchty:

7.2.1 Millflat development: the application for planning in principle has been passed, we now await a full planning application.

7.2.2 Coop crossing: there is still local concern regarding the existing crossing near Stratheden Place with a desire for its replacement nearer the new Coop building.

7.2.3 B936: speed restrictions are to be set as proposed.

7.2.4 Defibrillator: a related website has gone live, it is hoped that another unit may be installed on the Scout Hut in the Low Road park. Having all defibrillators maintained by the one group may be an idea.

7.2.5 New Community Councillor: an appeal for a new member has been unsuccessful.

7.3 Dunshalt:

7.3.1 Village Hall: the full gambit of normal activities are beginning to resume.

7.3.2 Playpark: the refreshment/replacement of equipment is underway.

7.3.3 Interpretive Panels: there is an aim to place information panels around the village for visitors and locals.

7.4 Gateside:

7.4.1 Speeding: the Gateside CA were informed that Fife Council have plans for speed calming measures in the area, they have passed on their comments. They note the Cowiefaulds area as a location requiring attention.

7.4.2 Gateside Mill: SEPA have requested changes to the weir to allow easier migration of fish etc., it may also prevent the build up of debris.

7.4.3 Street lighting: a number of lights at the western end of the A91 appear to be faulty. If there is 1 or 2 Fife Council will seek to repair if reported, a larger number need attention from Scottish Power which may take a longer time.

7.5 Strathmiglo

7.5.1 Strathmiglo CA: this week sees the AGM where amongst other items the activities for the coming year will be discussed.

7.5.2 Core Path: the circular path mentioned in the last meetings minutes is still under discussion with landowners.

7.5.3 Cotton Road: recent path flooding has been dealt with by a local resident, though it is thought that the countryside rangers carried out other works. Two trees were noted to have fallen over the path. [these had been cleared before the Minutes were typed up]

8.0 **OSP:** none

9.0 **Planning:** it has been a very quiet time for applications in the area, with only a few domestic improvements applied for.

9.1 Webinar: the Secretary will forward on information received from the web meeting he attended. The meeting was recorded and is available.

9.2 National Planning Framework 4: draft materials and consultation events are available, both are well worth looking at.

10.0 **Correspondence:** the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received.

11.0 **AOCB:**

11.1 New members: Andrew MACNAUGHTON and Derek THOMSON have been duly co-opted on to the Community Council as members representing Gateside.

11.2 40 MPH zone: Bill Torrance is putting forward the formation of a 40 mph zone covering all roads the Community Council area not already designated 20 mph or 30 mph. He will put together information/maps and send it out to members for discussion at the next meeting.

12.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**

Monday 28th February 2022, 7.30pm, held via the Zoom conferencing facility. Details to follow.