# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

## Minutes of the 28th meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 28th March 2022 in Dunshalt Village Hall.

Present: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Susan JACK [Gateside], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Derek THOMSON [Gateside], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

Attending: Cllr. Andy HEER,

1.0 **Welcome and Apologies**: The Chair welcomed all those attending.

Apologies: Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

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

3.0 **Police**: the Secretary will forward any relevant information to officers.

3.1 Speedwatch; members from both Dunshalt and Gateside would welcome the reforming of the group given the drawing to an end of Covid restrictions.

3.2 A91 closure; the recent closure and subsequent unsatisfactory diversion was discussed. It was thought that planning should be in place for the closure of a main road as there appeared to be little guidance given in this case resulting in a large volume of traffic using unsuitable roads leading to damage to cars.

3.3 Dryside/Glendale parking; inconsiderate [now illegal] parking has returned given the fair weather of late. At a particularly busy time in the farming calander this is a major concern.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th February were accepted as correct with one clarification.

4.1 5.1 There was only one Community Council not wanting to go down the Open Grant Funding option.

5.0 **Matters Arising:** the Chair will take items and individual community matters within the agenda.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Wind Farm; the Community Council have been informed by GreenCat that the monies now predicted to be avai;able for distribution have increased considerably - £20,000 Spring 2022, £50,000 Autumn 2022, £150,000 Spring 2023, £150,000 Autumn 2023 with £100,000 per 6 month period for the next couple of years. It was thought that staying with the Open Grant Funding option for the first year still appears to be the best plan. There is to be a move towards 'Community Directors' [a voluntary unpaid position] to replace GreenCat representatives in an 'Our Community Energy' [OCE] group who will receive monies due. Community representation will also be required on the body deciding on grant applications under the auspices of Foundation Scotland, who would receive monies from OCE. It was thought that Foundation Scotland's base charge of 12% to oversee due diligence and the dispersement of the monies was too high. Further discussion is to take place with GreenCat, Foundation Scotland and the other Community Councils to cover these and other issues. B. Torrance raised the point that with a large increase in funds available, political and special interest groups will become more interested. I. Macaulay suggested an open meeting for all the Community Councils involved to explain, to the public, the situation so far and guidance for grant application. It was agreed that joint applications – from groups of bodies/associations/community councils – be allowed.

6.2 Carswell Wynd Planning appeal; the Chair attended the meeting [virtually] and reported that the refusal had been upheld on the use of agricultural land and landscape issues but not that the

affordable houses were being built elsewhere in the community. It is likely that any appeal going to the Scottish Reporter would also be refused given the strength of the case. The Chair found the process very interesting.

6.3 Stratheden Place Planning Application; the Secretary noted that the application was for 21 houses not the original 18. Though the area is zoned for housing, traffic access may prove to be an issue. The need for housing in the community was acknowledged however the Community Council will request to be a Statutory Consultee and will object if the 20% of affordable houses condition is not provided for within the actual development. The likelihood of additional pressures being made on the local health centre and primary school will also be raised.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 Dunshalt:

7.1.1 Place Planning; the aim would be to avoid conflict/duplication with neighbouring communities while retaining the communities individuality.

7.1.2 Community Association; there are financial challenges to meet recent expenses. Suggestions/ideas for a variety of events are hoped to arise from an open meeting to be held. A new hall keeper/cleaner is looked for after the retiral of the present one.

7.2 Gateside:

7.2.1 Traffic calming; works on the A91 are still awaited.

7.2.2 Community Association; 'Soup Friday' has been established to bring the community together. The new website is running though still under development. Place Planning is to be further explored. A Queen's Platinum Jubilee lunch is to be organised.

7.2.3 Dryside; the road condition is becoming an issue by the junction to Lappie Moss farm, though this may help prevent the recurring problem of bad/illegal parking in the area. A request for a litter bin by the Bonnet Stone parking area is likely to be granted, Cllr. Heer will organise.

7.3 Strathmiglo

7.3.1 Community Association; next meeting,Wednesday 6th April, will be looking for ideas – a leaflet/questionnaire will be made available at the Spring Coffee morning as well

7.3.2 Anti-Social behaviour; local youths are being blamed for the on going litter problem particularly in the King George V park. Lack of provision of alternative activities may be an issue.

7.3.3 Cottown Road: no flooding issue given recent weather, meeting to be arranged.

7.4 Auchtermuchty

7.4.1 Low Road; a site meeting was held concerning the provision of a pedestrian crossing nearer to the new Coop building. Unfortunately it is proving very difficult to find a suitable spot given the road layout in the vicinity. The bus stop opposite will be given more prominent road markings. Observing the response of traffic once the shop opens may lead to a more targetted approach. It is still the opinion of Fife Council that there is no upgrade option available for the existing Stratheden Place/ Low Road crossing.

8.0 **OSP:**

8.1 NHS; the Fife bulletin repeatedly highlights the difficulties being faced by GP practices and A&E facilities however the Chair raised the issue of the continued use of emergency

measures and the possible consequences for patients unable to get through to the Health Centre, was this just a local issue? This would appear to be a good time for the Community Council to request another meeting with the practice where matters such as the phone system and the out of date web site could be raised. The Secretary will write.

9.0 **Planning:** Apart from the Stratheden Place housing application (discussed above) it has been a very quiet time for applications in the area, with only a few domestic improvements applied for.

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

11.0 **AOCB:**

11.1 Future CC meetings; due to calendar clashes meetings will be scheduled as follows, April – Dunshalt, May - Strathmiglo, June – Auchtermuchty. The Zoom conferencing facility will be cancelled, if required the free 40 minute sessions will be used.

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

**Monday 25th April 2022, 7.30pm, Dunshalt Village Hall.**