Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 30th meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 30th May 2022 in Strathmiglo Public Hall.

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

Attending: Andy HEER, Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID

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

Apologies: Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Derek THOMSON [Gateside], 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 Youth disorder, Strathmiglo; vandalism and litter are in evidence in Crow Wood [Cottown Road]. Police are involved with a number of incidents. [The issue will be raised with the new community worker at the next CC meeting.]

3.2 Rural Clearway; the meeting was informed that the legal process for the setting up of the clearway has not been completed therefore the Police have no authority to issue tickets. It was hoped, though members had little confidence, that this would be resolved before the summer.

3.3 The Open golf tournament; concerns from local residents, particularly those in Gateside and the Low Road in Auchtermuchty, regarding the volume and behaviour of traffic related to the event have been raised with the authorities involved.

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

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; there has been no further news, the Chair will have information forwarded on to members.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 Strathmiglo

7.1.1 Community Association; Jubilee ideas are going ahead and will be finalised at the next CA meeting.

7.1.2 Hall grounds; the grassy area to the north of the Public Hall [from the car park and the river] was to be maintained as part of an agreement between the Hall Committee and Fife Council, unfortunately this has not happened and has become unsightly and overgrown.

7.1.3 Cash Feus/A912 junction; an area of ground between Cash Feus and the Toll Bridge is allowed to become over grown with grass blocking sight lines for vehicles emerging. Local residents have cut the grass in the past but question why it is not maintained by Fife Council when the verge on the north side of the A912 opposite is cut. Verge maintenance is a common issue in the area and it was thought that having a named point of contact within Fife Council would be very useful.

7.1.4 Core paths; there has been local interest in establishing a foot/cycle path between Strathmiglo

and Auchtermuchty by making use of the line of the old railway track. Help will be needed to determine the feasibility of such a route. The Chair will contact Fife Council's Access Officer [Sarah Johnston] while each CA looks at the possibilities in their area. Jane Kerr will look into what assistance could be got from the 'Paths for All' initiative and such a path, extending out to Gateside and Dunshalt, could be included in any Place Plan established for the area.

7.1.5 Bellfield Court; Bill Torrance put the case to Fife Council for the installation of road warning signs on the A912 as a 'fault' as they were not put in place following the construction of the development. This was unfortunately refused, Fife argued that there was sufficient visibility and signage was not necessary. The hamlet of Cowiefaulds has a similar problem on the A91, though signage is in place for the Wellfield entrance opposite, they also have been rebutted. It was thought by members that a 'standardised' approach should be made by Fife Council in their approach to the installation of road signs.

7.1.6 Demperston Bends; the road signage damaged by a recent road accident is still in need of repair.

7.2 Auchtermuchty

7.2.1 Millflat; the 'no entry' road sign is obscured by vegetation. It is recommended that the sign be moved to the opposite side of the road where it would be more visible.

7.2.2 Macduff Place; it was reported that a large hole is in need of repair. Cllr. McDiarmid will pursue.

7.2.3 Refuse bins; a number [approx. 200] 'grey' bins were not emptied, though the refuse vehicles were seen in the town, in Auchtermuchty causing anger amongst residents. Staffing issues and mechanical breakdowns could have been an issue.

General discussion took place regarding the communication [or perceived lack of] between Fife Council and the general public. There are a number of ways that Fife Council already attempts to pass on information but it was thought that perhaps using the CCs as a conduit – with their local network – would be useful, adding them to the Fife Council's Communication Officer's email list may be the simplest method.

7.2.4 New Community Worker; it has been confirmed that she will attend the next CC meeting in Auchtermuchty.

7.2.5 Defibrillators; there are now 3 in place in Auchtermuchty with a 4th planned for the Bowling Club, training sessions are to follow.

7.2.6 Coop shop; the date of 8th July has been given for the Coop to be relocated to the Low Road premise. A related issue – the post office section will be closed for a period [from 4pm 1st July to 9am 8th July] during the relocation.

7.2.7 Jubilee celebrations; there will be a 'party' between 12 and 4pm at the Cross, Saturday 4th June.

7.2.8 Good Food Hut, Kilnheugh; this premise is currently operating as a fast food supplier to the annoyance of local residents, though they had applied for change of use from a cafe to a fish & chip shop this has not been granted. Fife Council Planning need to make, and enforce, a decision.

7.2.9 Upper Greens; a void that is forming is being examined to see what action needs taken.

7.3 Dunshalt:

7.3.1 Jubilee celebration; this has been organised for Sunday 5th June in the play park.

7.3.2 Drainage ditch, Ladybank Road; a report concerning the long running issue has been passed to the Community Association.

7.3.3 Cash Mill Cottage; the boundary wall now complies with planning conditions.

7.3.4 Bridge repairs; Cllr. McDiarmid has reported that repairs are being organised.

7.4 Gateside:

7.4.1 Traffic calming measures; still waiting, notices should be posted on lamp posts before work commences.

7.4.2 Jubilee celebrations; the CA thanks Councillors for their advice, a local license has been organised for Saturday 4th June.

7.4.3 Verge enhancement; the local community are hoping to add flowers/plants to the road verges but are keen that they are not removed or damaged by Fife Council maintenance and would like to liase with a named contact. [Related to 7.1.3]

8.0 **OSP:**

8.1 Health Centre; the Chair and Secretary have arranged a meeting with the practice manager next week. Issues to be raised by members can be emailed to them, they already include – 'on-the-day' appointments, getting through on the telephone, text reminders.

9.0 **Planning:** the Secretary sent out a list of applications in the area. Members are reminded that they can be added to the weekly email list sent out by Fife Council.

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

11.0 **AOCB:**

11.1 Crash barriers A92; questions were raised as to why these are being put in place, no doubt at considerable cost, as they appear unnecessary in most of the locations they are being installed.

11.2 Melville Lodge roundabout; 'ponding' on the north west corner is a serious issue with it covering almost half the carriageway on occasions. There had been a problem on the south east corner and it may be work done to rectify this has simply moved the problem. It was also noted that the road markings are missing, this leads to confusion among drivers as to the proper approach to the road junction.

11.3 Broadband outages; the recent break in broadband service raised concern for residents in the area who use community alarms as many now rely on a wifi system to operate. Though a 4G backup system can be installed and is not dependent on a landline, it is unclear if community alarm users are aware of this.

11.4 Council Elections; the Chair thanked Andy Heer for his many years of excellent service to the community and welcomed Cllr. Gary Holt. The question of how the three councillors will arrange attendance at CC meeting was raised, but this has yet to be decided.

11.5 CC adoption; it was proposed that Andy Heer be co-opted as a community councillor, if he was amenable, for the Auchtermuchty area. AGREED.

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

Monday 27th June 2022, 7.30pm, Auchtermuchty Community Centre.