Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 31st meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 27th June 2022 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

Present: Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK, [Gateside], Andrew MCNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Derek THOMPSON [Gateside].

Attending: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN

1.0 Welcome and Apologies. The chair welcomed all those attending.

Apologies: Maaike COOK (Strathmiglo), Jane KERR (Strathmiglo) Ian MACAULAY (Dunshalt), Mathew McDONALD (Dunshalt), Bill TORRANCE (Strathmiglo), Cllr. David MACDIARMID, 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 continues to take place in Strathmiglo. Police are involved. [The issue will be raised with the new community worker at the next CC meeting.]

4.0 Minutes of Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th May were accepted.

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

6.0 Other Business:

6.1 Bin Eccological Wind Farm Community Fund; There will be a meeting held on 28th June to finalise the document. Still looking at a figure of £50,000. Green Cat will hold the meeting, where they will discuss what to do about engaging Directors, and who has the expertise to fill these positions. The initial sum of money available to communities is £2,000 however it is possible to apply for more should the need arise. Foundation Scotland want to take 12% in commission, regardless what the sums of money involved might be. It is felt that this is a particularly high amount of commission. We will be seeking for three volunteers from the Community Council to become involved in the project. There will be a meeting in July where discussions will take place regarding the financial position of the fund.

6.2 OSP Auchtermuchty Health Centre Meeting;

a] Shortage Of Staff & GP's In General; Mrs Carla Scott, Business Manager, Dr Pollington, Dr Collinson and Dr Szylak held a meeting with the Community Council Chair and the Secretary. A number of issues were discussed including, the shortage of doctors and paramedics. The doctors are currently working flat out. They frequently take on further work to the detriment of their own mental health. The number of staff

that has been lost over the last few years is very notable, and explains the difficulties that the health centre has been facing, and currently faces. Pre- Covid there were six doctors in attendance at the health centre, however now there are only three, and they lost two practitioner nurses, although they have managed to recruit one new one.

b] New Phone System;
There will be a new phone system which is due to be installed in the near future. The staff are aware of the frustrations of members of the public having to call many times before they actually speak to someone. It is hoped that the new phones will have a queuing system in place.

c] Text Reminders For Appointments;
There are currently no texts messages available for GP appointments as only phone on the day appointments are currently available.. Once the appointment system returns to booking in advance, it is expected that the text reminder system will fall into place. At present it is possible to receive a text reminder if you are attending the nurse, phlebotomist or for Physiotherapy. It is important to ensure that the Health Centre has your mobile number in order that you can register for text reminders.

d] NHS Fife;
There are quite a few services that the Health Centre is no longer responsible for. These decisions were made by NHS Fife, and in general the GP's are frustrated with the way that NHS Fife is working, so much so that it is difficult for them to see a way ahead, working as they do now, unless they are fortunate enough to recruit another GP.

e] Pharmacy First;
The Chair asked how we could be of help to them? The GP's responded by saying that they request all communities to attend their pharmacist first. The pharmacist has the ability to offer you the correct advice, as well as identify and prescribe the correct medication for straight forward illnesses. If the pharmacist can't help you, then you are welcome to request an appointment with a clinician.

f] Health Screening Vehicles;
As patients who normally attended screening vehicles that were parked in the Health Centre's own car park, found they had to make their way to Glenrothes instead, they could not understand why they had to make this trip, particularly for people who had health difficulties, and a lack of available transport. When asked why these vehicles were not housed in the car park as they had been in the past, the staff explained that NHS Lothian was dealing with Fife Health Boards screening back log, which occurred due the interruption of covid and lockdown. The appointments and position of the vehicles were all down to NHS Lothian.

g] Future actions;
The Secretary of Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council asked if the health centre might keep in touch with the C.C. in the future, so that we can notify the communities of any changes, however, it is also noted that the health centre already has a FaceBook page which they regularly update. Once the page has been updated, Shona Dryburgh then posts the information on the Community Council Facebook page. It was felt to be a positive meeting with a good outcome.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 Auchtermuchty

7.1.1 Cllr McDiarmid sent a note that the first two items had been attended to, however only one of the two items has actually been attended to the 'No entry' road sign is no longer obscured by the hedge, as Fife Council cut it back. One 'no entry sign' does not seem appropriate as drivers who are unaware of the traffic system in place, are still driving down the road against the oncoming traffic. Andy Heer suggested that a 'No Left Turn' sign head on as you approach the end of the crescent might be more effective than the current system in place. Will refer this back to Cllr McDiarmid.

7.1.2 It has been important to highlight the difficulties with the bin service for the purpose of feeding back to the community in order that they are aware of what is happening. Patience and resilience explained Cllr Donald Lothian, is a necessary tool when it comes to having your refuse bin emptied. If refuse bins have not been emptied, it is important that they remain ready to be emptied, even if they have to sit and wait on the refuse lorry to appear days later. Our refuse bins will definitely be emptied at some point.
However, if you think your bin has been missed, then contact Fife Council.

7.1.3 The new Community Worker was running the Men's Meeting on the evening of the meeting, however she will attend the next meeting in August.

7.1.4. The 'Good Food Hut' has waited over one year for a licence to operate. Cllr Gary Holt or Cllr Donald Lothian will look into the delay.

7.1.5

a] Auchtermuchty Defibrillator Project AGM;
The Auchtermuchty Defibrillator Project, recently held a very successful cheese and wine gathering following their AGM, where they had a speaker 'Lesley' from St John's who gave an interesting insight as to the history of St John's.

b] Community First Responder Teams;
Shona quizzed Lesley about the fact that St John's are running a 'Community First Responder' scheme. Sadly it appears that they have no teams in Fife, despite attempts to encourage people to become involved. The A.D.P. had initially encouraged members who are trained in CPR and defibrillator usage, those who have a medical background to sign up to the GoodSAM app, which is a first responder project. However the defibrillator at the phone box was deployed, and no one who had the GoodSAM app were contacted, which the group felt was very disappointing. After gleaning more information on the set up of a Community First Responder project, Lesley explained that St John's would cover all training and re training expenses, as well as relevant equipment and possibly a uniform.

c] Community First Responder Training;
Lesley went on to inform us that training is actually done directly through the Scottish Ambulance Service. Shona thought it might be possible to have this service available for all the local communities, whether it was set up as one project or a project within each community, if there is a good enough response. Shona set about recruiting Community First Responders by placing an advert on Facebook. So far five people have put their name on the list to attend the

first meeting with St Johns on this subject. Four people are from Auchtermuchty and one, or possibly two are from Strathmiglo.

d] Inviting Surrounding Community Councils;
Susan Jack asked to be informed of the date of the meeting with St John's which is yet to be set. She suggested that we invite the surrounding Community Councils in the area. Andrew McNaughton suggested that a subgroup be set up to deal with the C.F.R's or it might be that the current project Defibrillator Project in Auchtermuchty can be viewed as the sub group. This will be discussed at the meeting with St John's, or at a later zdate.

7.1.6. The burn at the Upper Greens area is undermining the river bank.

7.1.7 The pedestrian barrier at the new Coop has already been damaged by an oncoming vehicle. This is very disappointing, but it also shows that the barrier is doing it's job of protecting the pedestrians. Hopefully it will be replaced before the Coop opens for business.

7.1.8 Auchtermuchty held a very successful Jubilee, attended by many people.
The organisation of it was excellent with many people lending a hand.

7.1.9 Dave Haig has been working hard at renovating the public benches. He acquired public money to do the venture, but it has been very well received, and he has worked extremely hard. It was suggested that the Community Council send him a letter of thanks for all his hard work.

7.2 Gateside

7.2.1 The Jubilee lunch was very well attended, and Willie Rennie MSP gave a surprise visit. The next day was glorious for the picnic in the park.

7.2.2 A new defibrillator has now been installed which is situated on the A91 at the hall at Gateside.

7.2.3 Traffic Calming Measures; Fife Council led members of the Community Association to believe that 'Speed Humps,' or active signage to discourage speeding would be installed on the A91 through Gateside, where speeding vehicles are still an issue. Cllr Donald Lothian believes that it is in train, however he will write a letter to the appropriate person, in the hope of moving the issue forward. A timetable has been requested.

7.2.4 The Gateside community are very impressed with the 'garden verge' as you enter Auchtermuchty, and would like to start doing a similar thing along the verge along the entrance to Gateside, however it is noted that they don't want Fife Council to continue to cut the verge, and they wonder who they need to contact, so that they might progress with the project. Cllr Donald Lothian, suggested contacting Roger Honeyman, or Colin Davidson, who deals with ground maintenance for Fife Council.

7.3. Strathmiglo

7.3.1 There has been progress made with the core paths. One member of Giffordtown community is keen on getting all the core paths done. They have a great set of volunteers who are happy to do all the physical work required. We discussed forming a sub committee to deal with all the core paths in the area.

7.3.2 Problems with youths, who are causing an untold amount of trouble. The police have been informed..

8.0 Planning Applications

Planning application 22/01734/FULL regarding erection of a dwelling house at 29 Cash Feus, Strathmiglo was discussed at some length. It was decided that the Community Council would request to be a Statutory Consultee with regard to this application and also that the Community Council would submit an objection on the grounds of the general unsuitability of Cash Feus to support any more traffic, the very restricted access to the site and concerns over the impact on neighbouring properties.

9.0 AOCB

9.1 Andy Heer was formally elected rather than co-opted as a Community Councillor, representing Auchtermuchty

9.2 This evenings meeting was supposed to be an AGM, but it was decided to move it forward to take place at the meeting due to be held on Monday 29th August.

10.0 Date and venue of AGM and next meeting

Monday 29th August 2022 7.30pm, Dunshalt Community Hall