Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 29th August 2022 in Dunshalt Village Hall.

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

Attending: Cllr. Gary HOLT, P.S. Helen Manuel

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

Apologies: Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo],Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MCDIARMID.

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

3.0 **Police**:

3.1 P.S. Manuel was in attendance primarily regarding the large number of letters received concerning speeding in the area. There are two community officers covering the Howe area and two others covering the Cupar area which can be called upon, however speed checks need to compete with other demands on officers' time. Recently these have included a large number of firearms checks/renewals [this used to be carried out by a specialist unit but now has become part of the Community Officers remit] and calls to attend events outside the Howe area. Despite this the Howe has lead the way in the use of 'Pop-up Bob' and speed radar checks with new sites regularly visited [it should be noted that 20mph areas are only usually checked if near a school a recent check caught a number of offenders unfortunately local residents]. Officers are promoting the formation of Speedwatch groups now that training can restart with speed surveys being conducted in the area. An article will be prepared and sent to the Community Council for circulation in local association publications both online and in hard copy, this may be able to include the number of 'tickets' issued. Some local independent community action has been a concern as it may be seen as a distraction to drivers. The possibility of static safety cameras was raised but the decision of locations is not up to local officers [site selection process can be found at http://www.safetycameras.gov.scot/about/, a map showing the location of existing safety cameras can also be found] The need for a consistent approach by Fife to speed restrictions including how they relate to neighbouring regions speed restrictions due to 'interpretation of guidelines' and the possibility of a 40 mph zone in the area were also raised, as was the possible moving of speed restriction signs further out from community boundaries. It was noted that all officers coming into the area received specific speed related training.

3.2 Youth disorder; a number of incidents have taken place in the area, Community Officers were praised by a local resident in their handling of a particular event.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th June were accepted with two clarifications.

4.1 6.2.a Auchtermuchty Health Centre, Shortage of staff ; reference to "six doctors' should read 'six full-time equivalent doctors'.

4.2 6.2.b New phone system; the system is to be installed by NHS Fife

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

5.1 6.1 Binn Eccological Wind Farm Community Fund [BEWFCF]; it was revealed that there is now £200,000 available this year but the group are looking to drawdown £100,000 carrying over the balance to next year. Individual grants are to be increased to £3000 but applications for larger amounts will be looked at and may be granted dependent on merit. The date for applications to be accepted is yet to be set, Foundation Scotland will publish the application form on their website

[https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding]. A local panel, three volunteers are looked for from the Community Council with one reserve, is to be formed to decide on applications once Foundation Scotland have vetted them. The positions of Directors to the BEWFCF is to be advertised by Green Cat – it is assumed that some familiarity with business practices will be required.

6.0 **Other Business: none**

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 Dunshalt:

7.1.1 Local Fete; a successful event was held with monies raised going to local issues.

7.1.2 Footpaths; there has been conflict between walkers and landowners believed to be a result of paths grown over and walkers taking alternative routes.

7.1.3 Village Hall; is attempting to reduce costs, no hall keeper, implentation of remote heating control.

7.2 Gateside:

7.2.1 Traffic calming measures;notification of works has been locally posted.

7.2.2 Verge enhancement; local residents are to go ahead with the project using perennial planting to be more ecologically sound.

7.2.3 Soups Fridays; still a successful and well attended social event, there is an aim [given the current and worsening economic climate] to add a second session eg Toasty Tuesday, to provide a 'warm bank' in the colder weather as domestic heating costs rise. It was suggested that this may be an item that could be taken up by other halls/associations perhaps with some co-ordination through the area. The question of Fife Council's proposed actions was raised, Cllr. Holt will seek an answer though it may be late in September before Fife Council make any decisions.

7.3 Strathmiglo

7.3.1 Community Association; a successful Fun Day was held, it was thought that the numbers were down on last year due to late holidays by locals. The annual Seniors' bus tour is planned for September. It is hoped that a footpaths group will be established within the Association to look at the formation of new paths and the maintenance and extension of existing ones.

7.3.2 Land for housing; local agricultural land is being currently sold off and the question of how some could be incorporated into the Local Plan as available for housing was raised. The use of a 'Place Plan' appears to be the way forward which lead into discussion as to whether there should be a Place Plan that incorporates all the area covered by the Community Council or whether Place Plans should be formed for each Community Association area – these would obviously have a bearing on their neighbours.

7.4 Auchtermuchty

7.4.1 20 mph Newburgh Road; the signage is not complete and there is a need for road markings to be put in place.

7.4.2 Old Mill, Burnside; a tree is growing in the gable wall risking the wall's collapse and subsequent blocking of the Burn. How is this to be dealt with? The owner's responsibility but can they be contacted in time.

7.4.3 Bus shelter, Dunshalt road; this has been reported as obscured by vegetation.

7.4.4 Double Yellow lines; there is local concern regarding the requirement/reason for new lines in Parliament Place. There are other areas badly in need of repainting and enforcement of any of the areas seems non-existent.

7.4.5 Community First Responders; meetings have been held, and more to follow, regarding the establishment of a group to respond to defibrillator callouts. Training is to be provided and it is hoped to have a number of people, across all the communities, who will 'clock-on' signalling their availability.

7.4.6 Upper Greens; the issue of the undercutting of the bank has been raised at a number of meetings but no response from Fife Council has been forth-coming.

7.4.7 Good Food Hut, Kilnheugh; the delay in a planning decision was acknowledged. The application is now to be looked at afresh.

8.0 **OSP:**

8.1 Broadband; availability of broadband in local halls was discussed [Dunshalt are in the process of making it available to hall users]. The R100/ Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband was thought worth exploring. https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com

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.

9.1 Millflat/Leckiebank; the indicative proposal has been passed with a large number of conditions, we will await to see if an actual planning application is submitted.

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

11.0 **AOCB;**

11.1 Zoom meetings; the Community Council will decide at the September meeting whether it is to return to an online meeting through the use of Zoom conferencing.

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

Monday 26th September 2022, 7.30pm, Strathmiglo Public Hall.

Please note that this will be the Community Council's AGM. The normal monthly meeting for September will immediately follow the conclusion of the AGM. Agendas for both meetings will be available nearer the date.