Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 26th September 2022 in Strathmiglo Public Hall.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Mathew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Andrew MCNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Brian SLATTERY [ACT]

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

Apologies: Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. David MACDIARMID

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

3.0 **Police**:

3.1 Speedwatch; discussion was held as to whether there should be Speedwatch groups to cover individual communities or one for the Community Council area, it was thought that this would be dependent on the number of volunteers and where they were based. Articles requesting volunteers to join are to be placed in all the communities outlets both paper and online.

3.2 Speeding and other road measures; the Chair again raised the issue of a uniform approach not only within Fife Council but also with our neighbouring regions – a problem which can be seen on roads leading into the CC where speed restrictions and cycle/footpath recognition change at the border or are different at times for no obvious reason. Andy Heer pointed out that there is coming government policies [and their attendant funding] that councils could be waiting for. Other regions e.g. Perth & Kinross appear to have a more uniform approach and the Chair asked if they had a strategy document that we could look at. An approach will be made to a Perth & Kinross councillor known to a member. It was thought that it may be worth contacting Fife's Head of Roads [John Mitchell].

3.3 Sheep worrying; after a recent incident on the Lomond Hills the offender was traced, the police response was to be commended.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th August were accepted.

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

5.1 5.1 Binn Ecological Wind Farm Community Fund [BEWFCF]; the Chair has forwarded emails concerning the establishment of the application process. There has been a delay due to GreenCat not signing off an agreement with Foundation Scotland.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Local Place Plans [LPP]; Brian Slattery reported that a Steering Group had been set up and has so far held 3 meetings in Auchtermuchty, though those attending had differed from meeting to meeting. He thought that this may be due to the uncertainty over what a LPP actually is. He hoped that a 'steady core' of individuals could come together to see the process through. Two of the main decisions that will need to be made are; what geographic area would be covered by the LPP and which body/organisation would submit it. If the LPP was to cover all the communities then the Community Council itself would be the obvious choice, as Community Councils are listed in documentation as a body entitled to do so. The issues to be contained within the LPP would also influence the geographic area covered, as a number of them may only effect sections of the community. Bill Torrance questioned whether an area was only allowed to be covered by one LPP, it appears that the legislation does not prohibit an area appearing in more than one LPP.

The meeting raised a number of questions that will need answered;

1. Is there to be one large LPP to cover the Community Council area or separate LPPs to cover the Community Association areas or even individual projects?

2. What should be the focus of the existing Steering Group, should it form a general overview of land use in the area rather than detail individual projects?

3. How is the information gathering/ local consultation [of needs and aspirations] of residents to be done and how are the results to be publicised?

4. Should the Community Council/Associations carry out the consultations or should a professional body be brought in? What would be the cost of these scenarios?

It was agreed that the Community Associations should carry out some initial fact finding through their normal communication channels and Brian Slattery will look into the possible costs of engaging a professional group.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 Strathmiglo

7.1.1 Footpath group; the Strathmiglo Path Group has been established [an ad hoc group of the CA]. Its first targetted proposed path, along the old railway towards Auchtermuchty, has met with a favourable response from land owner concerned and meetings with Fife officers have been held.

7.1.2 Conservation group; the Strathmiglo Conservation Group has also recently been established with the aim to tackle conservation projects in the area.

7.2 Auchtermuchty

7.2.1 Lighting; a number of streets [centred around the Lochiebank area] have been without street lights. This has been reported but no action has yet been taken. This area has been repeatedly effected by such outages.

7.2.2 7.4.2 Old Mill, the tree growing from wall is still a concern. Ownership of wall may be an issue but surely Fife Council could take remedial action.

7.2.3 7.4.6 Upper Greens void, the location of the riverbank at issue has to be determined. Cllr. McDiarmid will need to clarify site of concern.

7.2.4 7.4.7 Good Food Hut planning application, the current application has been refused, though it should be noted that planning was previously granted for the use as a cafe.

7.2.5 7.4.5 1st Responders, it was hoped to publicise the group more intensely.

7.3 Dunshalt:

7.3.1 Village Hall; there is now wifi available to users of the hall.

7.4 Gateside:

7.4.1 Speed management works; it was reported that these are now to be put on the ‘to do’ lists of the relevant departments.

7.4.2 Toasty Tuesday; the availability of a ‘warm space’ in the memorial hall will start in October [though no actual toasties may be available], Gateside CA are looking to see if funding is available. It was noted that the local musical group would welcome residents to their musical rehearsals on a Wednesday afternoon and provide another ‘warm space’.

7.4.3 Pavement A91; it was pointed out that the pavement towards Cowiefaulds alongside the A91

needs cleared of a build up of earth/leaves and vegetation in general that is narrowing available walkway.

8.0 **OSP:**

8.1 Flood Forecast; as a follow up to an email circulated to members, a SEPA Regional Flood Forecast workshop is being arranged by Laura Paterson on Thursday 13th October at the Stables in Falkland.

9.0 **Planning:** the Secretary had noted no applications over the past 4 weeks. 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 Zoom meetings; the Secretary had booked halls for the October and November meetings as a precaution but the option of Zoom meetings was still available. It was AGREED that the October meeting in Auchtermuchty will go ahead but meetings to be held in November, January and February will be conducted via Zoom conferencing.

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

Monday 31st October, Auchtermuchty Community Centre at 7.30pm.