Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 28th October 2024 in Strathmiglo Public Hall.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, James FRETWELL and 2 members of the public.

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

Apologies: Susan JACK [Gateside], Cllr. David MACDIARMID, PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

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

3.0 **Police**: it was noted that the latest police report had been circulated.

3.1 Officers attendance; though the pressures on officers time are substantial it was hoped that their occasional presence at meetings or part of a meeting [particularly as there has been a new sergeant in place] could be organised.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30 September 2024 were accepted with one clarification;
6.4.1 Cllr. Lothian has pursued the issue of flooding at the Auchtermuchty Fife Station over the past 18 months and communicated with parties involved, not meeting with a group of people as recorded. [Cllr. Holt told the meeting that there is a back list of broken/blocked drains that Fife Council are working their way through, so there is an element of waiting your turn. It was also noted that department personnel has changed making direct communication difficult.]

[The meeting heard from James Fretwell at this point concerning the progress with his planned 'Johnny Cash Path']

Mr Fretwell gave a summary of the works so far including the linked exhibition to be held in the Fife Country shop and the formation of a dedicated area of garden at Strathmiglo Public Hall. With the ' path' nearing completion he has encountered a problem in the area of Cash Wood and Pillars of Hercules. Falkland Estate have requested a named organisation to be linked to the endeavour and the Community Council [CC] were asked if they would take on this role. The question of public liability was raised and whether if the CC were to put their name to the path would this bring liability with it. Mr Fretwell felt that this would be covered by public access legislation though members were less certain. It was suggested that the walk be described as a 'suggested route' as use of the term 'path' has specific connotations. While the CC offered support for the work being undertaken it could not be the named organisation and recommended contact with the Fife Access officer [once appointed], the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and, as the area concerns falls in their remit, the Falkland Community Council.

5.0 **Matters Arising:** not included in the agenda. None

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Wind Turbine Fund; names have been put forward for the Community Benefits Company. With the latest drawdown of £800 now in the CC's account we should look to publicise the availability of grants [to a maximum of £500] to unconstituted groups – established or in formation – this will be done through the CC's on line presence with local Community Associations informed and encouraged to make them more widely known. Application forms will be available through the CC's website.

6.2 Resilience Group [RG]; Proposed meeting with Falkland group had to be postponed. A. Heer will organise rescheduling of date as the Falkland group are looking at specific areas and problems that mat have relevance to the CC. B. Torrance will look into application process to the Community Council Fund offering financial support to CCs developing and executing local resilience plans. The group intend to look at types of water monitoring equipment and its possible use in our area.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Strathmiglo**

7.1.1 Countryside vandalism; hay bales are being attacked locally with some having the binding string cut and others pushed into the river. Uncertain whether a formal report has been made to the police.

7.1.2 Anti-social behaviour; local youths are causing problems in the evenings disturbing local residents with noise and anti-social behaviour. The police should be informed of such incidents as they occur.

7.1.3 Christmas Fayre; the village craft fair has been set for the 30th November.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Village Hall; roof works now complete.

7.2.2 Speed cushions; those on the Ladybank Road had been removed, road markings that have appeared hopefully mean that they are to be replaced.

7.2.3 Play Park; works are almost complete with an official opening in November, though unfortunate early access has damaged newly laid turf. It is hope that works can be carried out on the less well used 'rear' play park to make it more usable.

7.2.4 Speeding; still an issue of concern.

7.2.5 Village Shop; the shop is in difficulties with the lack of footfall in the past months, though there are cost saving measures being put into place its future is uncertain unless business improves.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 Traffic calming; the final stages are planned but implementation still awaited.

7.3.2 Soup Friday; is ongoing.

7.3.3 Gateside Gallop; was successfully resurrected following the Covid break.

7.3.4 Toasty Tuesday; it is planned to restart in December.

7.3.5 Play Park; £85,000 has been raised with the last tranche being sought. There has been discussion concerning parking as with the sale of the school the parking area near to the park is likely to be lost.

7.4 **Auchtermuchty**

7.4.1 20 mph limits; the meeting was informed that there is a rolling program with traffic orders being issued. Auchtermuchty will be dealt with in turn.

7.4.2 EV chargers; news of discussion at Fife Council level concerning the possible positioning of EV chargers in the car park area by Orchardflat has caused a great deal of local concern that a well used parking area would lose a number of spaces to charging points. It was explained that though this discussion is part of a Fife wide strategy on the positioning of EV chargers it is at a very early stage with a feasibility study and public consultation to take place before any planning application would be

submitted. The question was raised as to whether Fife Council would get a revenue stream from the lease/rent of these spaces [as the chargers would be installed and run by a private company]. The CC will keep a watching brief.

7.4.3 Anti-social driving; incidents, reported to be the same vehicle, though reported to the police keep occurring, it is hoped that contact with the new Sergeant can be made.

7.4.4 A91 Low Road drains; leaf litter is blocking the surface drains between Low Road and High Road causing localised flooding, it was hoped that Fife Council could arrange regular cleaning with a road team or sweeper vehicles where this is considered too dangerous. It was suggested that given Fife Council's funding/staffing restrictions that householders take preventative action by clearing drains in front of there own property if safe to do so.

7.4.5 BT cables in Low Road; despite being reported trees threatening to damage telephone cables no work has been undertaken.

7.4.6 Auchtermuchty Community Centre; the planned AGM had to be rescheduled due to insufficient turn out. The AGM will now be at 3pm on the 22nd November. The Community Centre is in need of support to survive, use of the centre is very healthy but it is in need of volunteers/trustees/committee members.

8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.

9.0 **Planning**

9.1 Latest lists; the Secretary has circulated a list of the latest applications in the CC's area.

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

11.0 **AOCB;** none

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

Monday 25th November 2024 via Zoom conferencing, at 7.30 pm.
[Apologies; Cllr. Holt]

[Meetings in January and February 2025 will also be via Zoom with in person meetings resuming on 31st March 2025 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre]