Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 25th November 2024 via Zoom conferencing facility.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN and 5 members of the public.

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

Apologies: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Cllr Gary HOLT, 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 Speedwatch, Public liability insurance; clarification was sought regarding the situation concerning the need for the Community Council [CC] to provide the insurance. It was felt that if there were officers present then they could be asked, though it was thought that this would have been a decision made by a higher rank. It was thought that consultation with officers and neighbouring CCs would help, Cllr. Lothian will raise the matter at the next Councillor's meeting.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th October 2024 were accepted with one clarification;
4.1 The blocked drain was at the Auchtermuchty Fire Station not "Fife Station".

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

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 **Millflat/Leckiebank development**; the Chair had circulated some observations concerning the development – if submitted these would be taken as an objection by Fife Planning. The areas covered were Landscaping – the question of the maintenance of the hedge along Millflat, Drainage – within the Drainage Strategy there is ambiguity as to whether the system to be put in place could cope with surface water in all weather conditions, SUDS – no reference is made to who would be responsible for its maintenance. Other areas of concern were raised and thought should be attached including the adequacy of the proposed footpath to Leckiebank, how development will deal with the private water supplies to neighbouring houses which cross the development and the possibility of non-residential traffic using the road through the development as a 'rat-run'.

G. Simpson questioned whether any development in the area should be seen as acceptable given the changing weather patterns as the additional water run off could overwhelm the drainage network, reminding members that all such water ends up in the River Eden at Dunshalt and the pumping station is already struggling to cope. It was asked if the CC thought sufficient consideration of the changing weather/climate had been included in the modelling process and how much of the CC's area the model took in. If was thought that as part of our objection the SUDS analysis be thorough and encompass our concerns of the impact on the wider area.

Other points raised; the number of parking spaces within the development and the effect on parking in the surrounding streets, disruption from construction traffic and potential dangers to local residents, traffic entering and leaving the area, lack of detail on plans of provision of solar panels and EV charging points.

The making a formal objection to the development as a whole was raised but as it has already received Planning in Principle we are now at the stage of commenting on the specific detail. It was agreed that

the Chair would add the points raised [as the objection had to be submitted on the 26th he will confer with the Secretary] and will use the briefing notes which accompany Fife Councillor's planning papers as a reference.

6.2 **Binn Wind Turbine Fund**; a revised application form had been circulated by the Treasurer for discussion, it had been compiled with reference to the Foundation Scotland's web pages and kept as straightforward as possible while gathering the information required. It was felt that this round of grants should be seen as a pilot and changes will be made where necessary. A sub-committee will be formed with one member from each community [A. McNaughton, I. MacCaulay, A. Muirhead, B. Torrance] who will review applications and submit recommendations to the full CC with feedback on unsuccessful applications. Publicity will include where to obtain an application form, the closing date for applications [1st round] and examples of what the CC would be looking for in an application.

It was noted that S. Jack is to step down from the Binn Funding panel, there will be a need for another Community Councillor to take her place.

6.3 **Resilience Group [RG]**; an information section has been prepared and will be put on the CC's website. The meeting with the Falkland group had gone ahead and found very useful, another meeting could be arranged if required. Water monitoring has been suggested and it was noted that this is already taking place in Dunshalt.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 EV charging points; Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that following consultation it has been decided that the EV spaces will be reassigned to another area.

7.1.2 Community Centre AGM; this was a well attended meeting.

7.1.3 B936; works are now complete and appreciated by local residents.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 River Eden footbridge; [on footpath to Strathmiglo] there are broken spars/slats in need of replacement, damage to the gate has been repaired by a local resident.

7.2.2 M36 bus; the new service has not been included in the Moffat & Williamson app so cannot be tracked. Cllr. Lothian will pursue.

7.2.3 Play Park; the official opening has been been postponed to the spring.

7.2.4 Giffordtown Speed Camera; G. Simpson has expressed an interest in the trial and its implications for Dunshalt.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 Local events; all running as planned.

7.3.2 Play Park; ongoing, though some misunderstanding over Fife Council's matching of monies raised.

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 A912 drain; a road drain by the Community Woodland is blocked and during heavy rain can cause water to cover half the carriageway, vehicles have been observed swerving into the oncoming lane to avoid it. This has already been reported – including photographs – on the online road fault page with no result. B. Torrance has emailed the most recent photograph to Cllr. Lothian – the web page was unavailable – to be forwarded on to the relevant department.

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

8.1 Health Centre communication; the question was raised as to whether this was an indication of a worsening situation. Anecdotal evidence appears to point to this and unfortunately with no resolution in sight.

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;**

11.1 Our Community Energy (OCE); S. Jack has been selected to become a community director of the company, she is hoping to introduce more transparency in its workings.

11.2 CC and Data Protection; though the CC is registered with the Information Commissioner it has no policy document/statement. M. Gibson will put together a draft to be circulated to members.

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

Monday 27th January 2025 via Zoom conferencing, at 7.30 pm.

[Apologies; Bill Torrance]