

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 27th April 2026 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN.

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

Apologies: Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt],

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

3.0 **Police:** the monthly report has been circulated, building on the new policing model of officers in the community it is hoped that officers are to be encouraged to attend the Soup Fridays in Gateside.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th March were accepted as correct.

5.0 **Matters Arising: [not on the Agenda]**

8.1 Auchtermuchty Health Centre; it was suggested that the Community Trust Health Group meet to discuss the outcome of the Chair/Secretary's meeting with the Health Centre as questions have been asked concerning some of the details. A. Heer will organise.

8.2 Gateside Smart meters; there is a continuing issue regarding the connectivity of the Smart meters in a number of residences in Gateside despite repeated calls to suppliers. Failure to give accurate readings results in residents being unable to take advantage of the offers/promotions from their energy suppliers. The possibility of gathering information on the problem was raised.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 BWTCF; two micro grant applications were received, it was thought by the sub committee that as both required declarations of interest by members of the committee they should be brought to full council. After discussion the applications by the Stratheden Curling Club and the Strathmiglo Community Association were accepted [AGREED], the Treasurer will release the funds as soon as possible. Funds are still available to awarded in the form of micro grants, local community groups are to be encouraged to submit applications. S. Jack will report to the next CC meeting on the progress of the BWTCF.

The possibility of the CommunityTrust taking over the management the CC's share of the wind turbine funds from Foundation Scotland was raised as it appears Abernethy CC is planning to do this. This will need further discussion as the workload of those involved could be substantial. The CC is, at present, not in a position to do so though there is the option that it applies to become a SCIO. Again further discussion would be required.

6.2 Resilience Group; the Chair expressed the CC's thanks to those who assisted in the preparation, the collection of materials for and construction of the 'leaky barriers'. Noting; Polly Murray and John Evans and other trustees of the Macduff Trust, Sam Docherty of Falkland Estate, Ewan Band, Andy Heer, Michael Farrell (RESP), Andy Sides (Tay Rivers Trust), Alasdair & Catriona Macdonald, Gordon Hines (HinesWalker Woodland Management), Dallas Seawright (FCCT), Annette Scott, Ian Macaulay, Donald Lothian, Andrew Macnaughton, Gavin Brown, Finn and Gillie who helped with the willow cutting and construction of both barriers. It was noted that an additional site has been identified for a future barrier.

The question was raised whether the Resilience Group need continue its activities or change focus, e.g. maintaining a 'watching brief' over issues in the area meeting once every three months, pull together information on emergency situations e.g. electricity outages, position/use of defibrillators, emergency contact numbers etc. which could then be formed into a booklet for distribution to residents in the area. It was agreed the group for the present time would continue as it has but discuss a change in focus.

The monitoring of water levels in the River Eden have been explored and feedback is still awaited from Rivertrack [a company that supplies and installs monitoring equipment] as to costs and time scale.

6.2 Community Action Plan [CAP]; there is an aim to involve established groups to distribute information out to the communities, e.g. schools, concerning topics such as responsible access to the countryside, litter etc.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Middleflat pavement parking; penalties have been issued to residents causing concern as to why this area has been focussed on given that it is a cul de sac with only a field entrance at the end. As the law stands the parking offences had occurred and there is little the CC can do bar support an application to become an exemption. This is unlikely as it has been stated that exemptions should be few and only in exceptional circumstances.

7.1.2 Low Road closure; though the works did not follow the stated order they finished earlier than expected and with fewer problems. A request was made that all road signs related to the works be removed as soon as possible – this has not been the case in other works in the area.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Openreach; it was reported that Openreach intend to have Fibre to the Premises in Dunshalt by the end of 2026.

7.2.2 Traffic calming measures; speed indicators are to be installed, agreement has been reached with Fife Council about other measures – this will consist of more road signs.

7.3 **Gateside** no new business

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 Planning breach; an email was received by the CC regarding a perceived breach in the planning conditions of a recent development in the village. Local enquires were unable to substantiate the issue and it was recommended to the complainant that they should contact Fife Planning directly.

8.0 **Other Service Providers;**

8.1 NHS Fife; it was observed that NHS Fife have apparently ceased to circulate information as they did in the past. The question was raised as to why.

9.0 **Planning:** the Secretary has circulated a list of the latest applications in the CC's area.

9.1 Solar farm; the Chair brought to the attention of the members the screening application for a solar farm on the Lomond Hills. Though not in the CC's area, there is no CC for the Leslie environs and perhaps a watching brief should be maintained as it falls within the Regional Park. It was pointed out however that when the Regional Park was established it was agreed that this should not interfere with the business decisions of farms in the 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 May, in Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.

Apologies Bill Torrance [Strathmiglo]