Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held at Auchtermuchty Community Centre
28 September 2026, 7:30 pm

Present

Andy Heer (Chair), Susan Jack, Andrew Macnaughton, Mark Gibson, Gordon Simpson, Ian Macaulay, Tony Rogers (Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Trust), Paul Watts (Auchtermuchty Community Association), Colin Riddell, Annette Scott (Auchtermuchty Community Association), Deborah Stead.

Apologies

Alan Muirhead, Bill Torrance, Maaike Rosene, Councillor Donald Lothian.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Andy Heer, welcomed those present and noted the apologies received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest to be made as appropriate throughout the meeting.

3. Police Matters

The Community Police were unable to attend.

- Mark Gibson reported anti-social behaviour involving youths riding electric bikes and scooters at speed on the main road.
- Representatives from Gateside reported groups of youths congregating outside the Village Hall, smoking and drinking.
- Concerns were also raised regarding children climbing on straw bales at Pitlochie Farm.

Action: Andy Heer to report these issues to Police Scotland.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2026 were accepted as a true record and approved.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda.

6. Other Business

Covered under the following agenda items.

7. Public Transport Plan

A Public Transport Plan, prepared by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Trust (ASCT) and previously circulated, was discussed.
Tony Rogers, Chair of ASCT, outlined the background to the plan, which emerged from the Local Place Plan process and reflects priorities identified in the Community Action Plan. Tony advised that attempts to engage with Fife Council officer Beveridge regarding the proposals had so far been unsuccessful. To progress the initiative, additional volunteers are required to form a dedicated transport group.

Discussion at this group will include:

- Reviewing transport models used successfully in other areas.
- Further consideration of the Glenfarg community bus model.
- The need for a volunteer to monitor public transport consultations and funding opportunities.

Actions:

- Volunteers from each community to be identified to form a Public Transport Group. **Community Councillors**
- **Community Councillors** to raise the matter at Community Association meetings and encourage interested residents to contact Tony Rogers directly or through the Community Council.
- **Andy Heer** to assist with engagement with Fife Council.

8. ASCT AGM and Emergency Preparedness Film

The ASCT AGM will take place on 17 November 2026 in Auchtermuchty Church Hall. Prior to the AGM, the National Emergency Briefing film will be shown. All interested residents are invited, and ASCT intends to invite the local MSP and MP. Attendees will be welcome to remain for the AGM

Action: Community Councillors are asked to inform Community Associations, gauge likely attendance and advise Tony Rogers of anticipated numbers.

9. Binn Community Wind Turbine Fund

The latest grant application round has closed. Decisions are expected following the assessment panel meeting in October.

Members noted that significantly larger community funds are anticipated once project loans have been repaid. Funding is currently distributed through Foundation Scotland, although communities may have the option of administering funds directly through a SCIO Community Development Trust. In this area the ASCT could fulfil this function and are considering it. Currently Bridge of Earn and Abernethy are doing so.

10. Scottish Government Local Government Reorganisation

Members discussed Scottish Government proposals to reorganise local government into a smaller number of regional authorities.
Further consideration will be required once detailed proposals become available.

11. Resilience Group Report

The Resilience Group is compiling a list of emergency contact numbers.
Action: The completed list will be circulated to local community organisations once completed.

Members were advised that a beaver had dammed the burn causing flooding at Green Jean's Corner on the B936. The obstruction has now been removed.

13. Withdrawal of the Landline Telephone Network

Concerns were raised regarding the planned withdrawal of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) in January 2027.
Discussion focused on the potential impact on vulnerable residents and those without access to mobile phones, Wi-Fi or reliable mobile coverage.
Actions:

- All **Community Associations** to include information in newsletters and consider additional communication methods, such as posters and leaflets.
- **Andy Heer** to write to Wendy Chamberlain MP outlining community concerns.

14. Winter Meetings

It was agreed that meetings from November to February inclusive will be held online via Zoom.

Community Reports

15. Auchtermuchty

Sewage Issues

A recurring sewage problem at the top of High Street was reported, with wastewater flowing onto the A91.
Action: Mark Gibson to report any further incidents to Scottish Water.

Distillery Street Building

The condition of the building on Distillery Street remains a significant public safety concern and has been discussed at every Auchtermuchty Community Association meeting.

Agreed actions included:

- Submit a Freedom of Information request for the building condition report and risk assessment. (**Annette Scott**)
- Write to Fife Council with photographs and evidence of public concern. **Annette Scott**
- Seek an update on progress in contacting the owners regarding repairs. **Annette Scott**
- Contact Willie Rennie MSP requesting support in progressing the issue. (**Annette Scott**)
- Consider contacting The Courier to raise wider public awareness.

16. Dunshalt

The asset transfer of the Village Hall to the newly constituted committee is nearing completion.

17. Gateside

- Snagging work on the new park remains ongoing.
- The park has attracted visitors from outside the area.
- Concerns were raised regarding a damaged fence at the Park adjacent to the former car park.
- The next First Friday Soup Lunch will take place on 2 October.
- A jumble sale is planned for 11 October in aid of the Seniors' Christmas Lunch.
- Electric bikes are causing damage to gates on West Lomond Hill.

Action: Gateside Community Association is investigating responsibility for reinstating the fence.

18. Strathmiglo

No representatives were present.

19. Community Council Funding Consultation

Members noted that a consultation regarding the financing of Community Councils is underway.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 26 October 2026 at 7:30 pm

Action Summary

Action	Responsible
Report anti-social behaviour concerns to Police Scotland	Andy Heer
Identify volunteers for Public Transport Group	All Community Councillors
Liaise with Fife Council regarding transport proposals	Andy Heer
Estimate attendance for ASCT AGM event	Community Councillors
Circulate emergency contacts list	Resilience Group
Publicise PSTN withdrawal	All Community Associations
Write to Wendy Chamberlain MP	Andy Heer
Report sewage issues to Scottish Water	Mark Gibson
Submit FOI request regarding Distillery Street building	Annette Scott
Contact Willie Rennie MSP regarding building concerns	Annette Scott
Investigate responsibility for park fencing	Gateside Community Association