Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 26th October 2026 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

PRESENT: Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN and Paul WATTS [Auchtermuchty Community Association].

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

Apologies: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt]

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

3.0 **Police**: no officers available, no monthly report received.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th September were accepted as correct with one correction;

16. Dunshalt; the hall had not received the Binn Wind Farm grant as the legal expenses it was to fund had to be paid before the grant was issued and grants cannot be given retrospectively i.e. after the money has been paid out.

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

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Beaver dam; a dam located close to the Auchtermuchty – Newburgh road has been removed but further flooding in the area may indicate that it has been rebuilt. Removal of such dams requires a licence that may be a single removal or ongoing, it is not clear which Fife Council has though a local land owner does have one of the ongoing licenses for their own land.

6.2 BWTCF; there is no news as to the success of applicantions or future monies being made available for micro-grants. A. Muirhead asked for clarification of the reporting in September's Minutes that Abernethy intend to administer the funds directly. It again raised the question of funds available to the Community Council, currently maintained by Foundation Scotland, being administered by the Community Trust as this would provide a fall back position if the Community Council failed to form in the future e.g. not sufficient candidates for councillors.

6.3 Resilience Group [RG]; it was noted at the latest meeting of the RG that the axing of the landline service is raising concerns beyond our area. It was reported, in replies to these concerns, that mobile phone masts have a priority electricity supply in a power failure and should continue to function in a general power outage. This with the other replies received are hardly reassuring as preparations for the changeover appear very limited. It was thought that the Emergency Briefing sessions taking place in November in Dunshalt and Auchtermuchty should be seen as opportunities for two way communication i.e. to supply as well as receive information.

RG will continue to be the focus/centre of emergency planning for the CC e.g. in communication with Auchtermuchty Community Centre over the existence of plans to use it as an emergency centre and whether local businesses were in a position to step in with assistance e.g. the provision of electricity generators.

6.4 Community Action Plan [CAP]; CC members are asked to encourage local associations and residents to take up points within the CAP and take the lead in moving them forward e.g. consultation on bus

services/usage within the area and beyond, ways of gathering information/opinion from local residents.

[It was agreed that the RG and CAP will continue to be regular items on future agendas]

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Old distillery, Distillery Street; the CC was advised by Cllr. Lothian that pushing Fife Council to take action on the building could be counter productive. At present the building is monitored regularly and deemed unsatisfactory but not a danger. If pressed and Fife Council declare the building an emergency/danger this would allow them to use emergency powers to take action but also may lead to a mandatory and immediate evacuation of properties neighbouring the building and the closure of Distillery Street to all traffic and pedestrians – with the obvious disruption that this would cause.

Any dispute at present is between the owners of the property [whose identity is thought to be known by Fife Council but unlikely to be released] and its neighbours, the CC would recommend that legal advise be sought before any move was made by interested parties.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Traffic calming measures; white line painting has been observed but it is uncertain as to whether this is part of the safety measures or basic road marking.

7.2.2 CC micro-grant; work on the village hall being undertaken with the aid of the CC micro-grant is near completion.

7.2.3 Trees down; it was noted that work has been undertaken to deal with the downed trees by Orchardfield.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 Play park; snagging is being undertaken.

7.3.2 Soup lunch; is continuing successfully 1st Friday of the month.

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 A912 ponding; previously reported with work expected unfortunately the heavy rain recently has shown that the problem is still with us, the ponding covering more than half the carriageway.

7.4.2 A912 build-out; at the entrance to the village from the A91 leading to Sandygates there is a pair of small build-outs with recently replaced bollards. Unfortunately it is failing in its aim to slow traffic in that it has been observed that vehicles ‘race’ each other to get to the ‘gap’ first. The ‘gap’ is wide enough for two cars to pass simultaneously if care is taken but not if agricultural vehicles or HGVs are involved. This issue is to be raised at the next Strathmiglo Community Association [SCA] meeting asking whether the ‘gap’ should be reduced and the traffic prioritised or removed altogether.

7.4.3 Sandygates build-outs; parking at these points makes it very difficult to see pedestrians, especially children, attempting to cross the road. Though not actual pedestrian crossings they do focus pedestrians to this point when crossing the road.

7.4.4 A912 traffic survey; it was noted that survey equipment has been installed, information gathered would be of great interest to the SCA.

7.4.5 Flood pods; alerted by a local resident who had difficulty opening one of the pods, an inspection of the pods in the village was carried out. Though checked and oiled following an earlier report of problems it was found that some of the pods were difficult to open, regular checks are recommended. We are

pleased to acknowledge that the pods had been restocked.

8.0 **Other Service Providers;** the Secretary reminded members of the online training events for Community Councillors that are to be provided in November by Fife Council.

9.0 **Planning:** the Secretary noted that there have been no applications in our area for the last month. Thought of as a good indicator of the state of the economy 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 30th November, at 7.30 pm, via Zoom conferencing. [S. Jack will set up meeting and invoice Treasurer.]