Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 4th Meeting of the Community Council, Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th February 2019 in Gateside Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Helen BOWMAN [Auchtermuchty], Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Jane FREER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty], Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], Valerie WEIR [Gateside]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN and 2 member of the public.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors and members of the public

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Cllr. David MACDAIRMID

2.0 Police Matters: Secretary put this on the agenda in anticipation of an officer being present, but no word has been received. It was noted that PC Parker was short-handed recently.

3.0 Declarations of Interest: none
There was discussion recapping the definition. It was noted that a definition could be found in Model Standing Orders section 11.0. It was agreed that declarations would be made as the topic is reached in the Agenda.

4.0 Minutes of Meeting: the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th January 2019 in Dunshalt Village Hall were accepted.

5.0 Matters Arising:

5.1 5.1 Millflat; it was reported that the developer is currently reviewing reports, the local action group has been circulating information and having meetings with local officials, Councillors and the local MP. It is likely that the decision by Planning will now not take place before April.

5.2 6.2 Local Community Plan; it was felt that this would be best approached from a Community Association [CA] level with the Community Council providing support where needed. The time line however is very tight and it is unlikely that CA's will have the opportunity to further discuss the issue so it may be appropriate for individual members to make submissions.

5.3 6.3 Community Council Survey; the Chair reminded the meeting of the survey and recommended that members take part.

5.4 7.1.3 Community shop; the expected Leader funding has now been released.

5.5 7.2.1 A91 road condition; local information has it that a survey has been undertaken. The meeting was informed that Transportation has agreed that the condition is very poor but that the situation is unsuitable for 'patching' as such a repair would be too short lived to justify. The area will be examined more fully in the summer with the aim for a more substantial repair. A related problem was raised concerning the road drainage in the same area which is thought may lead to subsidence. Fife Council is aware of the issue though local residents should report any changes.

5.6 7.2.2 Speeding A91; it was noted that the Safety Camera team have been present but not at the requested time of 6am [though they have been present at 6pm!]. There has been no reply to the request that the traffic speed sign be moved from its current location to the eastern approach to the village.

5.7 7.2.4 Gateside Mill; the current owner was present at the meeting and gave a summary of the situation. The buildings concerned were deemed to be dangerous and will be dismantled, the original contractor has been replaced and no planning permission is required to demolish. Local children have been risking injury by entering the buildings and while it is very difficult to prevent

this, the aim is to reduce the buildings to rubble as quickly as possible. Some trees in the area have been classed as dangerous and will have to be removed, this may require the temporary closure of the footpath. Work undertaken on the watercourse has involved consultation with SEPA. Contact has been established and will be maintained by the Chair, the Gateside CA and the owner.

5.8 8.1 Health Centre; a meeting has been agreed, still to be arranged, where the new appointment system and general matters will be discussed. The Chair and Secretary will attend.

6.0 Other Business;

6.1 Fife Council Budget; Councillors explained that the Council cannot set a Budget [covering a 5 year period] that is in deficit therefore given the financial constrictions it would be expected that there will be cuts in funding across the board, though several areas are 'ring-fenced' making cuts in other areas deeper. A specific question was asked concerning 'affordable housing' and it was reported that Fife Council in fact has a very good record in this area in comparison with other authorities.

7.0 Fife Council

7.1 Gateside

7.1.1 Station Road; 'patching' of the road surface has deteriorated, it was recognised that work undertaken through the winter often does not last.

7.1.2 Burnside /A91 junction; a significant pothole has developed. It has been reported.

7.2 Strathmiglo

7.2.1 Bellfield housing development; a large number of tyres were seen on the site causing concern as to what was to happen. It was thought hat they had been discovered during clearing the area, a recycling firm's vehicle was seen on site. SEPA have been informed.

7.3 Auchtermuchty

7.3.1 Bowiehill; 'fly tipping' has been in evidence in the area. It was felt that the matter should be cleared up quickly before it is repeated.

7.3.2 Top Tyres; it was reported that the company are leaning large tyres against the cemetery wall, it was thought that this may lead to damage.

7.3.3 Speed indicators A91/B936; a request was again made that the possible exchange be made between the two locations. It was felt that the indicator showing the actual speed of the vehicle would be better placed on the A91 eastern entrance, as the 'build-outs' on the B936 have been effective in slowing traffic. The meeting was told that Fife Council tend to base such decisions on the traffic accident history of an area. A request to lower the speed limit to 20mph would have to be made at a Scottish Government level.

7.3.4 Coop loading bay; it has been proposed to make a loading bay area [marked on the ground] in the High Street near to the shop to aid traffic flow. Consultation will take place. It was suggested that parking restrictions on the south side of the street in the area are also reconsidered.

7.3.5 Street lighting; a number of areas have been off and are now on full time. It was thought that there is a fault in the area and that leaving the lighting on full-time is a method for tracing it.

7.3.6 Library service; it was noted that the current librarian is moving, her service was much appreciated by local residents.

7.3.7 The Dug Wash; it was noted that the local business has won the award for Best Pet Grooming Business in Fife 2019 at the Scottish Business Awards on 10th February 2019 at The Keavil House Hotel in Dunfermline. All voted for by the public.

7.4 Dunshalt

7.4.1 Speedwatch; it was hoped that the volunteers will start conducting their speedwatches this month.

8.0 Other Service Providers; none

9.0 Planning Applications; The Secretary drew attention to applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting.
Of note; Bellfield Development; 5 houses in a new layout, concern had been previously raised about the pedestrian access to the site. Footpath provision will be checked.

10.0 Correspondence; nothing that has not been circulated to members via email.

10.1 All Community Councillor training packs issued by Fife Council have been circulated via email to members. The Secretary queried as to whether the new councillors have received folders/hard copies of information aimed at new councillors, it appeared not, therefore it is assumed that such information is now held online.

11.0 AOCB

11.1 Treasurer's report; it was agreed, after discussion, that this will be added as an item [very short] to the agenda of meetings.

11.2 CC AGM; the meeting was reminded that the date 24th June had been set for the Community Council's AGM, it will precede the Ordinary meeting held on that date.

12.0 Date and venue of next meeting of the Community Council.
Monday 25th March 2019, 7.30pm, Strathmiglo Public Hall.