

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 15th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th April 2016
in Gateside Memorial Hall.

PRESENT: 1. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], 2. Raymond HARDING [Auchtermuchty] 3. Susan JACK [Gateside] 4. Christine LITTLE [Auchtermuchty], 5. Ian MACCAULAY [Dunshalt], 6. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 7. Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], 8. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo] 9. Valerie WEIR [Gateside],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. David MACDAIRMID Bob WESTON, Alison IRVINE, Ed HAYES and six members of the public.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Dunshalt Village Hall on Monday 28th March, having been circulated to members, was accepted by those present.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING: None

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

4.1 Living Lomonds/Core paths; focus was in the main on the works carried out on the footpath to Glendale from the Dryside. The discussions started with a resident of Gateside recounting his use over the years of what he described as a well-used path that was occasionally muddy and which had been partially repaired over the years. The replacement in his opinion was over-engineered and a scar on the landscape. Bob Weston and Ed Hayes spoke to the meeting, explaining that previous repairs had been limited in budget, there had been complaints from walkers and cyclists and that the view being held was that erosion was beginning to make the path unsustainable. Living Lomonds had provided access to sufficient funding to upgrade the path to a standard that should last for many years. Specialist engineers were brought in, who had needed a 3m access for the heavy machinery required – helicopters had been used in previous repairs but were not thought to be appropriate on this occasion. While agreeing that the present state of the pathway is unsightly, when work is completed the access road will be narrowed and landscaped back to a path between 1.2m and 0.8m wide. As materials used in the construction were from the immediate area and given a period of time, it is expected that the path will blend back into the countryside. The work is not as yet complete as some material for construction has still to be sourced. The timing of the repairs – over a wet winter – was due to initial contractors pulling out and their replacement carrying out the work between existing contracts. Specific areas of the path were discussed – by those who had recently used the path – and involved mainly issues over choice of path construction method and drainage. The meeting was informed that there is a 10-year maintenance plan in place for all Living Lomonds paths. A request was made that in future when fences are removed that notices are posted to warn users, particularly dog owners, to prevent issues with livestock.

It was agreed that the work in the main has been done and that time will tell how well it blends into the landscape. Signposts will be placed highlighting the core paths and connections. Details will also appear on the Living Lomonds website.

The complimentary path from Burnside to the Dryside, and its branch to Gateside, was also discussed. Unfortunately due to landowners changing their minds, and even though work has already begun on the proposed path, completion of the path is in doubt until a solution is found for how now to bridge the River Eden.

A further meeting concerning the core pathways was thought to be useful.

- 5.0 POLICE MATTERS: the Secretary had not received any report from local officers on the current situation in the area, but had forwarded by email the link to a Police on line consultation.
- 6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]

6.1 **Gateside;**

6.1.1 A912 to Bein Inn; it was reported by a local resident that there had been a considerable increase in traffic, particularly commercial. The Perth & Kinross end of the road had been worked on but little has been done to the Fife side. The matter has been raised at a number of previous meetings where lack of finances for the major works required were reported. It was expressed that as Fife Council will be receiving the benefits from the commercial activity on the road that they should make good the infrastructure being used. It was felt that the road condition is deteriorating to the point that accidents, possibly fatal, will occur.

6.1.2 Old Town road; residents have researched the ownership of the road and have established that the road does not belong to, and never has belonged to, the residents of the houses along it. Maintenance was undertaken by the Fife County Council, has continued to be done so by Fife Council, after regionalisation, until their recent statements. Fife made a list of unadopted roads – replacing unadopted with the term 'private' - upon which they placed Old Town Road. The residents have since receiving the initial correspondence that the road surface will no longer be repaired at Fife Council's expense have also been informed that the street lighting maintenance will extend no further than bulb replacement. It was felt that the situation would continue to worsen until service vehicles e.g. refuse collection, refuse to use the road for access.

Cllr. Heer told the meeting of a Fife Council workshop to be held to discuss the situation concerning unadopted roads across NE Fife. He hopes to use the information passed to him by local residents to achieve some solution to the situation. He was told that residents were not demanding an over high standard of repair but something of a sensible and simple level.

There was a request made that a definition be formed as to what constitutes an unadopted road that could be used throughout Fife. It was also thought that situations such as these should be reflected in the community charge banding of the houses.

6.2 **Strathmiglo;**

6.2.1 Tolbooth repairs; the lack of progress was commented on, noting the considerable expense that must be incurring with the scaffolding already in place.

6.2.2 Public Hall car park; a question of access to the car park was raised as often entry is barred by a chain which it was felt denied a very useful point of access to the Lomonds from the public. It was pointed out that the car park belongs to the Strathmiglo Hall Committee and is technically private with the cost of maintenance and irresponsible use an issue. It was agreed to raise the issue at the Strathmiglo Community Association's next meeting.

6.3 **Auchtermuchty;**

- 6.3.1 Road repairs; there were reported a number of issues within the community, echoed throughout the Community Council area, concerning the poor standard of repair/patching leading to the same area reported repeatedly over a short period of time. Councillors have raised these concerns with Fife Council officials on a number of occasions and will do so again.

6.4 **Dunshalt;**

- 6.4.1 **Bus stop;** a request has been made to relocate the bus stop in the Main Street

7.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS;

- 7.1 Electricity supplies; it was felt that interruption to supply, during the 'switch overs' during the routing of electricity around Gateside in particular, are too long, causing issues with electrical equipment e.g. resetting, rebooting etc. These are occurring around twice a month on average.

8.0 PLANNING: The Secretary has drawn applications that appeared on the Fife list to the attention of members reminding them that these can be accessed by members directly from the Fife Council website and indeed they can sign up to have the weekly list emailed directly to them.

- 8.1 Land in Gateside; it was feared that the land to the south of the A91, now neglected for some considerable amount of time and potentially changing ownership, will be subject to planning applications on the grounds that it is 'derelict' and the work done would improve the situation. The Community Council note that it has complained on many occasions in the past about the land management [lack of] of this land, and the poor response from Fife Council.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: [not already covered during the meeting.] The Secretary will continue to forward correspondence to members, unless they state otherwise, from the various organisations with connection to the Community Council.
Of note; the Secretary has forwarded on the notice of the retirement of Bill Welsh from Fife Council.

10.0 AOCB;

- 10.1 Renewal of APRS subscription; it was agreed that the Community Council renew its subscription to the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland.

11.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Monday 30th May, at 7.30pm, Strathmiglo Village Hall