



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
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Meeting Minutes Thursday 1 st September 2022 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM) (Chair); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Rev Holly Smith (HS) (part);</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK); Janelle Clark (JC), Marr Area Manager; Linda Manning (LM) TORCH; Noeleen Punchard (NP) TORCH; Rod McGovern (RM)</p> <p>Apologies: John Lucas (JL); Malcolm Miller (MM); Stephen Salter (SS); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr Sarah Brown (SB)</p> <p>Eric Day paid tribute to the work of Gordon Pirie, former member of TCC, who passed away suddenly on 16th August 2022. He was an able planning officer, proactive, keen to help, and with great local knowledge. Condolences to his family.</p>	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 7th July 2022 previously by email: Adopted without changes. Proposed: John Lucas, Seconded: Eric Day	TCC
4.	Police Report: No Police Report has been received since the April Report. TCC was advised by Cllr Sarah Brown on 29 th August that in future Police Reports will be issued quarterly, commencing with the October 2022 report, due to time challenges within the force.	PS
5.	Finance Report: The bank balance is £4,852.34 including TCC general funds £1,680.14; TORCH funds £1,172.20; Community Hardship Fund received from Robertson Trust £2,000.00. During the period TCC received the Marr Area administration grant £468.68 and paid the data protection fee of £35.00 to the Information Commissioner's Office.	ED
6.	Planning Report: APP/2022/1385, Rathen Cottage, St Marnan Road - Extension. Approved. APP/2022/0939, Annesley House - Erection of dwelling house. Withdrawn.	ED
7.	<p>New Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCC Area Boundary: Janelle Clark, Marr Area Manager, attended to explain a proposal to expand the TCC area to include the Lumphanan Community Council area. This is a suggested solution by Aberdeenshire Council to the fact Lumphanan has not generated enough membership to form a constituted community council for three years, and thus has no community council representation at all. TCC could retain its name or be renamed, and the administration grant would be increased based on the increased population. A determined number of member places could be reserved for Lumphanan resident representation. TCC area population is 1400 and Lumphanan 600. (Continued) 	JC

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7.	<p>New Items (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>TCC Area Boundary (Continued): If TCC agrees to progress the proposal then a community consultation would be launched by Aberdeenshire Council within each of the community council areas.</p> <p>The idea was discussed at some length with concerns expressed whether the lack of participation of Lumphanan residents would continue, leaving a heavy burden on Torphins members. There was doubt if Torphins residents can properly understand and represent Lumphanan. TCC already has a full agenda and will find expansion a heavy load if not resourced with active members. One concern was raised if there are any personality issues arising to inhibit Lumphanan CC. On the other side it is recognised Torphins CC is relatively smaller than many, and combination with Lumphanan would not make the area and population exceptionally large. There are already links with Lumphanan through Mid Deeside Church and Torphins Paths Group. There are several active groups in Lumphanan, so the lack of community council interest has not been due to lack of community activity. Perhaps the idea of combination will spur the community to reform the Lumphanan Community Council.</p> <p>The TCC Chair proposed a vote on whether to progress the idea to the consultation stage. Members present voted and decided to progress the proposal by a majority of members present: being 5 in favour, 0 objections, 2 abstentions (one other had pledged to support the idea prior to the meeting).</p> <p>Janelle Clark will take the next steps and keep TCC informed of developments.</p> <p>TORCH Update: LM and NP attended to update TCC on TORCH activities. The TORCH application to SEN for around £50,000 for generators and other equipment was partially successful with the award of £23,000. A £1 million grant fund was available which was oversubscribed by 50%. The £23,000 is to be used specifically for the purchase of generators for each of Learney Hall and Tornaveen Hall. There is no time limit set to spend the funds. The grant leaves a shortfall of £10,000, for the installation costs for which TORCH are seeking alternatives. Learney Hall is not suitable for installation of the generator until at least after the refurbishment, so alternatives will be sought.</p> <p>The Scottish Government grant for heat pumps was mentioned by RM, and JC raised the idea of solar and batteries, avoiding the fuel storage issue.</p> <p>Rev HS advised the Kirk Session had approved the Mid Deeside Church Hall being used for a temporary period as refuge until Learney Hall available with generator, and that Colin Guy is joining TORCH.</p> <p>WM asked if the questions raised by TCC and TORCH some time ago regarding Learney Hall access, insurance for equipment, etc. had been answered, noting the Ward Forum dedicated to resilience had been postponed. JC advised under the Aberdeenshire Council buildings insurance policy there has to be a Council employee on the premises when the facility is used by the public, thus access cannot be allowed unless an employee is present, or TORCH provides its own buildings insurance for Learney Hall. The meeting found this totally unrealistic and unreasonable, particularly since the initial objective set years ago by Aberdeenshire Council for community resilience was for the community to have a process to cover the period from the initial incident until formal emergency and council services can take over. Clearly there is an irreconcilable contradiction between Aberdeenshire Council community resilience objectives and the Council policy. TCC made yet another plea to JC and Cllr AK for this matter to be resolved and the solution properly communicated. The current situation is totally unsatisfactory and undermines the whole concept of community voluntary resilience supposedly promoted by Aberdeenshire Council. (Continued)</p> 	<p>JC</p> <p>TCC</p> <p>JC LM, NP</p>

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7.	<p>New Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>TORCH Update (Continued): JC advised the September Ward Forum will include a Resilience session on the agenda and that Aberdeenshire is developing its community resilience strategy. Ballater and Torphins community resilience plans are nominated as good examples.</p> <p>The idea was raised if any Aberdeenshire Council employee being present would overcome the issue if nominated for the role, since at least one TORCH member is an employee of the Council. Also JC offered to provide the building details for TCC to obtain an insurance quote, although it seems doubtful this would be straightforward or competitively priced relative to the Aberdeenshire Council insurance. Cllr AK agreed to follow up on the insurance matter and wider concerns with Aberdeenshire Council officers. The discussion closed and Janelle Clark was thanked for her attendance and contribution.</p> <p>Hill of Fare Wind Farm Proposal: TCC has received advice of the Hill of Fare Wind Farm proposal by RES from Scottish Government. TCC is a statutory consultee and has been invited to respond to Scottish Government with comments on the Scoping Report by 16th September 2022. Search for Hill of Fare at website: https://www.energyconsents.scot/Default.aspx</p> <p>TCC had an introductory meeting with the developers on 30 September to hear overview, including proposed public exhibitions in October, and to ask early questions. TCC is developing its response and had a wide ranging discussion aided by resident Rod McGovern who is a renewable energy consultant for farms. The huge scale of the proposal needs to be understood with 250m turbines proposed being the largest anywhere in UK, with 17 turbines on the top of the hill, plus a large battery installation. The proposal is likely to be modified as it progresses through the planning process and community engagement will be vital to the final outcomes. Radar interference could be a significant factor to be overcome. It is noted the community financial compensation to affected areas would be as much as £500,000 per annum.</p> <p>TCC detailed key areas to be submitted to the Energy Consents Unit in the response to the Scoping Report, which will form the basis of the public exhibition proposals, and ultimately the actual application for consent to Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit. Aberdeenshire Council is a consultee, not planning authority, due to size of the project being over 50 megawatts.</p> <p>Cross of Fare Hill Woodland Scheme by Learney Estate: TCC welcomes the proposal to develop the woodland at Cross of Fare with Caledonian Pines to extend the existing woodland up the Hill of Fare on the Learney Estate land. We note positively the retention of viewing areas and the recognition of the popular path on the western slopes of Hill of Fare. Secretary to advise the forest agent.</p> <p>Digital Engagement Team: TCC has been advised vouchers up to £5000 each are available on application to extend broadband connectivity for a total of 83 properties in the Torphins CC area.</p> <p>Residents are advised to go to the R100 website to check eligibility: https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/the-r100-programme/</p> <p>More information at: https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/business/support-and-advice/communities/Digital-Connectivity/</p> <p>Growing Living Greenspace: A small group of residents have surveyed the village and met with the Greenspace officer and WM and ED of TCC to pursue obtaining bulbs, plants, shrubs and trees for the village on Aberdeenshire Council land. A number of locations have been selected for planting. TCC agreed to act as the group applicant as required, to enable the formal application and the project to move forward by the volunteers.</p> 	<p>JC, Cllr AK</p> <p>TCC</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM, ED</p>

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7.	<p>New Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenspace Perennials for Pollinators available February: A new initiative to provide perennials to the village has been launched however there is a suspicion this is the start of a process to end the annual provision of summer plants by Aberdeenshire Council. ED has written to Aberdeenshire Council to enquire about the objectives and plans before submitting an order. • Trees and Bushes on Craigour Road opposite Station Garage: Complaints have been submitted again about these trees. Cllr GB has taken the matter up with Roads to have the trees cut back now that the nesting season is past. The bushes at the Vet premises have been cut. • PAT Testing of Festive Lights: ED proposed the purchase of PAT testing equipment for the annual test of the festive lights, and for TORCH equipment. IF suggested it would be cheaper and less onerous to simply hire the equipment. It was decided to hire and ED will arrange for testing to be completed with IF by the deadline for Aberdeenshire of 1 October 2022. 	ED Cllr GB ED, IF
8.	<p>Open Action Log: The Open Action Log is an appendix integral to the minutes of meeting. All items were reviewed and updated as detailed in the log, which is available online with the minutes at www.torphins.net.</p>	TCC
9.	<p>Correspondence: Correspondence received has been distributed by email, including advice of Ward Forum at Finzean Hall on 28th September 2022 for which members should register if attending.</p>	WM
10.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM advised he has won the grant of £2000 from Robertson Trust for a new TCC village hardship fund. It was agreed Scotmid vouchers will be made available again as needed. • WM advised he had a meeting with David Birch, new Head Teacher at Torphins School. The meeting discussed school, TCC, and TPG business following an introduction by Cllr AK who is the new Aberdeenshire observer to TPG Board. Mr. Birch advised concern about recent vandalism out of school hours at the rear of the school and welcomed the early Police intervention to assist. I agreed to provide minutes of TCC meetings to Mr. Birch and he will discuss with Parent Council. Mr. Birch proposes to attend a future TCC meeting. • CR proposed a Newsletter should be prepared and distributed in the near future. Members should be thinking about content to progress soon. 	AM WM CR
10.	<p>Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 6th October 2022 at 7:30 pm at Learney Hall, Torphins</p>	
11.	<p>Meeting closed at 10:10 pm</p>	
	<p>Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 3rd September 2022 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 6th October 2022. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: Iain Firth</p>	