



## Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen  
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| Meeting Minutes<br>Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7:30 pm<br>Virtual Meeting on Zoom |  |       |
|--|--|-------|
| Item No.   | Description  | Owner |
| 1.   | <p><b>Present:</b> Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM) (Chair); Malcolm Miller (MM); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS); Rev Holly Smith (HS)</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Cllr. P. Argyle; Cllr. P. Gibb (PG); Phil Marshall</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Hamish Booth (HB)</p>   |       |
| 2.   | <b>Intimation of noted interests:</b> None   |       |
| 3.   | <p><b>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 previously by email:</b> Adopted without changes. Proposed: Andrew McPherson Seconded: John Lucas</p> <p><b>Adoption of minutes of public meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> regarding Resilience Sub Group. Proposed: Stephen Salter Seconded: Will Maclean</p> <p><b>Adoption of minutes of public meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> regarding Torphins Medical Practice. Proposed: Andrew Macpherson Seconded Malcolm Miller</p>  | TCC   |
| 4.   | <p><b>Police Report:</b> The November Police Report had been received. Note police comment ref. Torphins: "Again antisocial behaviour from motorists crop up from time to time. Areas such as Torphins, Banchory and Aboyne continue to be favourites and we have attended several calls. We will continue with a timed presence in the area and have been successful in detecting various road traffic offences."</p>   | PS    |
| 5.   | <p><b>Finance Report:</b></p> <p>The bank balance is £2,920.86, comprising TCC free funds £1481.32, Foundation Scotland Hardship Fund £1,140.00, and Festive Lights £299.54 following receipt of £500.00 grant from Marr Area Committee.</p>   | ED    |
| 6.   | <p><b>Planning Matters:</b></p> <p><b>6.1.</b> No new applications for Torphins since last meeting.</p> <p><b>6.2.</b> Application APP/2021/2435   Erection of Garden Room (Retrospective) (Amendment to Planning Permission APP/2020/2267) has now been submitted and heard at December Area Committee where the application was approved. ED expressed his disgust at the way this application has been handled by the planning authorities. Cllr PG advised he had opposed the application however he was unsupported. Cllr PG made the case the application should be reviewed in entirety as it had effectively been resubmitted, however the planners and legal advised extant approval would be obtained by the earlier approval of the development. Cllr PA had not participated in the matter as he had an interest, however he explained the application was only for a change to the approved application. It was noted matters of land ownership and boundaries are a civil legal matter rather than planning matter. TCC remain dissatisfied with the whole matter.</p> | ED    |

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| 7.       | <p><b>7.1. Community Resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SS advised that the Community Resilience Sub Group has been established. Chair - Ruth French, Secretary - Linda Manning, Members – Joan Donald, Leonie Gordon, Phil Marshall, Emma Pattullo, Noeleen Punched, Bruce Strachan, Stephen Salter (TCC), Iain Firth (TCC), Malcolm Miller (TCC). Treasury to be through TCC bank account. The Sub Group is working to improve the Resilience Plan and implementation process, including a focus group for technology matters, and has already purchased PA systems with the support of a much appreciated early grant from Bread of Life. Next meeting WB 10<sup>th</sup> January. AM suggested a Lessons Learned review. In response to the question of identification of vulnerable people Cllr PG advised Ballater rely on a GP being a member of their group, Council officers also providing info, and the police. To ensure broader coverage SS requested a member of the Mid Deeside Church participate on the Sub Group, to which Rev HS said she would find people. Also the Sub Group is actively seeking representation from the Tornaveen community. Finally, the plan will need practice to ensure future success. TCC is very pleased with the progress and thanks all Sub Group members and volunteers for their enthusiastic involvement.</li> <li>The Resilience Sub Group has prepared a response to the Marr Area Partnership Storm Arwen Community Resilience Survey, which was recently circulated. TCC supports the response with three additions, being: mention of Aberdeenshire hot food provision from Monday evening; the willing and helpful performance of the hall keeper who was present for long hours; and the clear need and badly lost opportunity for proper and frequent public information announcements on radio particularly. The finalised survey response will be submitted by TCC. Cllr. PG advised SSEN has extended a £1 million grant programme for resilience efforts which closes end of March and should be applied to soonest; the Aberdeenshire Resilience Officer is Neil Cameron (<a href="mailto:neilcameron@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">neilcameron@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>), and Cllr. PG has recommended community resilience be the subject of a future Ward Forum to enable sharing of experience.</li> <li>Regarding the question of hall access WM has been advised no keys will be issued however the code for the key box is available to a responsible named TCC member and also a responsible named Sub Group member.</li> </ul> <p><b>7.2. Learney Hall</b></p> <p>TCC is seeking assurances on firm commitment, timing and amount for the development of the Learney Hall by Aberdeenshire Council, particularly since the Storm Arwen event has raised the focus on the need for a proper effective refuge to be available in Torphins for such event.</p> <p>Cllr PA confirmed the historic and highly unusual commitment by Aberdeenshire Council that the capital receipt arising from the sale of the old schoolhouse would be available for the redevelopment of Learney Hall, and that this commitment still holds.</p> <p>TCC confirmed the Learney Hall redevelopment is an absolute priority for TCC, the urgency being supported by the Storm Arwen experience. TCC strongly urges Cllr Peter Argyle to pursue the matter with Live Life Aberdeenshire, which organisation would organise the design and costing of the work; and with Aberdeenshire Council committees to progress authorisation of going to tender and implementing the project as soon as possible.</p> <p>TCC will develop and provide a view of project priorities on behalf of the community to ensure the design recognises the needs and priorities of hall users. This will be submitted by mid January.</p> | <p>SS</p> <p>SS</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>Cllr. PA</p> <p>Cllr. PA</p> <p>TCC</p> |

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| 7.                                      | <p><b>7.3. Area Committee Planning Delegations Report</b><br/>TCC notes the planning officers' long report to Area Committee proposing changes to the delegation of planning approvals. Essentially the proposals provide for increased delegation to planning officers. The paper is being presented to all Area Committees for comment and to the full Aberdeenshire Council by May for decision. Cllr. PA and Cllr. PG advised they are against increased delegation. They are also in favour of changing the process when elected members are consulted on a planning application. If, when Councillors are consulted, a majority view cannot be established then the application will be referred to the Area Committee, where a majority view can be established. TCC agrees with the Councillors on this matter and hope their views will be supported.</p> <p><b>7.4. Learney Arms Indian</b><br/>TCC continues to be extremely concerned that the objection submitted to the licensing authority regarding noise at the Learney Arms Indian, and ongoing campaign, is threatening the very existence of this business. TCC wants the matter resolved to enable the business, which is vital to the community, to successfully maintain this excellent restaurant and bar facility in Torphins. When the Learney Arms was previously at risk there was massive public support to ensure the facility was not lost to the community, and the current business is strongly supported by many local and more distant customers. The community and authorities should understand the risk of losing the business and do all they can to enable its successful survival. TCC will take the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write directly to licensing board expressing community support for the business and importance of resolution to the Torphins community.</li> <li>• Invite the objector to a meeting with TCC representatives to review the situation and way forward.</li> <li>• Emphasise to the community the risk of losing the business in order to facilitate appropriate usage of the business to enable success.</li> </ul> <p><b>7.5. Condition of Road Surface at Park Recycling Bins</b><br/>ED brought to the attention of the meeting the extreme potholing of the surface at the park recycling bins. Cllr. PA advised he had noted the issue and will take the matter to Roads Dept.</p> <p><b>7.6. Confirm 2022 Meeting Dates</b><br/>As usual TCC Ordinary meetings, which are open to the public, will be at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month, with two exceptions. The May meeting will be delayed to the second Thursday due to local government elections on first Thursday, and there is no meeting in August due to summer recess. Meetings are normally at Learney Hall, or on Zoom if not able to conduct the meeting in person. Dates are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="292 1603 1307 1821"> <tbody> <tr> <td>6<sup>th</sup> January 2022</td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022</td> <td>7<sup>th</sup> July 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022</td> <td>1<sup>st</sup> September 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7<sup>th</sup> April 2022</td> <td>6<sup>th</sup> October 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12<sup>th</sup> May 2022</td> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, 7:00 pm, AGM</td> <td>1<sup>st</sup> December 2022</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>7.7. Confirm Contact Details of TCC Members</b><br/>Reviewed and updated for recent new members and will be published on notice board and website torphins.net</p> | 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022 | 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022 | 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 | 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 | 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 | 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022, 7:00 pm, AGM | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 | <p>Cllr. PA<br/>Cllr. PG</p> <p>AM</p> <p>AM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>ED</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> |
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| 8.                                      | <p><b>Open Action Log:</b><br/>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 <a href="http://www.torphins.net">www.torphins.net</a>.</p>   | TCC                          |                           |                               |                           |                            |                                |                            |                              |                           |                               |   |                               |  |

