



Torphins Community Council

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 1 st December 2022 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS)</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr Sarah Brown (SB); Cllr Anouk Kloppert (Cllr AK) David Birch (DB), Torphins School; Joan Donald (JD), TORCH</p> <p>Apologies: Liz Moore (LM); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB)</p>	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 3rd November 2022 previously by email: Adopted without changes. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas	TCC
4.	<p>David Birch, Head Teacher, Torphins School: David Birch (DB) was welcomed to the meeting and invited to speak. David explained his wide experience in education from secondary teaching, through various educational support roles, to primary teaching; and praised the Torphins pupils and coherent staff team who have an ambitious agenda for the school. The capable and competent staff are preparing for an expected inspection with focus on Learning, Teaching and Assessment to enhance the engagement and enjoyment of learners. A number of initiatives include a questionnaire seeking the views of parents; transparent and effective communications; engagement with the community; a commitment to raising attainment in writing; an active Eco Group pursuing bio diversity in the playground; exploration of outdoor learning; and capitalising on staff interest in engineering and mathematics. David then opened the floor to questions.</p> <p>AM – Would be interesting to get the views of the children for the future Community Action Plan, including views on the Hill of Fare wind farm proposal.</p> <p>DB – We can use the resource of the school to contribute to community views.</p> <p>SS – What can we do for each other through dialogue?</p> <p>DB – Maintain the dialogue. The school is developing its website which will include a community noticeboard, the Parents Council minutes will be shared, and David offers to visit TCC each term to elaborate on school progress and maintain two way communication.</p> <p>David was thanked for his attendance and TCC looks forward to continuing communication.</p>	DB
5.	<p>Police Report: Quarterly report for October 2022 not yet received. TCC did receive the November edition of North East Crime Alert, which is a professional publication with some local content, however we are disappointed not to receive a local community Police Report for many months now. Cllr SB and Cllr AK will follow up with Police.</p>	Cllr SB Cllr AK

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6.	<p>Finance Report: The bank balance is £17,922.71, including TCC general funds £1,628.14; TORCH funds £14,129.57; TCC Community Hardship Fund (CHF) £2,165.00. During the period TCC CHF received a supplemental donation from The Robertson Trust, which organisation has generously donated an additional £500.00 for hardship funding to all organisations that have previously received funding from the Trust. TORCH paid £288.65 for delivery of TORCH handbook to all households, £359.98 for Walkie Talkie radios, and £9,594.00 for the new generator to be installed at Mid Deeside Church. TORCH will also receive a donation of £750.00, which has been approved for payment by Bread of Life.</p> <p>Cllr AK asked if the CHF had been used recently. AM advised two requests to the current fund have been met. AM also advised Marr Area Partnership have provided a stock of logs which is available at the Food Locker at Mid Deeside Church, and more will be delivered.</p>	ED Cllr AK AM
7.	<p>Planning Report: APP/2022/2228 and APP/2022/2229, both in respect of West Lodge Craigmyle, have been submitted for demolition of an existing small extension and construction of a new much larger extension to the building. West Lodge is a Category B listed building. Aberdeenshire Environment Team and Historic Environment Scotland have both lodged objections to the proposals and requested revisions.</p> <p>APP/2022/0202. Demolition of former Schoolhouse. It was noted there has been no change since the 18 April 2022 Planning authority decision requiring a Level 1 archeological standing building survey and report prior to demolition.</p>	ED
8.	<p>New Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TORCH: Joan Donald attended to submit a proposal from TORCH following the exceptional rain and flooding in the area of Torphins over 17th to 19th November. In order to be better prepared for such events TORCH desires the support of TCC to obtain a local stock of sandbags to be held in the village. The excellent response of Aberdeenshire Council on 17th/18th was noted by WM, two deliveries of two pallets of sandbags, plus staff assistance, having been welcomed on Friday 18th with coordination by Alan Murray of Aberdeenshire Bridges team. The fortunate early intervention arising due to the risk of a floating tree on 18th was beneficial in this case, and such response may not always be expected. Cllr SB volunteered to investigate the question of provision of sandbags for the local community with a view to meeting the TORCH initiative. • A2B Dial-a-Bus serving Lumphanan/Torphins/Banchory: TCC has been contacted by the Aberdeenshire Passenger Transport Unit regarding the low usage of this service and the review to either cut the service or possibly re-time or extend to obtain viable usage. TCC has taken steps to promote the service on social media and posters, including a request for feedback from the community on the service. The service is a free of charge operating on Tuesday and Wednesday, with telephone booking required the day before. Users highly recommend the service. Cllr SB asks about better ways to promote the service so let us know what you think, but use it or lose it is the basic message. • Live Life essentials: The Live Life essentials (LLE) free programme has been promoted recently, including the provision of free WiFi for enrolled members in all LLE venues. Please be aware Learney Hall does not have WiFi despite repeated requests by TCC. LLE publicity will clarify WiFi only available in venues where installed. TCC does recommend the LLE programme, which does provide a range of FOC services to enrolled members. Website: https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-with-us/live-life-essentials 	JD WM WM

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8.	<p>New Items (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Council Digital Community Engagement Training: ED and WM apprised TCC of this excellent course, which was designed to improve the ability of CCs to engage digitally with local communities using the range of social media. The downside is that yet more work is involved to fully take advantage of the learning. A suggestion was made to attract a young person as media officer, with an approach to the head teacher at Aboyne Academy suggested. Secondly Cllr SB offered to provide details of the E3 Aboyne Hub, which may provide support. As opportunities to be pursued the subject will be added to Open Item Log. 	ED, WM Cllr SB
9.	<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
10.	<p>Correspondence: All correspondence received has been distributed by email. The following matters were highlighted in the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCC Insurance details to TORCH • Bus Forum Minutes • Piers Blaxter LDP progress; National Policy Framework 4; and Aberdeenshire Council latest Planning Advice for Wind Energy Developments • Cllr AK Inverurie Digital Demand Responsive Transport project (DDRT) • Aberdeenshire Winter Operations • Many responses to Wind Farm proposal which have been incorporated in to TCC response to RES which is being published on www.torphins.net 	WM
11.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS highlighted the SSE communication to plan for electricity blackouts. • JL emphasised the excellent work by ED in the implementation of the village festive lighting yet again. JL highlighted our need to seek out “apprentices” to learn about the systems and processes to prepare for the future hand over to others to manage the festive lighting for the village. Two actions were agreed: Poster at Carols around the Christmas Tree seeking volunteers and an approach to the Torphins School Head Teacher to see if any parents would be interested. • Following the earlier discussion about flood response WM asked if the condition of the bank of Learney Burn north of Craigmyle Road houses can be investigated to verify integrity and whether any remediation is required. Cllr SB will pursue the matter with Aberdeenshire Council and report back. • IF reported TORCH has purchased a 26 KVA generator to be installed at Mid Deeside Church. • Cllr SB advised Aboyne Hospital ward is operational again. The Minor Injuries Unit is being remodeled and will open in a phased approach. The AHSCP Strategic Plan is being finalised. • AM advised fly tipping had been reported with no response from Council. Discussion revealed this might be due to the event happening on private land. Landowners have to deal with tipping on their land. • CR has ordered new material to cover the pin surface of the notice board. • ED reminded us of Broadway Partners initiative to extend fibre to the home in rural Aberdeenshire. TCC to advertise the initiative to raise awareness for community members to act. • It was agreed the CHF would continue to be administered by AM, WM, ED. • Decided to invite Piers Blaxter to meeting of TCC on 2 February 2023. 	SS JL WM IF Cllr SB AM CR WM AM WM

Item No.	Description	Owner
12.	Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 5 th January 2023, 7:30 pm Learney Hall Torphins	
13.	Meeting closed at 09:27 pm	
	Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 4 th December 2022 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 5 th January 2023. Proposed: Iain Firth Seconded: John Lucas	