



Torphins Community Council
Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen

Meeting Minutes Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 07.30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Hamish Booth (HB), Jayne Clarke (JC), Eric Day (ED), John Lucas (JL) (Chair), Will Maclean (WM), Liz Moore (LM), Norman Morrice (NM), Colin Rouse (CR)</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr Katrina Farquhar (KF); Bill Higham (BH) Technical Office, Landscape Services, Aberdeenshire Council; Sgt. William Murdoch, Police Scotland</p> <p>Apologies: Sarah Fraser (SF), Cllr Peter Argyle (PA), Cllr Geva Blackett (GB)</p>	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting Thursday 7th January 2015: Approved: HB proposed and CR seconded.	
4.	<p>Police Report: Sergeant William Murdoch of Police Scotland, Banchory, attended to present the Police Report. The low level of incidents in Torphins area continues. There was a vehicle theft in February from an insecure vehicle, highlighting again the opportunistic nature of most incidents, the risk of which can be mitigated by good security practices. The main challenge for Deeside Police in recent months was the flooding of late December and early January, which severely stretched resources, however the Police responded well with other agencies.</p> <p>Last year's thefts from ATMs on Deeside are believed to have been addressed with the apprehension of individuals in another area. The Police force has advised local businesses of ATM risks and recommendations.</p> <p>In recent days there have been several vehicle theft incidents, which are being urgently addressed by the Police. The perpetrators, believed to be from Aberdeen, have focused on opportunities presented by poor security; yet again highlighting the need to always lock unattended vehicles and all premises, and properly protect and secure keys.</p> <p>The question of vehicle speed was raised again by TCC. Sgt. Murdoch advised the Traffic Unit in Stonehaven is available to monitor speed limit compliance in the village.</p> <p>Sgt. Murdoch was thanked for his attendance and report.</p>	PS
5.	<p>Finance Report: Total bank balance £2,384.67 Torphins Community Council balance £1,634.67 £750.00 is held on behalf of campaign to fund second PAD for Torphins. With audit, approval and submission of TCC Accounts the 2016/17 TCC grant from Aberdeenshire Council will be paid in April with new financial year.</p>	ED

6.	<p>Planning Matters:</p> <p>No new planning applications of concern for TCC have been filed. It was noted the Tornaveen Hall development planning application has been approved. TCC received thanks from Tornaveen Community Association for the £200.50 matching donation towards the planning application fee, and for general assistance.</p>	ED
7.	<p>Open Actions:</p> <p>7.1. Review of Torphins Community Council Website: Historic information is being obtained from previous webmaster. JL is seeking web link from AC Planning Department with assistance of PA</p> <p>7.2. Community Garden and Orchard: ED reported on his site visit to Tarland Community Garden. The project there is impressive, with significant expenditure on equipment and facilities, and strong, active community support. The project has an active Leader with a Team coordinating and working the garden. See 7.3.1 below ref Orchard. (It was decided on 7th January that TCC will canvass community opinion and support for a Community Garden and Orchard using the website and Facebook when available, to assess interest and way forward.)</p> <p>7.3. Torphins Park and Potential Orchard: Bill Higham, Technical Officer, Landscape Services, Aberdeenshire Council, attended the meeting regarding the potential orchard and the drainage of the park environs, including rear of Village Farm Court. 7.3.1. Orchard: BH has proposed the planting of an orchard at the west end of the park if there is adequate interest. BH has already approached Torphins School who will support a planting day, the trees and tools being provided by AC. The Commonwealth Orchards organisation in Glasgow will provide advice and schedule for a low maintenance project, including recommendations for number and variety of trees, and schedules of planting, pruning, fertilizers, and pesticides. It was agreed there is sufficient interest for BH to obtain all this detail information, including costing for future fertilizers and maintenance, to enable the final decision and schedule to be agreed. BH also agreed to pursue the idea of an orchard being planted in the west end of the School House site (1/3 of site), which is planned for retention by AC when the rest of the site is sold for housing. 7.3.2. Drainage and Playing Fields: Referring to the drainage issue and poor quality of the football pitch surface, BH advised the pitch had been spiked and fertilized last year to improve the drainage and health of the surface. For 2016/17 financial year there is now a budget to install field drains to the playing field, flowing to new soak away pits at the south of the playing field. This will improve the playing field drainage, and the problem of surface water behind Village Farm Court. BH also advised new goal posts could be available from Aberdeenshire Council. TCC requested BH to contact the Torphins Football Club regarding the plans for the football pitch and the possible new goal post provision. Further, TCC asked BH to ensure organisers of events planned for the playing fields are advised of the schedule and impact of the works. TCC is pleased the playing field drainage is being addressed and support improvement and coordination to enable the football club to return home matches to the Torphins playing fields. Bill Higham was thanked for attendance and support on these matters. 7.3.3. Play Equipment and Funding: ED plans to visit Braemar play equipment project and also contact the Aboyne project leader. It was agreed to develop a specific range of choices of equipment aligned with a determined budget. TCC will then request the school to determine the preferred choice by canvassing pupils.</p>	<p>BH JL</p> <p>ED</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>ED</p>

	<p>7.3.4. Recycling Bins: Mixed-use bins are to be installed as per policy – matter closed.</p> <p>7.4. Notice Board Map of Torphins: WM has received contact details through PA from CNP for signage. Copies of existing maps of Torphins will be provided to develop a format to develop and publish or erect Torphins Community map. KF also recommended a Ballater contact for development of maps.</p> <p>7.5. Roads:</p> <p>7.5.1. Waiting for scheduled speed monitoring on north entry to village to evaluate extension of 30 mph limit.</p> <p>7.5.2. Responding to a request from a resident of Sundayswells, the Council discussed the possibility of pursuing a reduction of the 40 mph limit on the west approach to Torphins to a 30 mph limit. After careful consideration the Council reached the conclusion the existing 40 mph limit is the appropriate limit, and resolved to communicate the decision to the resident. This decision is based on the circumstances and decisions of some years ago whereby TCC was the driving force, following requests from Sundayswells residents, for the installation of the 40 mph speed limit, pavement, and street lighting.</p> <p>7.5.3. Based on the discussions regarding speed limits KF volunteered to contact AC Roads Department for speed monitoring on each of the four main road entries to Torphins.</p> <p>7.6. PADs: Further support for the installation site of a second PAD is to be sought with community businesses and organisations before matching funding will be requested from Marr Area 2016/17 budget. It was regretfully noted that the free public training planned by First Responders had such poor take up that the session has been postponed to a later date. TCC resolved to recommend additional communication channels to improve publicity for this training, which TCC strongly supports.</p> <p>7.7. Marr Area Forum: LM advised there was a strong attendance at the Marr Community Ward Forum meeting on funding. There were presentations from various funding bodies such as The Big Lottery, Scottish Land Fund, Cairngorms Leader, Aberdeenshire Leader; and information was available on other funds such as Community Path Grants. Subject to meeting the various conditions it is clear there are significant funds available for projects. What is needed is clear focus and prioritization of projects, in order that plans and funding requests can be pursued. A project to upgrade the path from Monboddoo Road to Craigmyle West Lodge is an example detailed below at 8.3.</p> <p>7.8. Scheme of Establishment: Following earlier circulation of the latest Community Council Scheme of Establishment proposals it was confirmed TCC has no comments to add to the process at this time. Closed.</p> <p>7.9. Special Landscape Areas Submission: TCC had pursued additional information on the SLA proposals to facilitate a constructive response to Aberdeenshire Council regarding the proposals, which place the northern boundary of the Deeside SLA on the southern border of Torphins, excluding the village from the area. Based on the fact Aberdeenshire Council has not yet determined the policies and requirements to be applied within the designated SLA boundaries, TCC resolved itself unable to comment at this time, without knowing the impact of such SLA. Closed.</p> <p>7.10. Torphins Post Office Changes: It was noted the changes to Torphins Post Office service have been implemented. Some concerns were advised and TCC decided to support feedback and concerns from the community. Contact the Secretary, TCC, wmaclean.tcc@gmail.com, 07531 881100 if you wish to comment.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>KF</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>LM</p> <p>TCC</p> <p>Community</p>
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8.	<p>Correspondence for Action and Other Updates:</p> <p>8.1. TCC Insurance Renewal: There was brief discussion whether Christmas decorations, which have not been insured previously, should be added to the policy. It was resolved not to insure, however we will request clarification of the insurance of third party property on the Learney Hall premises.</p> <p>8.2. Receptacles for Dog Poo: TCC is considering the purchase and installation of dog-waste stations in a couple of strategic locations. A number of questions arose: Would AC provide dog waste stations? Would AC empty dog waste stations? Would AC Dog Warden load the disposal bags to stations? KF will check with AC week of 7th March and revert back to TCC.</p> <p>8.3. Track from Monboddoo Road to Craigmyle West Lodge: TCC discussed this track following limited damage noted after the floods and questions arising from disabled and other users. Specific concerns are the relatively unsmooth surface; and overgrowth during summer, exacerbated by cutting being suspended due to dog owners not clearing up, which makes cutting (which is private and voluntary) both unhygienic, and unpleasant. TCC decided to have a site meeting on Monday 7th March to review and determine plans, including voluntary action and potential Community Path Grant funding, which does include matching requirements.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>KF/JC/ED</p> <p>TCC</p>
9.	<p>A.O.C.B.</p> <p>9.1. Following brief consideration it was decided to proceed with a monthly meeting schedule as proposed by JL and seconded by ED, the next meeting to be on 7th April 2016. WM to book small Learney Hall for the additional meetings over the bi-monthly schedule already booked for 2016.</p> <p>9.2. JL advised there is no known progress on submission of the Station Garage development planning application.</p> <p>9.3. ED advised the TCC photocopier, which was available for public use, is faulty and now stored in the Scotmid basement. TCC determined not to repair the copier due to limited public demand since the technology is now widely available on home printers.</p> <p>9.4. Various matters arose regarding Scotmid, which the Secretary was requested to follow up. Access steps between rear car park and shop entrance; markers in car park for drop off by building, litter on site, ATM security ref Police comments.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p>
10.	Next Ordinary Meeting: 7th April 2016 at 7:30pm in Small Learney Hall	TCC
11.	Meeting closed at 09:55 pm	
12.	<p>Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 7th March 2016 and adopted by email on 7th March as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at meeting on 7th April. Proposed: Eric Day, Seconded: Liz Moore</p>	TCC