

Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 6th April 2023 at 7:30 pm **Learney Hall, Torphins** Item Description Owner No. 1. 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); In Attendance: Cllr Sarah Brown (SB) Apologies: Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK); Liz Moore (LM); Stephen Salter (SS); Rev Holly Smith (HS) 2. Intimation of noted interests: None Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 2nd March 2023 previously by email: 3. TCC Adopted without changes. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: Iain Firth 4. **Police Report**: CC Report for Quarter to March 2023 is expected (received 9th April). PS North East Crime Alert for March received and distributed. JL referred to concerns in Banchory about gatherings of cars and fast driving. 5. **Finance Report:** The bank balance is £16,262.09, being TCC funds £1,075.24; Hardship Fund £1,835.00; ED and TORCH funds £13,351.85. £335.22 was expended by TCC on the QEII Scottish Oak Tree and plaque to be planted in the park by Lord Lieutenant, with Provost and TCC in attendance, on 11 April 2023. Hardship Fund continues to purchase monthly for the Food Pantry. TORCH expenditure during the period was £808.80 on the electrical installation of the generator and refund of £54.80 to Marr Area. ED explained there is a backlog of charges for the TCC website which have been late in billing and totaling over £600. Also the fee for 2023/24 is due for payment. There was discussion of the large amount of these charges and possible alternatives, while TCC will investigate the details to see if the existing service could be cheaper. The idea of Aberdeenshire providing a standardised website for all CCs, and/or Cllr SB funding the cost of CC websites, was raised. Cllr SB agreed to pursue the matter with Area Office. 6. **Planning Report:** ED Container at Church has been approved Proposed changes to the application APP/2022/2229 for development at Craigmyle West Lodge, which was designed by Sir R S Lorimer in 1902, have been welcomed by Historic Environment Scotland but with recommendations to further reduce the impact by a further reduction in scale, their comments being a material consideration. Aberdeenshire Environment team still object to the proposal and recommend advice from a conservation accredited architect.

Three other residential applications in TCC area presented no concerns.

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7.	New Items:	
	Community Map Scotland: AB presented his findings from attending the webinar about this mapping system originally designed for Parish Councils and now offered in Scotland under PSGA license at £145 per year with first year free. The system provides access to licensed users to detail maps of CC areas with key amenities marked, plus the ability for users to add amenities, for example in the development a Local Place Plan. The cost is considered an obstacle given CC funding so TCC decided to try	АВ
	the system for a year with no commitment to purchase. AB to organise.	AB
	Local Place Plan: This item is carried forward to next meeting to enable additional preparation, with all members requested to consider information available on development of Local Place Plans and to develop ideas.	PA
	Greenspaces Update: The Greenspaces Torphins lead Anna Bichard with some local assistance has now planted the trees in the park following the planting of other areas. The TCC comments about fruit bushes etc. for the western end of the park have been considered and alternative areas are planned. The project provides enhanced local green spaces.	WM
	Festive Lights: Bread of Life is thanked for a grant of £700 towards the maintenance of the festive lighting equipment. Cllr SB will investigate if Aberdeenshire would allow	ED
	 lighting features to be mounted on the walls of Learney Hall. Torphins Gala: It was agreed TCC will book a place at the Torphins Gala, with format to be planned at a later date. Secretary to advise Gala Committee. 	WM
	Draft Engagement and Participation Guide: A Teams meeting organised by Aberdeenshire on this matter at the request of Mearns CC was attended. The guide is a prerequisite to the Participatory Budgeting process, which Mearns CC has requested Aberdeenshire to implement with the involvement of CCs. The draft guide is for the use of council officers to manage the process. The council officer in charge agreed to add content to the guide to emphasise and clarify the role of CCs in Community Engagement and Participation with government.	WM
	• Broadway Fibre Broadband: A number of public meetings have been hosted by Broadway to promote their high-speed broadband service over fibre to the premise, either by ducted cable or overhead. AB attended the Finzean meeting and found the offering to be very competitive in service and price. When the government £5,000 per customer voucher scheme has been approved for Aberdeenshire, Broadway will proceed with development, probably by summer with start in Tarland. Cable will be in BT ducts where possible or new ducts will be dug if necessary. Customers wishing to participate grant their voucher to Broadway to fund the implementation. Current cost is £19.99/m for 150mb download plus £10/m if phone line required. More promotion and news will follow from Broadway.	AB
	 Fence at End of Railway Track Path at Wester Beltie: TCC has received a request to repair the fence on the steep path ramp on the old railway line path near Wester Beltie, which was constructed for Aberdeenshire Council with the development of the path. The wooden rail stock fence has collapsed and needs replaced for safety. Cllr SB agreed to take to Aberdeenshire 	WM
	Council our request to replace the fence.	Cllr SB

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7.	New Items (Continued): Condition of B993 road surface north of Mid Deeside Church: ED reported the road surface across the whole surface area of the road is badly deteriorated north of Mid Deeside Church and the 30 mph limit signs. The road needs to attention to stem the inevitable development of potholes, with one already existing. CIIr SB to report.	ED Cllr SB
8.	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.	тсс
9.	 Correspondence: A very large volume of correspondence received has been distributed by email. Much was highlighted in the meeting however some key items are: Marr Area has confirmed they will organise TCC election in May for two openings. Online Workshops with Sustrans for Community Active Travel are available to register through the link in email already sent. AC is reviewing its Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Policy in collaboration with the Scottish Ambulance Service via link in email sent. David Birch, Torphins School Head Teacher will attend May meeting of TCC. Scotmid has replied that they will repair the potholes in the Scotmid parking area but have no plans or budget to make a proper access from rear area to the shop. AC is mapping Brownfield sites for LDP. Please log known locations at: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/brownfield-survey/maps/mapping-brownfield-land-opportunity-sites Request for a picnic bench in park by tennis court — Cllr SB follow up with AC. Marr CC Catch Up Teams meeting will feature a Roads Manager to discuss winter road maintenance and the meeting is to discuss communication with residents. The new Engagement Officer for Customer Services in AC is engaging with residents on views of customer service. Log in to complete survey at: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/customer-service-survey 	WM
11.	 WM advised with thanks to Aberdeenshire that Give Way white lines have been painted this week on Woodside Road at the junctions with Craigmyle Road, Wellbank Place, and Craigour Avenue. Disappointed the junction with the busy A980 has not also been painted though in vicinity. Cllr SB noted to follow up Cllr SB notified the members of a number of initiatives and services by Aberdeenshire for Cost of Living Support which are available on the website, including the Scottish Welfare Fund. The roll out of the new orange bins continues. Marr Area Committee grants are now open to applications The Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment report has been published and interested volunteers are sought by the partnership for ongoing consultation. Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 4th May 2023, 7:30 pm Learney Hall Torphins 	CIIr SB CIIr SB
13.	Meeting closed at 9:10 pm Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 7 th April 2023 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 4 th May 2023. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas	