



## Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 7:30 pm Virtual Meeting on Zoom		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p><b>Present:</b> Hamish Booth (HB); Eric Day (ED); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM) (Chair); Liz Moore (LM); Dave Preston (DP); Carol Reid (CRd); Colin Rouse (CR);</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Cllr. Peter Argyle (PA); Cllr. Paul Gibb (PG); Rona Edgar (RE); Teresa Waugh (TW)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Rev. Holly Smith (HS); Cllr. G. Blackett (GB)</p> <p><b>Not Present:</b> Campbell Gillies (CG)</p>	
2.	<b>Intimation of noted interests:</b> None	
3.	<b>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 previously by email:</b> Adopted without changes. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas	TCC
4.	<b>Police Report:</b> Report for June received 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 – the meeting reviewed this the latest available report.	PS
5.	<b>Finance Report:</b> The balance at bank is £2496.38, being: TCC free funds £1,136.34, TERP £186.48, Festive Lights £433.56 Hardship Funds - Foundation Scotland Grant £540.00 - Stuart Family Donation £200.00 Expenditure – Blachere for Christmas Lights £2,019.30, Hardship Vouchers £160.00	ED
6.	<p><b>Planning Matters:</b></p> <p><b>6.1. Weekly List of Planning Applications:</b> No concerns</p> <p><b>6.2. Easter Beltie River Restoration Project APP/2020/0859:</b> approved by delegation to Ward 15 Councillors on 31/08/2020. Resident's concern about access satisfied by explanations as of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.</p> <p><b>6.3. Path at Mains of Easter Beltie:</b> Cllr PA advised the planning application APP/2011/0052 with condition that alternative path must be provided, was unfortunately superseded by a later application in 2013 for change of use which omitted the condition, thus the condition lapsed. The Outdoor Access Officer continues to review and TCC asks TPG to investigate alternative routes.</p>	ED Cllr PA AM Cllr PA Cllr PA AM/WM
7.	<b>Community Safety Report:</b> No report this month	HB

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8.	<p><b>New Items (Action Items are added to Action Log):</b></p> <p><b>8.1.</b> Speed Limit and Speeding on A980 at Sundayswells and Police speed checks have been recent subjects of great concern in the local community. Cllr. PA (incidentally a Sundayswells resident) advised the speed limit is often neglected and frequently excessively. He has requested the Roads Service to review but they are very busy with a backlog of similar cases, and also raised with the Police Inspector in Banchory regarding enforcement.</p> <p>TCC frustration at the lack of Police attention over many years to speeding in Torphins, despite repeated requests, was clear in the following discussion. It was generally agreed the highest speeds are traffic heading west, not east, as vehicles often slow for the Beltie Bridge coming east; that speeds pick up from the school outwards; and that the situation has significantly deteriorated since the lockdown. Suggestions varied: repair and move failed speed monitor on Kincardine Road; request Police action again, but concerned this approach over many years has failed to deliver adequate visits to have an impact; obtain our own “speed gun” and use to gather evidence; training for public as suggested some time ago to enable public to safely perform speed monitoring; purchase and erect cut out of police officer. Safety of anyone taking such actions is a major concern.</p> <p>Cllr PG advised the active Aberdeenshire Council consultation on Speed Limits and Pedestrian Crossings should be reviewed and comments submitted by all concerned local residents and TCC. Note the process for Police to drive action in problem areas is for Police to report a safety issue, which then has to be reported to Council for consideration and action.</p> <p>AM closed the extensive discussion with a recommendation Secretary to invite the Police Inspector to our next meeting.</p> <p><b>8.2.</b> R Edgar had brought to TCC the issue of road drains and gullies blocked with weeds, grit and debris. Members of TCC agreed, noting there are many examples around the village. The policy of not applying weed killer is allowing weeds to flourish and to consolidate waste materials in gutters and drains and damage cracks and joins in roads and pavements, which will lead to future problems and expense. Cllr PG asked for examples to be submitted to him to follow up.</p> <p><b>8.3.</b> Adopted old Telephone Box at Sundayswells. CRd suggested the old telephone box at Sundayswells be used for a book swap initiative. A number of pro and anti comments arose from a protracted discussion. The box is owned by BT but adopted by TCC, who have maintained the box with a new door, replacement of broken windows, and painting.</p> <p>Pro: Good idea to support a book swap for people keen to use such a facility and with limited alternative. Could be used to swap vegetables in season. Would not hinder visibility at junction or impinge on road. Some positive community comments.</p> <p>Anti: Would block view at exit from side track junction. Bad location as near busy road and not near centre of village. Book swap already exists at Church. Some negative community comments, particularly from Sundayswells.</p> <p>Alternatives: Move the box to another location but would need BT permission and planning approval, or, do nothing.</p> <p>Action: Consult with community.</p> <p><b>8.4.</b> Community Allotment Proposal. CRd recommends a community allotment would be desirable and benefit Torphins, particularly in current times. Some Torphins residents have plots at Woodend, suggesting there is demand. Needs a location and a community project to implement. CRd will write Learney Estate seeking land. WM will forward funding alternatives to CRd for follow up.</p>	<p>Cllr PA, RE, TW, TCC</p> <p>Cllr PG</p> <p>AM/WM</p> <p>RE TCC Cllr PG</p> <p>CRd</p> <p>CRd</p> <p>CRd WM</p>

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8.	<p><b>New Items (Action Items are added to Action Log) (Continued):</b></p> <p><b>8.5.</b> Community Impact Assessment Ward 15/16 Discussion The Marr Area COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment was attended by WM. A number of CCs attended to provide feedback to the Area Office and Councillors. There was also an online survey for individuals to respond that is now closed. Strong voluntary efforts were reported in some communities with the level of need more variable, some areas identifying significant need while many others did not. Torphins CC experienced a very good response from volunteers, and also set up a hardship fund (still open), however the demand has been much lower than the offer. Local business adapted well to the new situation to serve the community. Overall Torphins appears to have been reasonably resilient, with people likely helping each other. No major issues were reported to TCC, however as one mature of age and smallish group we may not be aware of unknown difficulties. TCC did report to Area Office the need to get all services functioning again, while maintaining COVID-19 support as needed. Cllr. PG advised consultation purpose is conceived to assist Council budgeting although he doubts it will.</p> <p><b>8.6.</b> ED recently raised Craigmyle Road potholes as being in extreme need of attention. Cllr PA advised a work order has been opened for the work to be done in early October.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>ED Cllr PA</p>
9.	<p><b>Open Action Log:</b> 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
10.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p><b>10.1.</b> A very considerable amount of correspondence has been received by email regarding COVID-19 and government and community response and guidelines. All correspondence has been distributed to members and posted as appropriate on TCC media.</p> <p><b>10.2.</b> A Tornaveen resident reported the felling of the rest of the roadside trees at Drumlassie on Learney Estate. TCC reported disappointment to Cllr. PA, although regrettably no action is possible as there is agreement the regulations were followed properly. As previously reported the regulations are thought to be entirely inadequate and should be updated.</p> <p><b>10.3.</b> Confirmation has been received from Area Office that under the special arrangements for this year retiring CC members will continue until the delayed elections, which will continue next spring, with this year's AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.</p> <p><b>10.4.</b> We have been notified of the Roads Policy Consultation and promoted it on TCC media. All the community is encouraged to submit comments on the proposals for Speed Limits, Pedestrian Crossings and Street Trading.</p> <p><b>10.5.</b> The Marr Greenspace Project has been announced in the Marr Area Committee Papers, including a proposal for Torphins. Residents are encouraged to view online and comment. Information is available at <a href="http://www.torphins.net">www.torphins.net</a>.</p> <p><b>10.6.</b> The latest CC Scheme of Establishment consultation has been announced. TCC believes the process is total overkill and a waste of valuable Council time, effort, and money.</p> <p><b>10.7.</b> The Aberdeenshire Council consultation on the licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues in Aberdeenshire is open for comment until 24<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p><b>10.8.</b> The latest update to the Stagecoach bus service for Torphins effective 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 has been received and posted by TCC. After prompting by TCC, the bus company has finally posted the new reduced timetable for service 201 at the bus stops, service 202 no longer being available.</p>	WM Sec.

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11.	<p><b>A.O.C.B.</b></p> <p><b>11.1.</b> The arrangements for Remembrance Sunday are not yet clear for this year however it was decided JL should go ahead to order the TCC wreath.</p> <p><b>11.2.</b> CR noted the grass cuttings in the park have not been picked up at all since the first and subsequent cuttings, although the Council had undertaken to pick up. TCC would appreciate cuttings being lifted by the Council now.</p> <p><b>11.3.</b> RE asked who is responsible to cut the railway line path. TCC advised Aberdeenshire Council is responsible although in the past Learney Estate had cut the area. Last year Torphins Paths Group agreed on a voluntary basis to cut the vegetation on the path but has not done so this year due to hoped for Council action and COVID-19.</p> <p><b>11.4.</b> CR asked if we could meet at the large Learney Hall for our next meeting and AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Cllr PG advised that national guidance appeared to support such action however current Council guidance is that CC members would be considered separate households, and therefore the household number would be over the limit and not acceptable. We will monitor.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>Cllr PA</p> <p>Cllr PA</p> <p>TCC</p>
12.	<p><b>Annual General Meeting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 7:30 pm on Zoom</b></p> <p><b>Next ordinary meeting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 8:00 pm on Zoom</b></p> <p>Rev HS to send Zoom invitation.</p> <p>Monitor for opening up to meet in large Learney Hall.</p>	Rev HS
13.	<p><b>Meeting closed at 9:45 pm</b></p>	
	<p><b>Adoption of Minutes:</b> These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.</p> <p>Proposed: Liz Moore                      Seconded: Hamish Booth</p>	