



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
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Meeting Minutes Thursday 4 th January 2024 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); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS)</p> <p>In Attendance: Daniel Eaton (DE); Sasha Argyle (SG)</p> <p>Apologies: John Lucas (JL); Cllr Sarah Brown (SB); Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB);</p>	
2.	<p>Intimation of noted interests: LM expressed an interest in planning application APP/2023/2287. ED and CR expressed an interest in the matter of planning application APP/2023/1374.</p>	
3.	<p>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 7 December 2023 previously by email: Adopted as proposed by December email without changes. Proposed: Iain Firth Seconded: John Lucas</p>	TCC
4.	<p>Police Report: Mid and Lower Deeside Police Report for six months July 2023 to December 2023 was received in December. Disappointing the Q3 report was delayed, however nothing of serious note in the report and advisory content is appreciated. TCC has received a copy of the Upper Deeside Report for Q4. Unlike the M&LD report this report has no narrative, however does provide a detail list of all reported crimes with annotation whether “detected” or “undetected”. TCC resolved Secretary to request definition of these terms, to request the similar stats for M&LD, and to enquire about the boundary of the areas, as they do not align with CC boundaries at all, Aboyne being Mid Deeside CC yet in Upper Deeside report, not M&LD report.</p>	PS WM
5.	<p>Finance Report: The balance is £11,510.68, represented by TCC general funds £252.25, TCC Christmas Lights Fund £591.49; and TORCH funds £9,270.45. Expenditure on Newsletter printing was 481.00 and the match funding grant from Aberdeenshire for Christmas lights was £981.55, received with thanks. Final income and expenditure from very successful Carols Around the Christmas Tree will be reported in January. PA and others extended thanks to ED and Eleanor Day for organising at event again.</p>	ED PA
6.	<p>Planning Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APP/2023/2333 Erection of Dwellinghouse for Holiday Let, Site At Colliestown Farm Torphins Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 4JN – No concerns. APP/2023/2287 Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse 6 Wellburn Park Torphins AB31 4HW – No concerns. 	ED

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6.	<p>Planning Report (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APP/2023/1374 Erection of Dwellinghouse, Land To East Of Inveran Grampian Terrace Torphins Banchory AB31 4JS – Flood Risk Assessment TCC has submitted video evidence of the drainage issues at the site, which has led to the completion of a Flood Risk Assessment and SEPA response. TCC believes the inappropriate nature of the site for development due to water issues is still not adequately addressed. ED&CR to submit additional recent video evidence and explanations to Planning Dept. with copies to all Ward Councillors. 	ED/CR ED, CR
7.	<p>New and Priority Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learney Burn and Bridge at Craigmyle Road Local resident Daniel Eaton (DE) attended the meeting to explain his concerns and seek assistance regarding the impact of recent heavy rainfall on the Learney Burn, specifically as it affects Craigmyle Road and the bridge at the location. A variety of evidence was submitted demonstrating the overflow of the burn at the dyke parallel to the road, with high volumes of water then flowing east along the road to re-enter the burn at the said bridge. Local residents had deployed sandbags recently and during earlier events to contain and manage the overflow. The formed stone dyke in place for many years is being progressively damaged by the high water of the increasingly frequent storm events, previously occurring with multi year gaps but now evidenced at least three times already this season. This is causing increasing erosion at the road bridge, which is now clearly showing signs of damage and potential structural damage. The high fast flows are also increasing erosion upstream, and if appropriate management is not deployed residential areas could become threatened. TCC is requested to assist a proper assessment and resolution to protect the bridge and property. As a benefit for all the community DE mentioned the availability of flood protection equipment, which raised the idea this is something TORCH could look into as a community protection asset. TCC resolved to request a professional on site assessment of the whole Learney Burn area in question by Aberdeenshire Flood Risk and Coast Protection Team, including writing to Ward Councillors for their support in addressing the matter. Secretary to write. Easter Beltie Flooding: AM introduced his communications about the increased flooding of the private road at Easter Beltie leading to the Easter Beltie housing development since the Easter Beltie River Restoration project. He had written on 7 November 2023 on behalf of residents of Easter Beltie to Dee Catchment Partnership and Dee Salmon Fishery Board, with copies to Aberdeenshire Planning Dept., local Councillors, and TCC. Although there had been prompt responses at the time there is no real progress so AM has written again a follow up for feedback including expectations of a meeting with the Easter Beltie River Restoration team. All noted by TCC. Hill of Fare Wind Farm Application ECU00004592 TCC document Objection V03 was reviewed, having been distributed to all members on 31 December 2023 by the Chair. There was general agreement and strong endorsement for the professional and very detailed document drafted by the Chair, with inputs and questions from various members being resolved. Current discussion revolved around claimed economic benefits, carbon balance calculations, tourism impacts, and safety case. Further submissions regarding economic impact will be added before the proposed final version for early lodging with ECU is circulated for review. All members are asked to review the final version and promptly respond soonest with their support or not before submission to ECU. 	DE WM AM PA IF/PA TCC PA

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7.	<p>New and Priority Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Support for Torphins School Inclusion and Equity Fund: TCC was advised late last year of this fund to assist less well off kids to participate in school trips. Following discussion it was resolved that the Treasurer will write with the offer of £500 to be donated from the TCC Hardship Fund. • Complaint Regarding Trees Overgrowing Craigour Road: This matter was closed last autumn after the Aberdeenshire Council contacted owners with instructions to cut offending trees or else the Council could cut and charge costs to owners. It was recognised a number of owners had responded. TCC has now received a further complaint from Addison Trucks that areas of trees on both sides of Craigour Road within the 40 mph zone are still unresolved and a danger to vehicles. TCC will reopen the issue and seek an update from the Councillors. • Street Drainage: Concern about the adequacy of street drain cleaning was raised by WM last November in light of the experience of several members and residents during the recent storms. The storms in late December have seen repeated and worsened problems, leading to residents struggling to contact Aberdeenshire for urgent resolution and even contacting Cllr GB directly as Council Depts. did not answer. TCC again requests a more proactive plan to clear leaf detritus and regularly and adequately clear drains and gullies to minimise risk of flood. Follow up again with Councillors. • Park Drainage and all Council Budgets for Torphins: ED expressed concern the park drainage question has never been fully resolved and widened the discussion to the wider budgetary plans of Aberdeenshire for Torphins community. It was decided to carry forward to Councillors attending next meeting the whole wide matter of drainage, flood risk, and council budgets for Torphins community assets – see Open Action Log. • New Pavement Parking Regulations: The question over parking on the lowered kerb opposite Scotmid has been approached by PA submitting a request via the Aberdeenshire Council website notified by Council Briefing Note on 20 December 2023. “Councillors and members of the public can still request that we re-assess sections of footway for possible exemption from the pavement parking prohibition. This can be done through an online form on our dedicated parking prohibition webpage (https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/car-parking/pavement-parking-ban/) or by sending an email to ricommsteam@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. “ • Learney Hall Management: The question arising recently over the management system now in place for Learney Hall was deferred to the next meeting when it is hoped local Councillors will be available. 	<p>ED</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>ED</p> <p>PA</p> <p>CR</p>
8.	<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
9.	<p>Correspondence: All correspondence received has been distributed by email to all members. Notable items are notice of Age Concern Resilience Workshop for public at Banchory Town Hall on 17 January 2024 14:30 to 16:00 (posted on TCC and TCF Facebook), and the Pavement Parking Briefing of 20 December 2023.</p>	WM

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9.	Correspondence (Continued): Bus Forum minutes and Q&A of 7 December 2023 available at https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport/bus-forum/	
10.	AOCB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS asked if anyone knew if the gala had been a success. Members present believe yes, and the TCC Stall and adjacent TPG stall attracted much attention. (See https://www.facebook.com/torphinsgala/ for recent positive info.) SS further questioned if events had been considered such as Torphins in Bloom or a Scarecrow Festival. The feeling of the meeting was that such ideas can certainly be pursued by anyone willing to step up. • CR mentioned the reported water leak at the pavilion with concern if it has been fixed. Reportedly the matter is resolved. • AB advised the waste bin at the last bus stop heading east on the north side of Craighour Road has vanished. This was a surprise and suggested AB to report on Aberdeenshire website. • SA, following the community interest theme, suggested an initiative to join a Pumpkin Decoration Contest for a fee in advance of Halloween, with the pumpkins to be placed around village in celebration of Halloween. This was thought to be a great idea if someone can be found to lead the initiative. • 	SS CR AB SA
11.	Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 1 st February 2024, 7:30 pm Learney Hall Torphins	
12.	Meeting closed at 9:28 pm	
	Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 5 th January 2024 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 1 st February 2024. Proposed: Liz Moore Seconded: Eric Day	