

Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 2 nd February 2023 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins				
ltem No.	Description	Owner		
1.	 Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS) In Attendance: Cllr Sarah Brown (SB); Anabelle Dawson (AD); Linda Manning (TORCH); Jon Taylor (Chair, Torphins Gala Committee) Apologies: Liz Moore (LM); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK); Not Present: Andrew Brazier (AB); Rev Holly Smith (HS) Malcolm Miller: Peter Argyle paid tribute to Malcolm Miller who sadly passed away on 10th January 2023 after a short illness. Since joining TCC after retirement Malcolm has been a wise contributor to TCC business with intelligent and reasoned input. 			
2.	Condolences to Christine and family. Members stood for a minute of reflection. Intimation of noted interests: AM advised he is an architect who is frequently dealing with planning authorities and the LDP matters in course of his work.			
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 6th January 2023 previously by email:Adopted without changes. Proposed: Eric DaySeconded: Jain Firth	тсс		
4.	Piers Blaxter, Team Leader (Planning Policy), Planning and Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council, was welcomed to the meeting by PA Future Process for Local Development Plan: See attachment to minutes: Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2028 Projected Timeline PB explained the Scottish Government has substantially changed the Local Development Plan process with the original intention to simplify the five years cycle. There are several areas of real improvement, however new features have also been added that may actually make the process more complicated or lengthy overall. The first stage is the new Evidence Report which will be a substantial document taking about a year to complete with a wide range of areas to consider and consulting with the general public and topic experts through the formation of reference groups. Second stage is the Gate Check Examination and Call for Ideas. There are concerns about how long gate check may take but the call for ideas is a positive process to replace the bid process, which enables communities to submit ideas. A Local Place Plan is an important element to submit in response to call for ideas. The Proposed Development Plan will focus on change and areas where change is desired and needed, rather than covering every community as was the previous practice. Public consultation may give rise to modifications and these are now allowed unlike under the old system. This is good to improve accuracy and an up to date plan, but may be time consuming.	PB		

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4.	Future Process for Local Development Plan (Continued):	PB
	By the Examination stage all big issues will be resolved as findings are considered, but	
	it will be hard to complete in the five years time frame. This final plan will be	
	proposed for adoption by Aberdeenshire Council.	
	The LDP affects everyone so it is important to engage people as much as possible and	
	promote the importance of the process to influence the environment in which we all live.	
	PA thanked PB and asked if there were any questions.	
	SS asked how current flood risks are considered in the allocation of land for building.	
	PB responded SEPA indicative maps are relied on, however these are indicative and if	
	local information is available that can be submitted through the Call for Ideas to	
	ensure current circumstances are considered.	
	SS asked if LDP would cover power grid and utilities and broadband.	
	PB said there is a full infrastructure audit and the current practice is now to look for	
	the infrastructure to be in place before development. There is excellent progress with	
	broadband roll out but mobile phone "Not-Spots" are a big issue as it is not clear how	
	these will be alleviated.	
	AM asked about discrepancies between National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4),	
	proposed on 13 January and to be adopted on 13 February 2023, and the LDP.	
	Answer is that the most up to date wins. Aberdeenshire LDP was approved before	
	NPF4 adopted, whereas Aberdeen LDP may not be approved until after NPF4.	
	AM referred to big changes regarding wind energy affecting rural development.	
	PB said he finds it difficult that communities under 3000 population are considered	
	rural under NPF4.	
	Regarding AM question about Local Place Plan and Community Action Plan PB said the	
	LPP is focused on managing the local environment while the CAP is more about non	
	land use development with focus on community projects etc. The LPP directs where	
	communities want development. Developers can also submit ideas but objections can	
	be submitted at the Examination stage.	
	CR asked how lifestyle and employment changes are reflected in the LDP. Is there a	
	forecast how Aberdeen City will look in 2028, which will reflect on how Aberdeenshire	
	will look?	
	PB advised the ten year strategy is set by NPF4 with diversification away from oil and	
	gas to renewables and zero carbon. There are very few restrictions now on where	
	business developments can go.	
	AM mentioned the importance of getting young people involved in the LDP process.	
	PB strongly agreed this is a major focus area but difficult to achieve. The Youth	
	Forums Forum has produced encouraging results.	
	The LDP discussion closed.	
	Wind Farm Development and Emerging Policy:	
	This policy is dictated by the Scottish Government so PB can only express his opinion.	
	For many years the Scottish Government policies have become more and more	
	forceful until now the area is a National Development matter controlled directly by	
	Scottish Government, driving the need for renewables. NPF4 supports wind turbines	
	everywhere except in National Parks or National Scenic Areas. Impacts on the local	
	natural environment elsewhere are all deemed to be possible to mitigate to allow	
	development. It is now very difficult to stop large developments as proposed for Hill	
	of Fare so it is important to push for maximum compensation.	
	A major take away from the discussion is that TCC will put the Local Place Plan and	
	Community Action Plan on the March meeting agenda. Wind Farm proposals will be	
	monitored for consultation and submission of the application.	
	Thanks to Piers Blaxter for valuable insight into LDP and Wind Farm Policy.	<u> </u>

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5.	Police Report: Report for Quarter to December received 9 th January 2023	PS
6.	Finance Report:The bank balance is £18,158.09 being TCC funds £1410.46; Hardship Fund £2,165.00;and TORCH funds £16,472.65.TORCH expenditure during the period totaled £1890.02 for a range of emergencyequipment.	ED
7.	Planning Report:	50
0	There are no new planning submissions.	ED
8.	 New Items: Torphins Gala – Help to Save the Gala: Jon Taylor, Chair of Torphins Gala Committee, was welcomed to the meeting and given the floor. Jon has been on Gala Committee since 2015 and Chair since 2018. The current committee has nine members, including two not living in Torphins. Many have been members since 2016, with activities curtailed by COVID in 2020 to 2022, so a number are ready to move on, although there is a commitment to 2023 Gala. New and young members are badly needed now to maintain momentum and enable continuation of the event beyond this year. The focus of Gala has changed over years away from sporting events and fairground (HSE risk) toward more local stalls and craft outlets. National Lottery awarded £3000 for two new marquees to support covered space for stalls, plus other equipment, so equipment and funds are in good shape. Events during year have been difficult to maintain to achieve a break even or small profit. Now the current committee desire new members to see through this year, and to hand over to a new team with new ideas and drive for the future. How can TCC help? TCC membership expressed strong desire for the Gala to continue as a leading community event in Torphins, which over the years has been much appreciated and well supported. Discussion raised a number of ideas to pursue. TCC recommended contact with Torphins School Head Teacher and with the Parents' Council. Potentially the school can assit with community groups with family contacts should also be contacted such as Playgroup, Mother and Toddlers, Scouts. TCC Mardship Fund: ED expressed concern over slow take up of the Hardship Fund and suggested we should look to alternatives to enable the benefit to reach the community. One idea is to make monthly payments to support the Church Pantry, and also to promote the Hardship Fund itself with information at the Pantry. AM pointed out TCC has helped the Pantry with enabling the schoyl on gas of logs, and also a new fund is	JT
9.	approach and consider other funding.	
У.	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 onlinewith the minutes at www.torphins.net	тсс

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10.	Correspondence:	\A/N 4
	All correspondence received has been distributed by email. The following matters were highlighted in the meeting.	WM
	 Communications about the LDP process, including questionnaire for all to complete online. 	
	• Response from Janelle Clark to request for winter roads treatment to be key subject for next Community Ward Forum. Next Forum has full agenda but possibly the following Forum. See Action Log	
	 Noted postings on Torphins Community Forum and suggestion for new hub of local businesses. TCC has posted a reminder of the existence and link to the TCC Welcome Booklet, which is online and in fact has a list of local businesses. 	
11.	AOCB:	
	 LM was not available to stay at the meeting until the TORCH item arose, this matter having been raised after the agenda was issued and so addressed as AOCB. WM did explain correspondence with TORCH to address the matter in hand now. LM has advised the wiring for the new generator has been installed at the Church, however the generator cannot be installed at the Church until planning permission is received. The generator could be hooked up temporarily in the event of an emergency. With the availability of the new generator TORCH have requested if the old portable generator, which TCC purchased some time ago, may be relocated to Tornaveen Hall as earlier muted. Tornaveen Hall Committee will insure and maintain the generator. TCC agreed to the transfer of the generator to Tornaveen Hall and for them to insure and maintain, while ownership remains with TCC. Secretary to advise TORCH. 	WM
	• WM has received a question from a resident whether the redundant bus stop signs on St Marnan Road can or should be removed. There is no bus service on this route. Cllr SB agreed to follow up on the matter.	WM
	 Cllr SB advised the swimming pool at Aboyne Community Centre will be closed for six weeks for essential maintenance. Council Tax for the coming year will be set next week The question of gully clearing is being pursued by Cllr SB Cllr SB requires more information about request for sandbags from TORCH 	Cllr SB
	 PA requested Cllr SB to follow up with Cllr AK regarding progress and updates on many open issues for next meeting AD, member of public in attendance, requested that litter on village streets and 	Clir SB Clir AK AD
	roads be included in agenda of March meeting. TCC welcomed the input and endorsed the request.	
12.	Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 2 nd March 2023, 7:30 pm Learney Hall Torphins	
13.	Meeting closed at 9:58 pm	
	Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 3 rd February 2023 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 2 nd March 2023.	
	Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day	

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2028 Projected Timeline

January 2023

