

Torphins Community Council

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7:30 pm

Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS)	
	In Attendance: Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK); Rona Edgar(RE), Torphins Gala;	
	Helen English (HE), Marr Community Planning Officer;	
	Scott Findlater (SF), Aberdeenshire Council Venues	
	Apologies: Andrew Macpherson (AM); Cllr Sarah Brown (SB); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB);	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: ED and CR expressed an interest in the matter of planning application APP/2023/1374. WM expressed an interest in TPG Torphins-Lumphannan Path matter.	
3.	Torphins Gala Committee: Rona Edgar attended to advise that only one person had attended the Torphins Gala	RE
	AGM and to plea for support. Without support very soon the Gala will die. 2023 Gala was a big success and much appreciated however the low active support meant it was organised at great effort by a very small team. An active committee and helpers are urgently required now to progress plans and bookings for August 2024. The remaining very small team will organise strong publicity for another attempt for a successful AGM and new support. TCC thanked Rona for her energetic plea for help.	
	Torphins Community Council will spread the word and strongly urges community members to step up to join the Gala team to Save Torphins Gala .	TCC
4.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 4 January 2024 previously by email: Adopted as proposed by December email without changes. Proposed: Liz Moore Seconded: Eric Day	TCC
5.	Police Report: TCC had enquired about the alignment of Police areas with Council areas since Mid Deeside is actually covered in the Police Upper Deeside report. Police to verify. While TCC desires the narrative approach currently provided in the Lower and Mid Deeside Report we requested crime statistics as presented in the Upper Deeside Report to provide some different insight. Police have agreed to provide this for the Q1 Report.	PS WM
6.	Finance Report: The balance is £10,817.92, represented by TCC general funds £391.02, TCC Christmas Lights Fund £530.57; Hardship Fund £720.88, and TORCH funds £9,175.45. Net income from Carols Around the Christmas Tree was £138.77; misc. spend on Christmas light accessories was £60.92. Hardship Fund general expense on supplies was £175.61, and donation to Torphins School Equity Fund £500.00. TORCH purchased	ED

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7.	Planning Report:	
	APP/2023/1374 – See Open Item Action Log No. 2401.	ED
8.	New Items:	
	Hilary English, Marr Area Community Planning Officer:	HE
	Hilary was welcomed to the meeting and invited to explain her role and visit.	
	Hilary is employed by Aberdeenshire Council and represents the Council on Marr	
	Area Community Planning Partnership; which involves a range of local government and public services. Her work focuses on assisting groups develop Community	
	Action Plans (CAP) and Local Place Plans (LPP); and putting community councils,	
	community associations, local development companies in touch with organisations	
	for practical assistance and for funding.	
	HE is visiting all community councils in her area to develop understanding and	
	opportunities for both parties.	
	CAP and LPP give people a voice in how communities develop. LPP are focused on	
	spatial elements, for example providing the community view on local housing	
	developments, like provision of affordable housing or preference for new housing	
	developments in their area. The LPP Is an aspirational document, which is a	
	statutory contributor to the development of the LDP by the Aberdeenshire Council.	
	CAP enable the community to articulate, focus, and enable their plans for	
	improvements and developments within their community.	
	TCC members expressed some skepticism about how such plans can produce	
	results in the current environment of severe budget cuts; and whether the	
	community has the information to know requirements for housing, etc.	
	HE expanded her explanations of these processes and their value to guide LDP	DA
	development, and support income generation for community projects.	PA, Cllr AK
	New Domestic Waste Collection Arrangements: While the situation seems to have settled down the impact of late and poor	CIII AK
	communication was quite disruptive. The poor communication is not	
	representative of historic performance, and hopefully lessons are learned.	
	PA asked Cllr AK to find out what went wrong and to report back to TCC.	
	• Learney Hall Management:	CR
	The changes to the operation of Learney Hall, which have not been explained, are	
	concerning, particularly for the long-term effective operation and maintenance of	
	the hall facility. Since SF was present he was able to explain that Group users are	
	required to setup and take down themselves, while Event users are supported.	
	Cleaning is provided by the service.	WM
	TCC decided to invite Pam Jamieson, Venues and Assets Manager, to address TCC	
	to explain the current situation of Learney Hall provision to the community.	WM
	Torphins Paths Group Torphins – Lumphanan Path:	
	Speaking as Chair of TPG, WM advised that TPG is preparing the planning	
	application for the Torphins – Lumphanan Path. This is a near 3km section of path	
	with bridge stretching from Jaffray Road to the entrance to Lumphanan, which was	
	illustrated with the map of the route.	
	TCC agreed to support the application so the planning application fee achieves the	
	CC 50% fee discount, saving valuable funds as we develop a path strongly favoured	
	 by the communities, and we believe Aberdeenshire Council. Aberdeenshire Council Budgets: 	ED
	ED wants to know what money is allocated to communities for ongoing	
	maintenance and improvements, since there are many projects ongoing for years	
	although often a promise to be addressed. For example park drainage, park fence	
	repair, drainage and potholes, cemetery wall repair, Health Centre entrance area.	
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8.	New and Priority Items (Continued):	
	Aberdeenshire Council Budgets (Continued):	
	Reference was made to the fact budgets are assigned on a priority basis across the	
	Shire. Participatory Budgeting was presented some time ago, allowing local	
	communities to prioritise local spending, although only 1% of the total Shire budget is allocated to Participatory Budgeting. TCC has not heard of or been approached	
	about this for Torphins.	HE
	HE agreed to follow up about Participatory Budgeting for Torphins.	
9.	Open Action Log:	
	The Open Action Log is an appendix integral to the minutes of meeting.	TCC
	All items were reviewed and updated as detailed in the log, which is available online	
	with the minutes at <u>www.torphins.net</u> .	
10.	Correspondence:	WM
	All correspondence received has been distributed by email to all members. Notable items are the number of invitations to participate in various surveys and	VVIVI
	consultations, including the Rural Transport Survey closing on 11 th February and	
	representations by 15 th March on Topic Papers for the Aberdeenshire LDP.	
11.	AOCB:	
	WM raised the matter of the change to CC insurance arrangements whereby CC are	WM
	to source and pay for their own insurance in future, rather than Aberdeenshire	
	Council facilitating. See Open Action Log No. 2405.	
	• SF thanked TCC and the community for the active patronage of the hall. For the	SF
	provision of the Christmas Tree on the stage thanks to Eleanor and Eric Day for erecting and dismantling yet again.	
	WM mentioned the positive news that further much needed repairs to the	WM
	cemetery wall are in progress today, and also highlighted the closure of the Crows	
	Nest recycling centre until 10 th February.	
	LM asked where Marr Area Partnership funds come from. HE advised	LM
	Aberdeenshire Council and Cairngorms National Park Authority fund MAP, with	
	some trusts providing additional funding.	CD.
	CR noted Campfield Filling Station fuel pumps will be closed for replacement until	CR
4.4	mid February.	
11.	Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 7 th March 2024, 7:30 pm Learney Hall Torphins	
12.	Meeting closed at 9:23 pm Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on	
	3 rd February 2024 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting.	
	Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 7 th March 2024.	
	Proposed: Iain Firth Seconded: Eric Day	