



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen
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Meeting Minutes Thursday 2 nd September 2021 at 7:00 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Hamish Booth (HB); Eric Day (ED); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM) (Chair); Colin Rouse (CR)</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr. Peter Argyle (PA); Cllr. Paul Gibb; Iain Firth; Stephen Salter</p> <p>Apologies: John Lucas (JL); Rev Holly Smith (HS); Cllr. G. Blackett (GB)</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the attendance of Iain and Stephen and introductions by all attending followed.</p>	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	<p>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 1st July 2021 previously by email: Adopted without changes. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day</p>	TCC
4.	<p>Police Report: The Police Report for July was reviewed and noted. Young persons had been reported on roof of Torphins School but no repeat recorded. Cllr PA warned there have been instances of cold calling at doors by individuals offering work. Always be very wary of such offers and best decline to avoid scams.</p>	PS Cllr PA
5.	<p>Finance Report: The bank balance is £3,245.26, comprising TCC free funds £1294.84, TERP £186.48, Festive Lights £23.94, Foundation Scotland Hardship Fund £1,740.00. Admin grant of £580.00 was received and £353.00 was spent on printing the successful 6 pages Summer Newsletter.</p>	ED
6.	<p>Planning Matters:</p> <p>6.1. Recent applications were reviewed with no concerns.</p> <p>6.2. The application APP/2020/2267 at Belton, Edingight Wynd, which is the subject of a complaint submitted by neighbours to Aberdeenshire Council, still awaits a new retrospective planning application, which the Planning Enforcement Officer advised the owner is required to submit.</p>	ED ED
7.	<p>New Items (Action Items are added to Action Log):</p> <p>7.1. Aboyne Hospital Strategic Needs Assessment and Friends of Aboyne Hospital Letter of 10 August 2021 to UB, AHSCP, NHS Grampian.</p> <p>Cllr PG advised the reply of 26 August from the Chief Officer of AHSCP did not provide a satisfactory answer regarding the future of Aboyne Hospital. Effective community participation in the upcoming Deeside Strategic Needs Assessment will be critical to a satisfactory outcome for Deeside health service provision. Staffing difficulties are not a reason for service reduction, a concept that TCC agreed with. The authority needs to find a way to adequately staff rural services.</p> <p>Cllr PA pointed out the hospital is currently closed for inpatient, not outpatient, treatment, and that the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is a vital wide ranging review to design the best health service provision for Deeside.</p>	Cllr PG Cllr. PA

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7.	<p>New Items (Action Items are added to Action Log):</p> <p>7.1. (Contd.) All agreed effective communication of the SNA by the authorities across all the community is critical to ensure a good volume of responses from the community. Subsequently on 3 September AHSCP advised bedded provision at Aboyne will be maintained until at least the end of October when the situation will be reviewed again.</p> <p>7.2. Proposed Felling of Problematic/dangerous Trees on Learney Estate TCC received notification from the agent MLFS of proposed tree felling on Learney Estate. The details have been posted on torphins.net and TCC Facebook page. Community response requested specific details of the trees to be felled. This question was submitted to MLFS who responded the request cannot be specifically answered as although trees have been identified additional requirements may arise as the work progresses. MLFS stated: "Our key message is that the felling proposals have public safety as the estate's foremost concern and that we are taking all reasonable steps to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. The intention is only to fell trees that have been assessed to present a safety risk and there will be sufficient trees retained to ensure that the character of the roadsides is maintained." TCC welcomes the prior advice of tree management proposals and understands the need to manage tree safety. TCC appreciates the active management of woodland on Learney Estate, with well publicised yet minimised closures for safety, while also desiring the avoidance of unnecessary felling.</p> <p>7.3. Trees on Grampian Terrace ED reported to Cllr PA concerns regarding the condition and apparent disease in the trees on Grampian Terrace along the side of the park. Aberdeenshire experts have since inspected the trees and advised they are severely compromised with disease and position on edge of the road and on a ha-ha. Preferably the trees should be replaced. A plan will be agreed and clearly communicated with firm proposals for replacement before any action is taken. The idea of assistance with tree planting associated with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 was raised as a possibility.</p> <p>7.4. Noise Complaint at Learney Arms Indian TCC has maintained contact to protect the interests of the community in terms of the ongoing provision of services by this business. It is hoped a satisfactory outcome is achieved through the cooperation of all parties.</p> <p>7.5. Scotmid Grant for Festive Lights ED advised that Scotmid has awarded TCC a grant of £480 to continue the development of the festive street lighting by TCC. Additional matching funds are being sought from Marr Area Small Grant to support £1,000 expenditure on the street lighting for 2021 season. Thanks to Aberdeenshire for confirming electrical connections on lamp posts have been checked and rectified.</p> <p>7.6. Memorial to the Unknown Dead at Torphins Cemetery This memorial was erected decades ago by the then Parish Council. The idea of refurbishing the memorial was floated on Facebook and a resident has volunteered to repair the sundial. Cllr PA will have Landscape Services provide a list of requirements for the work in the cemetery and TCC will coordinate an effort, including contacting the resident to progress.</p> <p>7.7. Condition of Building at New Easter With improvement of the corner site at Escape at Avenue 23, and hoped for development of the old schoolhouse site, the condition of New Easter was raised. It was agreed Cllr PA will check with economic development regarding possible assistance for village centre business to improve attractiveness and thus business.</p>	<p>TCC Cllr PG</p> <p>WM</p> <p>TCC</p> <p>ED Cllr PA</p> <p>TCC</p> <p>JL TCC</p> <p>ED</p> <p>ED Cllr PA</p> <p>WM</p> <p>CR Cllr PA</p>

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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: 9.1. The communications received during July and August have been distributed to members by email. An encouraging number of responses were received from the community following the comprehensive distribution of the Summer Newsletter. These and other select communications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email received on 24th August 2021 from Ward Councillor Geva Blackett was noted by the meeting. Geva advised she has resigned her membership of SNP but will remain for the time being as an Independent Councillor. Details are in the public domain through the media. • A proposal for a “closed road litter pick” on the Torphins to Lumphanan road was received some time ago from a local resident, which Secretary apologises for the delay in tabling. The idea of litter picking is strongly supported however it is recognised that closing roads is complex and problematic. Cllr PA will check the Aberdeenshire attitude to such a road closure proposal. • TCC received a request for action regarding the proposed sale of 15 acres of land north west of Torphins between Battock Terrace and the golf course. When and if planning proposals are submitted for this land, TCC will consider the proposals and respond to any application as and if appropriate with full recognition of community feedback. • Notice of rolling road closures for the Tour of Britain cycle race on 12th September 2021 have been posted by TCC. This is a major event which will not come through Torphins itself however will pass through the area. • Newsletter Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interests in membership – TCC welcomes the expressions of interest in membership and encourages public attendance at meetings, with thanks to those expressing interest at this meeting. New members keen to contribute to the work of TCC for the community can be co-opted at any time by agreement and vote of the TCC membership. ○ 30 mph road sign damaged on Kincardine Road – the matter has been reported on the Aberdeenshire Council Roads public website for defect reporting and the sign has been rectified ○ Speed monitor on Kincardine Road failed – TCC has asked about ownership and rectification of this equipment in the past without satisfactory answers. If the owner cannot rectify the unit should be removed by Aberdeenshire. ○ Inadequate pavements on Kincardine Road – the narrow pavement and lack of pavement have been reported with a request to improve. There is currently no budget for such work however it is noted the white lining has recently been renewed at the site. ○ Pot holes on St Marnan Road – a significant amount of patching work has been completed on St Marnan Road and other locations. It is hoped the improvement can be maintained. By way of note the cold surface recycling work on Woodside Road and Craigmyle Road is a significant improvement. ○ Hedges on Beltie Road – it is understood the overgrown hedges have been cut. Other instances, for example on Kincardine Road, are noted and residents are urged to take action to avoid enforcement. 	WM

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9.	<p>Correspondence (Contd.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dog Fouling and Request to Ban Dogs from Park – this was discussed and we are advised banning dogs is not enforceable unless the area is fenced. Given the nature of the play equipment setting at Torphins it is not practical to fence. Cllr PA will raise the matter with Landscape Services to seek recommendations. ○ Parking outside Avenue 23 on St Marnan Road at junction with Station Road – Residents have raised a concern about the difficulty of exiting at this location when cars are parked right up to the exit. TCC understands there is parking available to Avenue 23 customers across the road so will contact the party to highlight the matter. 	
10.	<p>A.O.C.B.</p> <p>10.1. AM asked about the plans to reopen the full range of services at Council properties including Recycling, Gyms, Swimming Pools, Community Centres. The current booking systems and restrictions can be prohibitive to achieving adequate access, particularly for example for vital swimming instruction for young children. There is a public consultation in progress regarding the operation of recycling centres and Cllr PA notes the need for full service to be delivered as restrictions and resources allow.</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Cllr. PA</p>
12.	<p>Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 7th October 2021 at 7:30 pm at Learney Hall, Torphins</p>	
13.	<p>Meeting closed at 9:29 pm</p>	
	<p>Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 6th September 2021 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 7th October 2021. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: Colin Rouse</p>	