



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen
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Meeting Minutes Thursday 7 th April 2022 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Hamish Booth (HB); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Malcolm Miller (MM); Liz Moore (LM); Stephen Salter (SS)</p> <p>In Attendance: Tim Stephen (TS), Live Life Aberdeenshire; Joan Donald (JD) (TORCH); Robbie Dow (RD) (TORCH); Linda Manning (LM) (TORCH);</p> <p>Apologies: Colin Rouse (CR); Cllr P. Gibb (PG); Cllr Geva Blackett (GB)</p> <p>Not Present: Rev Holly Smith (HS)</p>	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 3rd March 2022 previously by email: Adopted without changes. Proposed: John Lucas, Seconded: Eric Day	TCC
4.	Police Report: No report since November 2021. Cllr Argyle to follow up with Police.	PS, Cllr PA
5.	Finance Report: The bank balance is £2,340.26, comprising TCC free funds £1246.46 and restricted fund for TORCH £1093.80.	ED
6.	Planning Matters: Two applications for felling of protected trees for safety reasons were noted. The schoolhouse site is awaiting a survey prior demolition.	ED
7.	<p>7.1. Redevelopment of Learney Hall</p> <p>Tim Stephen, Service Manager – Operations, Live Life Aberdeenshire kindly attended the meeting to apprise TCC of Council plans, and to enable a collaborative discussion about the redevelopment priorities for the Council and the community.</p> <p>Tim explained that Aberdeenshire Council had applied an increase in Council Tax to support a capital investment plan for the next ten years to catch up on underinvestment in prior years due to policy. The Infrastructure II project will address community facilities across the Shire, including Learney Hall. Surveys are being conducted of all facilities to develop a priority list ranked 1, 2, 3, by facility, while a balancing across facilities will also be required. Learney Hall is identified as a good size hall to be retained, with strong potential that could be considered to serve a wider area and to provide commercial opportunities to raise income.</p> <p>Learney Hall has been pulled forward in the process to enable maintenance spending to be applied concurrently with the funds arising from the sale of the schoolhouse, the 50% available for the hall amounting to around £78,000. These proceeds are reserved for “betterment” while the Council is responsible for all maintenance of the facility. Asked what the full maintenance programme might cost Tim suggested addressing all potential items could be as much as £250,000, although a lesser amount is likely available, which means selecting the top priorities.</p>	TS

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7.	<p>7.1. Redevelopment of Learney Hall (Continued)</p> <p>The survey of Learney Hall has been commenced with the mechanical and electrical elements to be completed before the complete survey can be assessed to develop the prioritised list of maintenance items; and to enable the refinement of plans for the TORCH resilience objectives and the betterment investment. Given all factors in play, including Council tendering, physical work on the facility is not likely to start for a couple of years.</p> <p>MM asked if energy efficiency measures would be a priority. TS replied this is a possibility depending on what is identified, what it costs, and what grants may be available. RD asked if an extension is planned with the response no, as this is already a good size facility and an extension would cost many times the £78,000 betterment funds available. Having seen the initial draft list of potential maintenance items, including for example new windows and floor coverings, TCC members were generally happy with the direction of plans.</p> <p>Tim turned to the question of a generator for community resilience and the need for electrical and outside adaptations to support an adequate unit. Tim provided the name and direct phone number of the council officer responsible for electrics for TORCH to contact directly. The facilities team in the Council does have a concern regarding management of the large number of similar requests across the Shire following the storms and the SSEN time limited grant availability. Significant generator investment is viewed as creating a new demand on Council staff to ensure safe and dependable operation. WM indicated the Council has strongly encouraged the local community resilience efforts, leading to the requests for new equipment to enable the plans. LM highlighted that if the Council has concerns and preferences regarding how communities address resilience then the Council should clearly communicate and guide across its own organisation, and with all the communities, so that a coordinated approach supported by the Council is achieved.</p> <p>RD advised TORCH has communicated with the Council's Resilience Officer. TORCH does plan to proceed with the application to SSEN for funding toward the cost of generators for Learney Hall and for Tornaveen Hall. The opportunity to obtain this vital equipment to enable community refuges cannot be missed.</p> <p>The discussion was wound up with thanks to Tim for attending and his reassurance the redevelopment project will move forward in collaboration between the parties.</p> <p>7.2. TCC Election and AGM</p> <p>Marr Area Office has set out the TCC election and AGM plan as follows: Nominations Close 4th May; Ballot if required 19th May; AGM 26th May 2022.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="301 1529 1190 2056"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="301 1529 965 1563">ACTION</th> <th data-bbox="965 1529 1190 1563">DETAILS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1563 965 1619">1. Area Office will contact you to ascertain if you have any vacancies and seek confirmation of the date of your AGM.</td> <td data-bbox="965 1563 1190 1619">11 vacancies to be advertised (1 Campfield, 1 Tornaveen)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1619 965 1765">2. Notice of Elections published. This is the start of the election process and will be when press releases are sent and posters etc should go up. Press releases will be done by Area Office. Electronic posters will also be provided for the Community Council to use. Community Council should advertise locally, put in newsletters, website, social media as applicable. Nomination forms available at: https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/community-councils/cc-election/marr-elections/</td> <td data-bbox="965 1619 1190 1765">Mon 11 April</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1765 965 1821">4. Close of nominations (Area Office will write to inform CC and candidates of outcome)</td> <td data-bbox="965 1765 1190 1821">Wed 4 May</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1821 965 1888">5. Ballot held (if necessary)</td> <td data-bbox="965 1821 1190 1888">Thu 19 May 6-8pm Learney Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1888 965 2056">6. 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