



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen

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45 th Annual General Meeting Meeting Minutes Thursday 1 st June 2023 at 7:00 pm Learney Hall, Torphins.		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); John Lucas (JL); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS); Eric Day (ED) In Attendance: Cllr Sarah Brown (SB); Bob Dow (TORCH) (RD). Apologies: Will Maclean (WM); Iain Firth (IF); Liz Moore (LM); ; Andrew Macpherson (AM); Rev Holly Smith (HS); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK);	TCC
2.	Minutes of Annual General Meeting Thursday 26 th May 2022 adopted.	PA
3.	Outgoing Chairman's Report & TORCH report: See separate attachments. The Chairman presented his report, which was accepted unanimously. In the interest of completeness the Chairman of TORCH presented the report of TORCH operations for the year, the work of the group being much appreciated.	PA RD
4.	Outgoing Treasurers Report and Annual Accounts: See separate attachment. The Annual Report and Accounts were reviewed and unanimously approved.	ED
5.	Members retired at May 2023 election: Rev Holly Smith Peter Argyle Members nominated and elected at May 2023 election: Peter Argyle Returning Office: Kirsty Macleod, Marr Area Office	Cllr SB
6.	Election of Officers: Peter Argyle re-elected as chair, accepted. Andrew Macpherson nominated as vice chair, proposed by JL, seconded by ED. Elected. Treasurer: Eric Day nominated, proposed by PA, seconded by SS, accepted. Elected. Secretary: William Maclean nominated, proposed by CR, seconded by JL. Elected.	Cllr SB Chair Chair Chair
7.	Annual Review of TCC Constitution: No changes proposed.	TCC
8.	Close meeting:	All



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Chairman's Report, AGM, 1st June 2023.

I was delighted to be co-opted as a member of Torphins Community Council at the meeting in October and – after a bit of a glitch over due process – to be elected as your Chairman in November. I have been involved with TCC since 2007 so I was pleased to be able to continue my participation in what I always regarded as one of the best and friendliest CCs in the ward.

On your behalf I would like to record sincere thanks to Andrew McPherson for his time as Chairman. He was – and is – highly committed and energetic in his work for TCC and was an excellent Chairman for a number of years.

It has been a busy year for TCC. We have tackled a number of important issues and achieved some successes, although I must concede not on every front! We discussed the future of our neighbouring CC in Lumphanan: I am delighted that as a result that CC has been reactivated, a far better outcome than the proposed merger. We have secured a commitment from the Council for Broadband to be installed in this hall and will continue to press for the vital and much needed upgrade of the fabric to be undertaken. I am pleased that we have been able to ensure that the Council's receipt from the sale of the School House will be committed to the Hall and we will continue to work towards the upgrade, including the toilets and kitchen which are well past their sell-by date. In this regard I would also record the thanks due to Scott Findlater, our Hall keeper, for all the work he does for the community.

We participated in discussions over the GreenSpace project and secured changes to some of the proposals. It is good to see the new planting in place. And speaking of planting, it was a real pleasure to see the planting of an oak tree to commemorate Her Late Majesty and the Platinum Jubilee, by the Lord Lieutenant and in the presence of the Provost of Aberdeenshire. My thanks to everyone who assisted in that project and it is good to see the tree is thriving.

We were able to offer support to the Gala Committee who were facing the prospect of having to wind up this important local event. I am really pleased that the Gala will continue and that TCC will be represented there with a stand later this summer.

TCC has also continued to offer support to TORCH. Again, sincere thanks are due to all those who have supported the work of TORCH. It is an important community initiative and we shall hear more about it presently.



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Carols around the Tree was a successful event, very well attended and as always, the Christmas Lights were of a high standard, adding greatly to the village during the Christmas season. Particular thanks are due to Eric Day for the huge amount of work he has put into this project over the years, as well as those who helped putting up the lights. It was for all of us a memorable evening when Eric received his Long Service Award – very well earned! His contribution over the years, not least as a meticulous Treasurer, has been outstanding.

TCC put out a Newsletter over Christmas, an effective way of communicating directly with the community. Thanks are due to Colin Rouse and all the deliverers, whether on foot or on bicycle, who went out in sometimes doubtful December weather to ensure the widest possible delivery.

On a less positive note, TCC has been aware of the issues over the Leaney Arms. We have no specific formal role in that question but we hope that the discussions I understand are taking place at the moment will result in a sensible solution for all parties. Equally we remained concerned about the Winter Maintenance in the village, recognising that the weather was particularly challenging this winter but nevertheless we have some anxiety about how the Council will address this in the future. We are also still awaiting a resolution to a number of issues including the drainage of the Park, the upgrading of the access to the Torphins Medical Practice and the perennial problem of speeding within and through the village.

Of course the biggest issue we have faced – and still face – is the proposed wind farm on the Hill of Fare. We have devoted a great deal of time to this question and whilst very many in the community recognise the need for renewable energy, there is a very clear view that the environmental, social and amenity impacts of this huge wind farm would be unacceptable. NPF4, adopted by the Scottish Government at the start of the year, will severely limit the grounds for any objections, since it introduced policies that are overwhelmingly permissive of on-shore wind across almost all of Scotland. We have responded to the various consultations and joined other CCs to debate and discuss actions. There is a long way to go still and this CC has yet to take a formal position on the application but we will, when and if it is lodged formally with the Scottish Government.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Malcolm Miller in January. He had been a member of TCC since October 2021 and was a popular and respected member not just of TCC but of the community. We mourned his passing.



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Our Minister, the Rev Holly Smith, stood down from TCC in May although she has promised to continue to support our work. I would like to record our thanks to Holly for her contribution to TCC and for all she does in the Parish.

Will Maclean, our Secretary, is not able to be here this evening so I can speak without embarrassing him. He is a most excellent Secretary – on top of his other community work – efficient and thoughtful. It may interest you to know I did a quick check today; since October I have had almost 600 emails from Will. I think that gives some idea of the amount of work he does, as well as producing Minutes that are rarely if ever questioned and keeping the Action Log up to date and complete. I hope he will be re-elected this evening. We owe Will a great deal.

Our thanks are also due to Cllr Anouk Kloppert and Cllr Sarah Brown for their attendance and efforts on our behalf. It is not – I know only too well – an easy role and we have not always given them an easy ride! Our thanks for all they have done.

And finally, thanks to all members of the community council, for attending so regularly and for everything you do to support our work.

Thank you.

Peter Argyle



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Financial Report 2022-23

Please see Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022.

The Accounts this year are split into three specific areas to provide clarity.

Torphins Community Council
The Hardship Fund
TORCH

<u>TCC:</u>	Bank Balance at 31/3/22	£1246.46
	Income	<u>2458.68</u>
		3705.14
	Less Expenditure	<u>2629.90</u>
	Balance C/Fwd	<u>£1075.24</u>

This does not include an Invoice for £602.21 covering the TCC Web Site support over the last two years which was only presented in April.

Hardship Fund:

Bank Balance at 31/3/22	NIL
(Remaining monies from last year was transferred to TORCH)	
Income	£2500.00
Less Expenditure	<u>665.00</u>
Balance C/Fwd	<u>£1835.00</u>



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TORCH:	Bank Balance at 1/3/22	£1093.80
	Income	<u>26560.00</u>
		<u>27653.80</u>
	Less Expenditure	<u>14301.95</u>
	Balance C/Fwd.	<u>£13351.85</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-2023

The Financial Report April 2022 / March 2023 takes on a different shape this year. It has been divided into 3 sections, namely TCC Funds, Hardship Funds and TORCH funds. This approach will hopefully make it simpler for all to contemplate and understand.

TCC Funds

During the financial year expenditure was £2458.68 and this is summarised in the attached spread sheet.

Funding for the Defibrillator stationed at the Veterinary Practice was donated by the Bread of Life charity.

One item not shown in the spread sheet (only because it fell outwith the financial year) is the cost of IT Support. This was due to a two year delay in submission of invoices. The full cost when analysed shows that we are paying a substantial amount annually for web support. The cost for support in 2023/2024 (paid but not shown) will cost us £291.64, and in future years will surely escalate.

I consider this a matter of concern. If we were ever to depend solely on our annual administrative grant from Aberdeenshire Council we would find it extremely difficult to operate as we would be unable to produce a news letter, PAT test Xmas lights etc. etc. Fortunately (so far) we always have a 'buffer' to protect us, but this could all change. £1075.24 carried forward. (In real terms this would be £473.03 taking into account the £602.21 paid out late April)



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Hardship Fund

The Robertson Trust fund was not being fully taken up therefore a decision was made by TCC in discussion with the Revd. Holly Smith to use the funds to provide food for the pantry at MDC. This pantry is very well used.

We have been utilising SCOTMID vouchers, however in future we shall be using Costco where bulk purchase is more cost effective £1835.00 carried forward.

TORCH

At last year's AGM I indicated that anticipated grant money from SSEN would be ring fenced and controlled within the TCC Bank account

It was perceived that grant funding from SSEN could be quite considerable and in fact TORCH were awarded £ 23,000.00. Various donations over the past year have raised this fund to £26,500.00.

The TORCH committee led by Robbie Dow have made important decisions on how the fund should be spent , and I am well advised that the village now has a Resilience team fully equipped to handle a major incident.

The TORCH Group have purchased logically and systematically a wide ranging list of equipment considered necessary for a major incident .

A major item the important stand-by generator was purchased based on a specification provided by our own in-house expertise.

I requested that all purchases made by the TORCH team should be supported by proof of purchase and invoices etc. so that all spend could be recorded correctly.

I am pleased to say that they heeded my comments and I thank them for their compliance as it made this task so much easier.

There is probably around 50% of this fund remaining , and TORCH is in good shape should the need arise for an upgraded generator at Tornaveen Hall.

In the meantime and following a meeting with Robbie Dow, I understand that there will be some costs in the near future for Team training, brochures, and modifications to the Generator container located at MDC. £13,351.85 carried forward..

In summary , last year's plea still stands . Please ensure that any expense has back up documentation, proof of purchase , invoices etc.

Thanks for your attention.