

## **Torphins Community Council**

## Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen

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Meeting Minutes
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7:30 pm
Learney Hall, Torphins

Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Present: Andrew Macpherson (AM); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Malcolm Miller (MM); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen	
	Salter (SS) In Attendance: Dr Alastair Glennie; Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (AK); Ted Ling	
	Apologies: Andrew Brazier (AB); Rev Holly Smith (HS); Cllr Sarah Brown (SB)	
	<b>Recognition:</b> AM thanked retired member Hamish Booth for his contribution to TCC	
	over several years, and thanked former Councillor Peter Argyle for his long service to	
	the community and former Councillor Paul Gibb for his support over recent years.	
	ED paid tribute to Lyn Lovie who was an active member of Torphins Community	
	Council in the early 2000s. Lyn had a distinguished career in aviation and strong	
	family and community involvement. Lyn's funeral is on 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 1130, at Balldaroch.	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 previously by email:	TCC
	Adopted without changes. Proposed: John Lucas, Seconded: Eric Day	
4.	Dr Alastair Glennie, GP Partner	Dr AG
	Torphins Medical Practice and Kemnay Medical Group	
	Dr Alastair Glennie was warmly welcomed to the meeting and thanked for taking time	
	to update us, and answer questions about the medical practice.	
	Dr Glennie explained the national crisis in GP practice, exacerbated by the pandemic,	
	has left many practices struggling with staff shortage. Rather than losing practices	
	there is a trend to combining two or more practices for flexibility and sharing,	
	encouraged by Government policy, but easier to implement in urban settings than	
	widespread rural.	
	Torphins Medical Practice has been unique in what it offers with a doctor heavy	
	model in a nice place to work. Dr Glennie and his colleagues, having suffered GP	
	staffing pressure, saw the opportunity to share resource across Kemnay and Torphins	
	practices to maintain the best of both practices, enabling the continuation of working	
	in the smaller village role which they believe is effective. Including the two GP	
	partners, covering Torphins and Kemnay, plus salaried GPs in each location, Torphins now has access to 5 GPs and Kemnay 8 GPs. Furthermore, the attractive building at	
	Torphins provides the opportunity to add facilities and services within the location,	
	subject to funding and alignment with HSCP plans.	
	The initial plan is to maintain services as they are, taking time to learn and settle	
	down. Same day appointments are the preferred objective as this tends to keep	
	patients calmer, and the plan is to maintain a strong local service, benefitting from	

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4.	Dr Alastair Glennie, GP Partner Torphins Medical Practice and Kemnay Medical Group (Continued) the opportunity provided by the facility at Torphins. ED opened the questions by asking about the current ambulance crisis and the local impact. Dr Glennie advised there are adequate ambulances and staff numbers, the problem originates elsewhere. Lack of care facilities blocks hospital beds; blocked beds hold patients too long in A&E and ambulances queue with patients for admission, making them unavailable for new patients. A difficult problem to be solved with more care capacity.	
	Cllr GB referred to Aboyne Hospital and the health and social care Deeside Strategic Needs Assessment, which is yet to consult the community. The primary care bias should be to get services out to the community. The lack of care staff and poor pay driving the workforce crisis needs urgent attention. Cllr AK referred to Scottish Government action to improve the care sector. Dr Glennie said community hospitals are under utilised and he is strongly in favour of getting as much as possible out to the community, although the SNA outcome will have to fit with budgets. There is a shortage of buildings and budget but Aboyne Hospital and Torphins Health Centre are spaces to be used.	
	MM wondered why there had been such a lack of communication, from the former Torphins Medical Practice and the new practice as it took over and started up. Dr Glennie admitted GPs may not be good at communicating their intentions. Every practice is different and there are constraints around the transition process where practices are bidding for the contract.  CR recommended the TCC Newsletter as a vehicle to get messages directly into all the households in the TCC Area, since we make a point to deliver hard copy to every household in our TCC area.  WM suggested a Spring/Summer Newsletter after the upcoming AGM would be a	
	good vehicle for the practice to disseminate information.  CR asked what the policy is for face-to-face consultations. Dr Glennie advised there will be a mix of telephone and in person, since this provides more flexibility for patients and for the practice. The hybrid approach will have receptionist dependency however the intention is to see patients on the same day if they need seeing, while also minimising waiting times.  MM said waiting in the surgery was never an issue for patients as they understand	
	and value the GP time being given to others, while satisfied by certain knowledge they will see the GP themselves in due course.  AM asked for explanation of the out of hours GP service. Dr Glennie explained the same system has been in place since 2004, with the Health Board responsible for out of hours service. The shortage of GPs has led to an increased dependency on nurse practitioners rather than GPs. Fundamentally the process is call 111, referred to GMed, allocated resource with patient either going in or service coming out depending on need.  AM wound up the discussion with grateful thanks from all to Dr Glennie for his encouraging explanations, and with best wishes for the success of the practice.	
5.	Police Report:  The Police Report for April and May has now been received and was reviewed with no significant concerns noted.	PS
6.	Finance Report:  The bank balance is £2,950.26, comprising TCC free funds £1246.46 and restricted fund for TORCH £1,703.80, following receipt with thanks of generous £610.00 donation from Bread of Life to TORCH for community resilience effort.	ED

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7.	Planning Matters:  Noted matters are the application for a new house on the land adjacent to The Wolfings, Craigmyle Road; details awaited for fencing at Belton, Edingight Wynd; and progress with the old schoolhouse site, noting a continuous wall where the schoolhouse is to be demolished may be preferable to only a fence.	ED
8.	New Items:	
	8.1. AGM on 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022  WM reminded the meeting the TCC AGM will be on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7:30 pm, at Learney Hall with the Ordinary Meeting following at 8:00 pm. We are advised Kirsty Macleod of Marr Area office will attend.  8.2. Distribution of King George V Wind Turbine Funds	WM
	On 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 TCC Chairman AM emailed Dr George H Mennie, Chairman, KGVCP SCIO, requesting an explanation of the long closure period of the fund and what the plans are for the distribution of the sizable sum now accumulated. No response has been received.	AM, LM
	Following discussion and recommendation of Cllr GA the meeting resolved to write to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to express concern about how these community funds for AB31 Area are being managed by the King George V Community Projects SCIO.  8.3. TCC Insurance Cover for TORCH	AM
	TORCH will submit an application to SSEN for grant funding toward the purchase of a range of community resilience equipment, including generators for Learney Hall and for Tornaveen Community Hall. As a subgroup of TCC we sought a quotation from Zurich for insurance of the equipment. The annual cost quoted is £157.63, which is quite significant compared to TCCs available annual grant.	WM
	TCC asked Cllr GB if Aberdeenshire Council will accept insurance costs, given the generator will be attached to the building. Tornaveen is a community facility that may require separate discussion. Essentially the arrangement for management and insurance of community resilience assets needs a standardised agreement with Aberdeenshire Council for all communities.	Cllr GB
	<ul> <li>8.4. Review of Community Council Grants allocation received from Area</li> <li>The review of the Community Council Grant allocations as proposed by Area Office was reviewed. TCC is clearly in support of Option C, which provides the highest grant to smaller councils such as TCC.</li> <li>8.5. Learney Hall Caretaker position</li> </ul>	WM
	TCC had received a complaint from a resident regarding the potential change to caretaking for the Learney Hall, a new position having been advertised to increase staffing in the area. TCC recognises this is an operational matter, however resolved to	JL
	express satisfaction with the current holder by writing to Live Life Aberdeenshire officers.	Sec WM
	8.6. Disappointment with incomplete recent road repairs  Referring to the recent and much welcomed repairs to William Street, Grampian  Terrace and Innermarkie Wynd, ED expressed disappointment with the approach and final outcome. Photos were reviewed, illustrating the shortcomings to ClIr GB. The areas marked in yellow by Aberdeenshire for patching did not cover all areas of broken surface. Despite discussion with the contractor on site about concerns and recommendation to approach Aberdeenshire, there was no adjustment. Thus the opportunity to fix these streets for the long term will inevitably be lost, as areas likely to become notheles again have been left.	
	to become potholes again have been left.  Cllr GB wrote to Ian Peacock of Roads. Subsequently IP responded to TCC Secretary advising he will send an inspector. Secretary replied with detail explanation and photos, expressing willingness of TCC to meet on site to address the matter.	Cllr GB, IP

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9.	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 <a href="https://www.torphins.net">www.torphins.net</a> .	тсс
10.	<ul> <li>Correspondence:         <ul> <li>10.1. The communications received since last meeting have been distributed to members by email.</li> <li>E3 Hub Project offering groups assistance to improve media presentation</li> <li>Local Development Plan Newsletter</li> <li>Local Development Plan Teams meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30 pm regarding new development planning process</li> </ul> </li> <li>Marr Area Grants now available – Large Grant Scheme to £5000, deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Small Grant Scheme £2000</li> <li>Roads Dept. confirmed the broken surface areas on resurfaced Woodside Road have been reported to contractor to inspect when visit the area.</li> </ul>	WM
11.	<ul> <li>A.O.C.B.</li> <li>LM advised the meeting she had received complaints about the noise nuisance of dog barking from a specific home. A petition of 22 households has been received requesting action. The Dog Warden has visited however the problem remains constant. The owner does not seem willing to address the matter. It was resolved to write to Environmental Health and SSPCA regarding the matter. Confusion reigned as to how one noise complaint can risk closure by the authorities of a key business in the village, while 22 noise complaints apparently</li> </ul>	LM
	<ul> <li>receive no effective action from the authorities.</li> <li>Cllr GB advised the recruitment of a new head teacher for Torphins School is progressing towards final interview on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</li> </ul>	Cllr GB
	<ul> <li>Clr GB advised a complaint about a noisy car exhaust in Torphins. Police advise public to call 101 to report such matters for action.</li> <li>Cllr GB has asked Roads to look at large beech hedge as leaving Torphins heading</li> </ul>	Cllr GB
	<ul> <li>west at 30mph/40mph signs.</li> <li>Cllr GB advised she will follow up with the Council about the trees overhanging the road on Craigour Road, behind Craigour Avenue. The trees cannot be cut in the nesting season. Although it is not clear who owns the trees it is understood</li> </ul>	CIIr GB
	<ul> <li>Aberdeenshire have cut them before.</li> <li>ED noted the generous donation from Bread of Life to TORCH and recommended a letter of thanks, which TORCH has confirmed they are addressing.</li> </ul>	WM
12.	AGM: Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7:30 pm at Learney Hall, Torphins Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 8:00 pm at Learney Hall, Torphins	
13.	Meeting closed at 9:27 pm  Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022.  Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: Liz Moore	