



## 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.	<p><b>Present:</b> 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)</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Dr Alastair Glennie; Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (AK); Ted Ling</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Andrew Brazier (AB); Rev Holly Smith (HS); Cllr Sarah Brown (SB)</p> <p><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.</p>	
2.	<b>Intimation of noted interests:</b> None	
3.	<b>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 previously by email:</b> Adopted without changes. Proposed: John Lucas, Seconded: Eric Day	TCC
4.	<p><b>Dr Alastair Glennie, GP Partner</b></p> <p><b>Torphins Medical Practice and Kemnay Medical Group</b></p> <p>Dr Alastair Glennie was warmly welcomed to the meeting and thanked for taking time to update us, and answer questions about the medical practice.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	Dr AG

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4.	<p><b>Dr Alastair Glennie, GP Partner Torphins Medical Practice and Kemnay Medical Group (Continued)</b></p> <p>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&amp;E; and ambulances queue with patients for admission, making them unavailable for new patients. A difficult problem to be solved with more care capacity.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WM suggested a Spring/Summer Newsletter after the upcoming AGM would be a good vehicle for the practice to disseminate information.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Police Report:</b> The Police Report for April and May has now been received and was reviewed with no significant concerns noted.</p>	PS
6.	<p><b>Finance Report:</b> 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.</p>	ED

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7.	<p><b>Planning Matters:</b></p> <p>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.</p>	ED
8.	<p><b>New Items:</b></p> <p><b>8.1. AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>  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.</p> <p><b>8.2. Distribution of King George V Wind Turbine Funds</b>  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.  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.</p> <p><b>8.3. TCC Insurance Cover for TORCH</b>  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.  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.</p> <p><b>8.4. Review of Community Council Grants allocation received from Area</b>  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.</p> <p><b>8.5. Learney Hall Caretaker position</b>  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 express satisfaction with the current holder by writing to Live Life Aberdeenshire officers.</p> <p><b>8.6. Disappointment with incomplete recent road repairs</b>  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 Cllr 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 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.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>AM, LM</p> <p>AM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>Cllr GB</p> <p>WM</p> <p>JL</p> <p>Sec WM</p> <p>Cllr GB, IP</p> <p>Sec WM</p>

