



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
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Meeting Minutes Thursday 4 th May 2023 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS);</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK); David Birch (DB)</p> <p>Apologies: Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Liz Moore (LM); Rev Holly Smith (HS); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr Sarah Brown (SB)</p>	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	<p>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 6th April 2023 previously by email: Adopted as proposed without changes. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas</p>	TCC
4.	<p>David Birch, Head Teacher Torphins School: PA welcomed David Birch on his second visit to TCC, which is much appreciated. DB began by thanking the TORCH volunteers for snow clearing which enabled the school to remain open when many others had closed during the winter snow. Also thanks to Bread of Life for £2,000 donation to purchase the new scheme reading books for P1-P3. The Bicycle Ability classes are running for 5/6 weeks under the guidance of Margo Adamson to develop Cycling Proficiency in P6. DB is working with the Police to address the speeding problem outside the school, which is particularly bad in the afternoon when large groups of parents are in the area meeting their children from school. The Torphins School Improvement Plan has three priorities: Effective learning and teaching with emphasis on staff skills and development and particular attention to writing attainment, which generally has dipped post COVID and is a focus for at least 5% improvement. Parental and Stakeholder Engagement, which is focused on the whole parent body and is encouraged by around 20 parents spanning P1-P7 regularly attending Parent Council. Learning and Teaching Assessment in which national expectations are being raised. The school is proud of its success in the Aboyne District Rotary Quiz for P7, and in competition at Cults Academy, which was very satisfying for the team and the school. The current roll of the school is 158 in seven classes, plus all 20 nursery places filled. 15% to 20 % are from out of zone, which creates travel and drop off challenges. Sadly there are now only 2 FTE teaching assistants compared to 5 only five years ago. Opening the floor to questions SS asked if there are many children whose first language is not English. DB responded there are few in Torphins but that rural poverty is a challenge since government fails to recognise the additional cost of living in the countryside due to transport costs etc.</p>	DB

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8.	<p>New Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torphins Support Hub for Marr Log Bank: A request from Marr Log Bank was received by TCC to set up a support hub in Torphins. TCC has agreed with Mid Deeside Church that the support hub should be established at the Church by storing the logs there. Thanks to Mid Deeside Church. Torphins Community Council Elections: Nominations for the three open places on TCC are open until 11th May. The full details have been published on the notice boards, website, and Facebook. It is hoped a good response will be received to fill the vacant places. The timetable is as follows: Notice of Elections published 20th April 2023 Close of Nominations 11th May 2023 Ballot held if more nominations than places 24th May 2023 6-8pm at Learney Hall Area Office notify results 25th May 2023 AGM of TCC 1st June 2023 at 7:00pm. 	<p>AM, HS</p> <p>WM</p>
9.	<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
10.	<p>Correspondence: A very large volume of correspondence received has been distributed by email. Some key items to note and for future events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marr CC Catch Up on Teams on 10th May 2023, 7:00pm to 8:15pm, which will cover winter roads maintenance, speeding, and community resilience among others. Risk and Resilience Team briefing on Teams to elected members and community resilience groups (e.g. TORCH) on 24th May 2023 at 7:00pm Finalised Community Engagement Guide following the Participation Request Community Engagement meeting reviewing the guide, which is for guidance of Council Officers. Marr Community Action Plan 2023-25 Email from Alexander Burnett MSP regarding RES Newsletter, that he will respond regarding the problems with the development, and encouraging sign up to the Nae Fare newsletter. Public Engagement on Aberdeenshire’s new Local Transport Strategy – consultation open until 23rd June at: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/localtransportstrategy2023 	WM
11.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB has investigated alternative website costs. Cromar CC has a Google product with basic cost £65 pa, while The Improvement Service “the 'go-to' organisation for local government improvement in Scotland” offers support in website provision for community councils at £125 pa. AB to obtain further information about the Improvement Service offering and if it is suitable for TCC. Broadway fibre is going ahead in Aboyne and Banchory and confirmation is expected for Torphins by June. A resident complained about the 19% increase in Torphins - Aberdeen bus fare compared with average increases of 12%. TCC has recommended the quarterly Bus Forum, and Cllr AK will take up the matter for TCC and Torphins. 	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p> <p>AK</p>

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11.	AOCB (Continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr SB report confirmed through T Stephen that fitting Christmas lights on outside wall of Learney Hall will not be a problem but LLA have requested that whoever is putting up the lights please let the site staff know in advance of the dates (the Venues Coordinator at Deeside Community Centre) so officers can ensure the facility is ideally not booked out if the group have equipment on site on that day. 	Cllr SB ED
12.	Annual General Meeting: Thursday 1 st June 2023, 7:00 pm Learney Hall Torphins Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 1 st June 2023, 7:30 pm Learney Hall Torphins	
13.	Meeting closed at 9:08 pm	
	Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 5 th May 2023 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 1 st June 2023. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Colin Rouse	