



Torphins Community Council

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 7 th September 2023 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS)</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr Sarah Brown (SB)</p> <p>Apologies: John Lucas (JL); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr Anouk Kloppert (AK)</p>	
2.	<p>Intimation of noted interests: ED and CR expressed an interest in the matter of planning application APP/2023/1374.</p>	
3.	<p>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 6 July 2023 previously by email: Adopted as proposed without changes. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day</p>	TCC
4.	<p>Police Report: CC Report for Quarter to June 2023 received 10th July was reviewed and noted. North East Crime Alert of 5th September 2023 was reviewed and noted.</p>	PS
5.	<p>Finance Report: The bank balance is £12,796.55, being TCC funds £1,457.23, including £700.00 restricted funds from Bread of Life for festive lighting; Hardship Fund £1,717.87; and TORCH funds £9,621.45. TCC received £463.60 grant from Marr Area, and made sales of £79.00 on the Torphins Gala TCC Whisky Board. £35.00 fee paid for Data Protection registration. Hardship fund spent £117.13 on supplies for the Pantry at Mid Deeside Church.</p>	ED
6.	<p>Planning Report: APP/2023/1374 was discussed in depth following the meeting of two members with Chris Dall, Project Manager (Construction), Muirden Energy Ltd, for 1867 Townhouses Ltd, owner of the land on which the site is located. It is noted ash dieback has now been identified in the large number of ash trees on the site so these will likely have to be felled in the near future. It was decided to lodge an objection on the basis that there is inadequate detail of the type of house to be constructed on this site which is surrounded by other properties of merit, that the property should be cognisant of the existing pattern, and that replacement planting should be on site and contiguous with the site to protect wildlife patterns. AM to draft objection for submission by Secretary.</p>	ED AM, WM
7.	<p>New Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Lights: Thanks to Bread of Life for £700 toward maintenance and improvement. It was decided to improve the brackets on the lampposts and to raise further funds to enable the purchase of five replacement lamppost features. Next year we will fund raise to purchase a large new feature for the north window area of the hall. 	ED

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7.	<p>New Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter: It was decided to prepare for a Winter Newsletter for early distribution before bad weather. All members to submit ideas prior and at next meeting for articles to be progressed to publication. • Public Toilets: Noted the public toilets have recently been painted and are being maintained in an excellent condition. Secretary to write to Area Manager expressing TCC gratitude to the Council and particularly the local daily cleaner. • Resident Comment about Widespread Weeds on Roads and Pavements: TCC notes a comment addressed to TCC on Facebook. We responded at the time with general comment about Council policy however Cllr SB will follow up with the Service for specific information. • Recycling and Waste Collection Delays: Since the new system was introduced there has been a failure to collect certain locations on the due day on two successive occasions, although this week was on time. Instances were reported through due process. Questions were raised why the collection day had to be changed in the first place and generally how the new system is working. Cllr SB said there are no major issues since initial roll out matters. We agreed to patiently await continued improvement. • Parking at School: ED reported his extreme concern about hazardous situation at school when large numbers of parents are meeting children by car and parking near the school, exacerbated now by the welcome new service bus turning at the Learney car park at same time. To reduce the risk of a future accident we agreed to write the Head Teacher about our current concern (we note he has acted in past) and to invite the Head Teacher to our next meeting. Additionally Cllr SB will follow up on the Roads Dept review of potential physical changes to eliminate the parking infringements at the pedestrian crossings at Scotmid. • Abandoned Transit Van on Grampian Terrace: The abandoned vehicle on Grampian Terrace is believed to have Road Tax and MOT so is perhaps strictly not reportable and new information is available about probable ownership. It is hoped the vehicle will depart soon. We will follow up at next meeting. 	<p>CR</p> <p>CR</p> <p>Cllr SB</p> <p>WM</p>
8.	<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
9.	<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 Area Small Grant programme for max £2,000 is now open. • A Community Resilience Conference with Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Emergency and Resilience Services, Community Councils, and Resilience Groups will be held at Beach Ballroom on 2nd October. We understand our TORCH Chairman will MC and present. For event details and registration see link: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/aberdeenshire-community-resilience-strategy/news_feed/community-resilience-conference-registration-open 	WM

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9.	<p>Correspondence (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement Services webinars for CCs LDP Newsletter ref updates to process Digital Engagement Newsletter 	
10.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SS has received a complaint about the extent of re-wilding area in park limiting shady seating under trees in hot weather. Matter noted but the current management of the area is as agreed and seating is available at various points, including a covered area. SS reported a severe pothole at edge of Kincardine Road just south of village. SS to report on Aberdeenshire system. CR mentioned a question whether the hall keeper may attend meetings to be aware of issues and give any updates as appropriate regarding hall. A short discussion resolved as a Council employee is on duty in the hall this is not supported as an idea. The diligent work of the hall keeper is greatly appreciated and he is welcome to raise matters with individual TCC members. ED wished to confirm the date of Carols Around the Christmas Tree. We agreed Wednesday 20th December 2023, which date will be verified as suitable with Rev Holly Smith. WM reported his attendance at the meeting in Torphins on Wednesday organised by AHSCP regarding the potential for Community Led Care Provision in Torphins. The meeting was attended by around a dozen people including the presentation team of four from AHSCP, the Chairman of Braemar Care, Aberdeenshire Council and AVA. The meeting was very informative about the details and success of the Braemar Care project. TCC agreed to promote the idea when the Information Package is received, in case there is interest by any individuals in Torphins to pursue the idea. We understand the Care System in Torphins is relatively trouble free currently. Cllr SB reported Aboyne Library will reopen on Saturdays Lumphanan School Zoning Consultation (TTC no concerns) Aberdeenshire Doors Open is 16-17th September this year https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/built-heritage/door-open-days/ COSLA proposal to change Council Tax multipliers consultation: https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-fairer-council-tax/ Community Led Care meetings AM highlighted the important role of the TCC Hardship Fund and volunteer effort to contribute to stocks in The Pantry at Mid Deeside Church. AM asked if Aboyne academy is affected by the RAAC issue. We received confirmation next day from Cllr SB, which is reproduced below. Regarding discussions last night at TCC I can confirm that there is no RAAC at Aboyne Academy. I am anticipating further information shortly but I understand that investigations by both the councils building surveyors and structural engineers continue to progress apace across both the Aberdeenshire schools estate and wider property portfolio through assessments, visual inspections and intrusive surveys. Further intrusive surveys are to be undertaken to the previous identification of areas of RAAC installations at two academies and as a safeguard, a programme of investigations at 20 additional schools are being undertaken to confirm the type of construction, with these generally being in areas where underside of roof construction is concealed. This is a precautionary measure where visual inspections to-date have been inconclusive coupled with construction drawings being non-specific on this issue. I will update you with anything further in due course. AM questioned progress on TCC website cost and provision and offered to assist with a very low cost basic alternative. AB to continue investigation before decide. 	<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p> <p>CR</p> <p>ED</p> <p>WM</p> <p>Cllr SB</p> <p>AM</p> <p>AM Cllr SB</p> <p>AB</p>

