



## Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen  
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Meeting Minutes Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7:30 pm Virtual Meeting on Zoom		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p><b>Present:</b> Eric Day (ED); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM) (Chair); Liz Moore (LM); Colin Rouse (CR); Rev Holly Smith (HS)</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Cllr. Peter Argyle (PA); Alexander Burnett MSP; Cllr. Paul Gibb (PG); Carolynn Malone, Service Manager, Abbeyfield Scotland; Carole Foreman, Area Supervisor, Abbeyfield Scotland</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Hamish Booth (HB); Campbell Gillies (CG); Cllr. G. Blackett (GB)</p>	
2.	<b>Intimation of noted interests:</b> None	
3.	<b>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 previously by email:</b> Adopted without changes. Proposed: Liz Moore Secoded: John Lucas	TCC
4.	<p><b>Alexander Burnett MSP:</b></p> <p>We welcomed Alex Burnett MSP to the meeting primarily to share his experience and knowledge about the establishment of allotments and the bridge maintenance funding issue in Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>AB had noted our discussion of allotments in our minutes and felt he could offer assistance given his experience with making land available from Burnett of Leys Estate for Woodend Allotments at Banchory. His office can provide services for set up and leasing arrangements when suitable land has been identified. AB recommended we find a suitable site first, with the size required being determined through community consultation to gauge interest. Interested parties should be identified and engaged to form an active group to progress the development. The Craigmyle Estate has land in vicinity of Torphins however the primary local landowner to approach would be Learney Estate.</p> <p>Our Chairman AM said we are right at the start of the process and really need to facilitate a group to identify land and funding streams. CR thought we ought to assess interest to proceed. It was decided to promote the idea on TCC Website and Facebook and to invite a member of Woodend Allotments Committee to come along to TCC to share their experience.</p> <p>Regarding the bridge funding shortfalls in Aberdeenshire AB expressed concern about the 62 bridges across Aberdeenshire identified as under threat by 2030 if essential maintenance could not be funded. The Council is making the case for assistance from Scottish Government.</p> <p>Cllr PA explained the Council has written the Transport Minister, who declined additional assistance, and the Secretary of State for Scotland who deferred to the devolved government. The Council is developing a bridge strategy for it's 1300 bridges and 200+ significant culverts etc. to mitigate the impacts if funding is inadequate as will be indicated in the budget for 2021/22.</p>	

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4.	<p><b>Alexander Burnett MSP (Continued):</b>  AB, who is a member of the Scottish Finance Committee, expressed the difficulty of Central Government funding a devolved matter. The Scottish Fiscal Commission will be preparing for the draft budget in January/February 2021, and COSLA and the Council will have the opportunity to challenge that settlement if it is inadequate. TCC thanked AB for his attendance and helpful information, arising from following our minutes of meetings.  TCC Secretary will advise King Edward and Gardenstown Community Council of the discussion.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Abbeyfield Scotland, Carolynn Malone and Carole Foreman:</b>  Carolynn Malone and Carole Forman of Abbeyfield Scotland were welcomed, to explain the review and promotion of services by Abbeyfield nationally and in Torphins. We heard a brief history of the organisation and that it is a fully regulated Housing Association under OSCR, the Housing Inspectorate and The Scottish Care Inspectorate. Abbeyfield provides <u>independent</u> living for the over 55s within its facilities, however it is now enhancing its facilities to provide care services within Abbeyfield and out to the local community. Abbeyfield on request can provide companion services, cleaning, domestic help, visits if in crisis, and within the facilities games and activities. The house in Torphins can expand out to the community with qualified registered staff and is discussing possibilities with the Health and Social Care Partnership. Rooms are available, respite accommodation is possible, and care services could be provided if needed.  A productive discussion followed regarding how TCC can help raise the profile. It was agreed to encourage contacts to visit and use the Torphins facility; Abbeyfield will provide information for publication and promotion by TCC on torphins.net and Facebook and other means; and members are encouraged to visit Abbeyfield to find out more. Thank you to Carolynn and Carole for attending to inform TCC and the community, and for the highly valued provision of Abbeyfield House in Torphins.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Police Report:</b>  Report for October received 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – the meeting reviewed the report and noted the content.</p>	PS
7.	<p><b>Finance Report:</b>  The balance at bank is £2464.38, being:  TCC free funds £1,119.34, TERP £186.48, Festive Lights £418.56  Hardship Funds - Foundation Scotland Grant £540.00  - Stuart Family Donation £200.00</p>	ED
8.	<p><b>Planning Matters:</b>  <b>8.1. Weekly List of Planning Applications:</b>  APP/2020/1849 14 Craigour Road, conversion and change of use of shop to flat.  No concerns noted.  APP/2020/1961 demolish steadings and build two new dwellings at Birley.  The Developer Obligations for APP/2020/1961 are: Contributions towards internal reconfiguration works to Torphins Health and Resource Centre or such other facilities, which will offset the impact of the development. This proposal is supported however a question was raised as to how this obligation had been defined since there was no consultation with TCC. It appears Grampian Health Board may have identified the need. TCC resolved to quickly develop a list of proposals for the AC Developer Obligations department, to include for example developments at Learney Hall, Park Pavilion, new Allotments, all proposals having to provide an expansion of capacity within the community.</p>	ED          LM          TCC

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9.	<p><b>New Items (Action Items are added to Action Log):</b></p> <p><b>9.1. Remembrance Sunday Arrangements:</b> Formal gatherings for Remembrance Sunday are not permitted. The TCC Chairman will lay a wreath on behalf of TCC at 3:00 pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November and one or two other members may visit the area on an individual basis.</p> <p><b>9.2. Community Recognition:</b> Local boy Thomas Truby has been taking a lead in environmental improvement through the Rubbish Club and facilities to make dog poo bags available FOC around the Torphins area. In recognition of his work Thomas has won the Aberdeenshire's Future Award under the Inspiring Aberdeenshire initiative. TCC heartily congratulates Thomas for his outstanding work. It was resolved that the Chairman will take steps to recognise Thomas on behalf of TCC and the Torphins community.</p> <p><b>9.3. Woodland Wonderland:</b> WM reported that Torphins Paths Group will proceed with the Woodland Wonderland project for the festive season, with a light display in the woods between William Street and Monboddoo. TPG thanks TCC for promoting the project. Thank you to the many members of the community who have pledged financial support, so online fundraising will going ahead. This will fund the purchase of equipment to be installed by volunteers to brighten life in the evenings during early December to early January. Please help TPG meet the funding target by donating, with Gift Aid available, at <a href="http://www.torphinspathsgroup.org/donation">www.torphinspathsgroup.org/donation</a>.</p> <p><b>9.4. TERP Annual Review:</b> The Torphins Emergency Response Plan is scheduled for review annually after the AGM. To adequately prioritise the matter it was decided to hold a special meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to address the subject. Secretary to send invitation. Members to prepare to enable a focused and efficient meeting.</p>	AM  CR  AM  WM  TCC
9.	<p><b>Open Action Log:</b> 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="http://www.torphins.net">www.torphins.net</a>.</p>	TCC
10.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p><b>10.1.</b> The resignation from TCC of Dave Preston for personal reasons was received on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020. TCC thanks Dave for his contribution over the short time he was able to participate and sends best wishes to Dave for the future.</p> <p><b>10.2.</b> A very considerable amount of correspondence has been received by email regarding COVID-19 and government and community response and guidelines, including new targeted funding. All correspondence has been distributed to members and posted as appropriate on TCC media.</p> <p><b>10.3.</b> Aberdeenshire Council Digital Skills training online programme will proceed with sessions on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November which ED and WM will attend. Others wishing to attend need to register promptly.</p> <p><b>10.4.</b> Fraser McTaggart advised TCC of his Web Design and Marketing business and intention to establish an online local business directory. It was felt this could complement information in the TCC Welcome to Torphins booklet and Fraser has been invited to attend TCC to explain his project.</p> <p><b>10.5.</b> Aberdeenshire has advised the Council is not able to confirm at this time whether there will be Council provision of village bedding plants in 2021.</p> <p><b>10.6.</b> Aberdeenshire has circulated a draft Field to Fork Strategy and an Allotment Strategy for review. The second is particularly welcomed when TCC has been discussing an allotment proposal. Secretary submitted addition of Woodend Allotments and Tarland Community Garden to the register within the document.</p>	WM

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11.	<p><b>A.O.C.B.</b></p> <p><b>11.1.</b> JL requested again when the public toilets in Torphins will reopen. Cllr PA advised they are not to open yet however he will follow up on the matter.</p> <p><b>11.2.</b> ED expressed concern over the road safety risk of low winter sunshine and lack of central road markings on Beltie Road, particularly in the vicinity of Sunshine Nursery and Torphins School. The stopping of cars in the area increases the exposure. A reminder is directed to parents and others to avoid stopping on the Beltie Road carriageway in this area.</p> <p><b>11.3.</b> LM expressed frustration and concern about the heavy promotion of many new funds at this time when the Aberdeenshire Council is suffering financial cuts and struggling to maintain basic services, a concern shared by other members of TCC. Cllr PA said he would be interested for examples of the specific concern to be provided so he can assess the situation and potential response. LM will provide examples.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Next ordinary meeting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 at 7:30 pm on Zoom (link HS)</b>  <b>Special meeting for TERP review Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7:30 pm Zoom</b></p>	
13.	<p><b>Meeting closed at 9:57 pm</b></p>	
	<p><b>Adoption of Minutes:</b> These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.  Proposed: Colin Rouse      Seconded: John Lucas</p>	