



Torphins Community Council
Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen

The 37th Annual General Meeting Minutes Thursday 16th February 2017 at 07.30 pm Small Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Attendance and Apologies: Present: Hamish Booth (HB), Eric Day (ED), Campbell Gillies (CG), John Lucas (JL) (Chair), Will Maclean (WM), Linda Manning (LMa), Liz Moore (LMO), Nick Poulton (NP), Colin Rouse (CR) In Attendance: Cllr. Peter Argyle Apologies: Jayne Clarke (JC), Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB)	
2.	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6th February 2016: The minutes were adopted. Proposed: John Lucas, Seconded: Liz Moore	WM
3.	Chairman's Report: The Chairman, John Lucas, thanked retiring members, welcomed new members, and presented his report for 2016 per pages 2 to 4.	JL
4.	Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Eric Day, presented the detail Income and Expenditure Account for 2016 per page 5 supported by his Treasurer's report per page 6. For the year the Bank Balance brought forward was £1,835.17, Income was £2,663.18, Expenditure £3,787.41, resulting in closing Bank Balance £710.94. The Income and Expenditure Account for 2016 was adopted. Proposed: Colin Rouse, Seconded Liz Moore.	ED
5.	Retiral of Sitting Members: Sarah Fraser retired due to expiry of time according to the constitution, and did not offer herself for re-election. The resignation of Norman Morrice, which had been preciously intimated, was accepted.	JL
6.	Election of New Members: Torphins Community Council held the annual election in February 2017 prior to the AGM to maintain continuity of membership, particularly of previously co-opted members. The number of nominations was less than the number of open places therefore no election process was required. The members elected by nomination were: Campbell Gillies Linda Manning Liz Moore (continuing Vice Chair) Nick Poulton	JL
7.	Any Other Competent Business: TCC continues to seek new members to fill the two open places, particularly a representative for Tornaveen and younger members.	JL
8.	Close Meeting: The meeting closed at 8:00pm.	JL

Chairman's Report

2016 was yet another busy year for Torphins Community Council with a number of interesting, and challenging, matters arising. A number of members retired from TCC through the year, offset by some new members joining, resulting in the current membership sitting at 8. The maximum stated in the TCC Constitution is 12 with the minimum number being 5. Additionally, two new members will be joining TCC this evening, bringing the number of Community Councillors up to 10. On this front, Aberdeenshire Council is currently considering a number of changes to its "Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils". One very important proposed change being that the required membership for Community Councils will become 8 minimum and 20 maximum – irrespective of the size of Community Council area and population thereof. TCC, along with a number of other Community Councils, finds difficulty in maintaining its current Constitutional membership and an increase in the minimum requirement will purely serve to exacerbate the problem. Appropriate submissions will shortly be lodged with Aberdeenshire Council.

A number of major Planning Applications were submitted to Aberdeenshire Council during the year, these including:-

- A new development application from the owners of the (ex) Learney Arms Hotel. The previous application was rejected and the new one was given the support of the community at a second public meeting organised by TCC. The application was subsequently passed by Aberdeenshire Council, and we now have a, rather smart, new "Learney Arms" which is being well supported by members of the community.
- Application was submitted to build 6 private houses at "Brackenhill", at the far west end of Grampian Terrace. A meeting of interested parties was organised by TCC to allow those who may be affected to air their views / concerns, after which TCC submitted its comments to Aberdeenshire Council reflecting the content of the meeting. Subsequently, the application was approved – in principle - by the Marr Area Committee resulting in a further submission being lodged by TCC in respect of a number of points raised which had apparently been ignored during the Committee's deliberation. This application is as yet undecided.
- Application to demolish the old School House and replace with a row of 4 terraced houses. As this building has been an eyesore in the centre of the village for many years TCC, once again, organised a public meeting to allow members of our community to voice their opinions, and have input, on the project but the meeting was very poorly attended. This application (submitted by Aberdeenshire Council) has been recommended for approval and the legals are currently being worked on. It is expected that the property will be placed on the market this spring.
- Following on from their previous application, the owners of Station Garage have submitted a new – amended – application for development the front part of the site with housing. As the public meeting called by TCC to discuss the original submission was so poorly attended it was decided that TCC would proceed with submission of a response based on its previous comments rather than try to call another public meeting. This was done following a meeting with the architect and the application is currently undecided.
- A related application was submitted in respect of a flatted development of the Station Garage body shop, adjacent Station Square. TCC submitted its comments to Aberdeenshire Council and amended plans have been resubmitted. This application also remains undecided.

Other TCC activities and successes worthy of mention include:-

- Resurfacing of the footpath between Woodside Road and West Lodge was carried out, to allow easier access by members of the community. Prior to this work being done, a considerable quantity of dog excrement had to be removed from the sides of the path. A rather unpleasant task..... Which brings to the next item.
- The village, and surrounding areas, had been suffering from dog fouling due to small minority of irresponsible, anti-social and lazy dog owners not picking up after their pets. It was decided to launch a campaign in order to attempt to eliminate (or at least reduce) the problem by raising public awareness. This was spearheaded by Jayne Clarke, supported by the Brownies (and the “Green Dog Walkers' Code”) and included highlighting of dog fouling by pink chalk spray, the posting of signs around the main problem areas, and an increase in the number of waste bins for dog owners to conveniently use. After several months the campaign proved to be very successful resulting in a virtual elimination of the problem but, sadly, the problem seems to be returning – despite on going efforts by TCC and an increase in the fines that can be levied against offending dog owners. TCC will maintain its efforts to eliminate the problem and offending owners will be reported and, hopefully, fined.
- Repair and replacement of damaged “leaning” 'phone box at Sundayswells.
- The footbridge across the Beltie Burn, at Waulkmill Farm, has been unsafe (and closed) for several years. Aberdeenshire Council has now confirmed that it will replace the bridge, hopefully some time this year, when funds are available.
- A “Paths Group” has recently been formed with the objective of encouraging members of the community to exercise more by making current paths more accessible to all, and examining the possibilities of constructing new paths. Although a number of TCC members are involved with this Group it operates independently of TCC.
- A second Public Access Defibrillator – PAD - to be located at the church (which was kindly sponsored through donations).
- The annual problem of people leaving vast quantities of glass recycling outside the recycling bins in the park will shortly be resolved when Aberdeenshire Council rearranges the split of designated bins. As pointed out before, it is an offence to leave recycling outwith the bins provided and members of the community need to exercise common sense by either holding onto their recycling until space is available or, alternatively, taking the items to another centre where space is available.
- Speeding in the village has, for several years, been a problem and TCC constantly raises the matter with Police Scotland (and Grampian Police before that). A speed monitoring unit was recently placed at the north entrance to the village, adjacent the church, and the results recorder confirmed that there **is** a problem with speeding vehicles. The matter is currently being addressed by our local Police Scotland personnel, who are carrying out speed enforcement duties.
- Another road safety concern, of long standing, is that of vehicles travelling at excessive speed in the area of Campfield Filling Station. Following a meeting with Aberdeenshire Council's Principal Roads Engineer we understand that AC's Roads Department has subsequently recommended the imposition of a 40 mph speed limit on this stretch of road. We further understand that the process of implementing this is now under way. AC has also agreed to our request for the erection of signage reminding road users of the tragic fatality record on the Raemoir to Torphins road which will, hopefully, concentrate drivers' minds and encourage safer driving.

- Drainage in the park, and periodic flooding at the south east end, is an ongoing “work in progress” with AC. A small number of squirrel friendly trees will be planted at the west end of the park and this activity will involve the Primary School pupils. Additionally, plans are being worked on to establish a heather bed, within a small rock garden, around the Jubilee Stone.
- All of the flower tubs have now been adopted by members of the community, who have each accepted responsibility for winter planting and general maintenance throughout the year.
- The Learney Hall car park area, where we hold our Carol singing, has now been resurfaced.
- Both the TCC website and Facebook page are in operation although progress hasn't been as fast as we had hoped. Any assistance from a couple of young computer whizz kids would be welcomed!

Finally, I would offer my thanks to all of the people who have given TCC their support throughout the year. These include, but are in no way limited to:-

- Our elected Aberdeenshire Councillors, who regularly attend our meetings, and provide us with greatly appreciated support, information and guidance. It's through their assistance that many of our successes have been achieved. Unfortunately Councillor Katrina Farquhar has now moved on to pastures new and she will be missed by us all.
- All of the other AC staff who have also given us their support.
- Police Scotland for attendance and briefings at our meetings, although our local Officers are very stretched due to cut backs and resultant availability of personnel.
- Scotmid for its on going financial support.
- Tarland & Mid Deeside Community First Responders for its PAD financial donation.
- Bread of Life for its PAD financial donation.
- John Watson for his PAD financial donation.
- Brian Murray for setting up the TCC website (www.torphins.net) and Facebook page (Torphins Community Council).
- Both Nick Edgar and Alistair Arbuthnott for their annual assistance in reaching the “high up bits” when we are erecting, and dismantling, the village Christmas decorations.
- The “Decorations Squad”, led by Eric Day and the “Carols Around the Tree Refreshments Squad” led by Eleanor Day.
- Both “Notes from Torphins” and the “Praise Band” for their input around the Christmas Tree.....and, of course, the Rev Alex Wark for reminding us why we were all there singing Christmas carols. The event was well attended by members of the community who donated very generously to TCC funds.
- Last, but by no means least, I have to thank all of my TCC colleagues – past and present - who quietly beaver away all year round trying to make our community area a better place for us all to live in. Unless you're directly involved with the Community Council it's difficult to appreciate just how much work is involved. It's far from purely a monthly meeting. We are fortunate in currently having an enthusiastic and active Community Council whose members all work very well together and happily give their time for the benefit of community. We do, however, need the continued support of our community in general and I would encourage all community members to take the time to read the agendas and minutes of our monthly meetings in order to keep abreast with TCC activities. Meeting minutes, from 2014, are posted on the website and all TCC monthly meetings are open for members of the community to attend.

John Lucas, Chairman, Torphins Community Council

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Account

TORPHINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

INCOME

Balance C/fwd		£1,835.17
Aberdeenshire Council Admin Grant		£570.59
Donation from Scotmid towards repair of Xmas Snowflake		£240.00
Guess the Whisky' Torphins Gala		£103.05
Donations towards 2 nd Defibrillator		
John and Mary Watson	£250.00	
Bread of Life Charity	£500.00	
Tarland & Mid Deeside Community First Responders	£781.10	
Donations from Carols Round the Tree		£218.44
	Total Income	<u>£4,498.35</u>
	Less Total Expenditure	<u>£3,787.41</u>
		<u>£710.94</u>
Balance at Bank at 31/12/16		<u>£896.50</u>
Minus Cheques not Cleared		
Jayne Clark	£35.56	
Robert Reid	£150.00	£185.56
Actual Balance at 31/12/16		<u>£710.94</u>

1ST JANUARY 2016 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2016

EXPENDITURE

Tornaveen Community Association part funding of planning application	£200.50
Ballater Flood Fund	£100.00
Aggregate for Monbodo Path	£168.35
Replacement Door for Telephone Kiosk	£386.84
Kiosk Paint and Straps	£71.40
Blachere Repair of Xmas Snowflake	£623.89
Whisky + Displays at Torphins Gala	£65.80
Pitch at Torphins Gala	£20.00
Donation to Roxburgh House (Liz Hendry)	£30.00
Aviva Cabinet – Defibshop	£501.60
Defibrillator – WEL Medical	£1,033.50
Setting up of TCC Web Site	£180.73
Mulled Wine etc. for Carols round the tree	£104.64
Fittings for Xmas Lights	£16.72
Chalk Spray – Dog Fouling Campaign	£35.56
Flowers for Winter Tubs	£97.88
Preparations + Planting up of Summer Tubs	£150.00
Total Expenditure	£3,787.41

Treasurer's Report

Detail of Income and Expenditure

DONATIONS:

Tornaveen Community Association Part Funding towards Planning Application	£200.50
Ballater Flood Fund	£100.00
Roxburgh House (Liz Hendry Memorial)	£30.00
	<u>£330.50</u>

2nd DEFIBRILATOR

Funded by Donations from:-	
John and Mary Watson	£250.00
Bread of Life Charity	£500.00
Tarland First Responders	£781.10
Difference made up by TCC	£4.00
	<u>£1,535.10</u>

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

Donations on night includes £10.50 for 3 Bottles of Mulled Wine sold as not required)	£218.44
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Less Costs:

Mulled Wine, Mincemeat Pies, Juice, Biscuits etc. £104.64 - £10.50 (Wine returned)	£104.64
Hire of Hall – Awaiting Invoice	£35.64
<u>Profit</u>	<u>£78.16</u>

Not including donations:- Licence and 4 doz.
Mincemeat Pies Value £17.50

GUESS THE WHISKY – TORPHINS GALA

Ticket sales	£103.05
Costs:	
Bottle of Whisky	£37.00
Timber for Displays	£28.80
Cost of Pitch	£20.00
	<u>£85.00</u>
<u>Profit</u>	<u>£18.05</u>

VILLAGE FLOWER TUBS

Preparation and Planting of Summer Flower Tubs Remuneration to Robert Reid	£150.00
Provision of Plants for Winter Flower Tubs Robert Reid	£97.88
	<u>£247.88</u>

REPAIR OF TELEPHONE KIOSK AT SUNDAYSWELLS

Replacement door for kiosk – Nick Edgar	£386.84
Paint and Straps for Door	£71.40
	<u>£458.24</u>

TCC WEBSITE

Ownership of Domain Name "torphins net" For 2 years until April 2018	£28.15
Annual Website 'premium plan' to 28/4/17	£111.75
Annual Email Service for torphins.net to 30/4/17	£40.83
	<u>£180.73</u>

REPAIR OF XMAS SNOWFLAKE

Blachere Repair of Xmas Snowflake	£623.89
Less Donation from Scotmid	£240.00
Cost to TCC	<u>£383.89</u>

MONBODO PATH REPAIRS

Aggregate etc. for Monbodo Path	£148.35
Fuel for Transport	£20.00
	<u>£168.35</u>