



Torphins Community Council

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Meeting Minutes Thursday 3 May 2018 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Present: Hamish Booth (HB); Eric Day (ED); Campbell Gillies (CG); John Lucas (JL) (Chair); Will Maclean (WM); Liz Moore (EM); Nick Poulton (NP); Colin Rouse (CR) In Attendance: Cllr. Peter Argyle (PA); Cllr. Paul Gibb (PG) Apologies: Andy Cowie (AC); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB)	
2.	Intimation of noted interests – None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 5 April 2018: Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas	TCC
4.	Police Report: Police Report received 7 th April 2018 was reviewed with no particular concern, except the content regarding Police speed checks raised the matter of two recent speeding incidents reported to TCC members. In particular regarding Campfield there is concern that the average speed of vehicles in the 40 mph zone is rising as many are now breaking the speed limit, mainly in the morning peak. Peter Grey at the filling station confirms this. Cllr. PA will recommend a speed check at the location to Inspector Smith.	Police Scotland TCC Cllr. PA
5.	Finance Report: Balance at 3 rd May is £3,511.70, including remaining £2,128 ring fenced for TERP. The grant and expenditure for the new notice board have been processed. The annual Community Council grant from Aberdeenshire Council of £542.67 and Data Protection Registration Fee of £35.00 has been received.	ED
6.	Planning Matters: 6.1. Weekly Lists of Planning Applications: Application APP/2018/0852 for Stables at Mains of Beltie is noted. The Planning Dept. has now provided a legible map and there are no particular concerns and trees screen the development. APP/2018/0859 for a change of use to Beauty Salon at the former Funeral Directors is welcomed. Roads had a concern regarding parking, however since the location was previously retail Roads accept the application as is.	ED
7.	New Items: 7.1. Local Development Plan 2021: The Special Public Meeting on 2 nd May 2018 was considered a success with 35 members of the public attending. Separate minutes have been issued for that meeting which detail attendance, feedback and actions. Referring to current developments relative to the LDP it is noted that Station Garage development will proceed but is on hold for six months. The Brackenhill development application has been withdrawn. The flats at garage site at Station Square are not a required LDP bid as the site is relatively small and on a brownfield site.	JL/ED

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7.	7.2. Japanese Knotweed: CR raised concern about the presence of Japanese Knotweed in the woodland at Inchley Place and the threat to neighbouring properties and the wider village. Cllr. PA will follow up with an expert at Aberdeenshire Council.	CL Cllr. PA
8.	Open Items: 8.1. Old School House: Still no interest is reported. Cllr. PA has reinforced with officials the ring fencing of proceeds to fund an upgrade of the Learney Hall. 8.2. Community Action Plan: No new report. 8.4. Torphins Emergency Response Plan: Aberdeenshire Council has advised the generator may be stored on site at the hall. A number of operational items have been purchased and more are being purchased with the SSE grant. 8.5. Newsletter: The Newsletter narratives are complete with photographs and formatting in progress. The Newsletter will include registration details for the TERP, which will also be made available online at torphins.net. LM will distribute the latest version for review and CR will look into final format preparation for printing. The Newsletter will be followed by Village Welcome Pack. 8.6. Notice Board: The notice board is expected for delivery to Torphins this week with thanks to Alistair Arbuthnott and Addison haulage contractors. Installation on site will be by Aberdeenshire Council. ED is investigating the old board and following up on sale to Mid Deeside Community Council or other party if they are not interested. 8.7. Torphins Park: The drainage situation continues to be monitored by Aberdeenshire Council in case problems do not resolve in drier weather. It has now been confirmed the Council will paint the play park equipment over summer months. 8.8. Roads: 8.8.1. Extension of 30 mph limit north of village: NP has written a gentle request to the Senior Roads Engineer to speed this matter, which has been open for many months to years. 8.8.2. Informal Laybys at Campfield Filling Station: Cllr. PA advised Roads are pleased to close and fill the unofficial lay by to the east of Campfield Filling Station, and the owners agree. The unofficial lay by opposite the filling station is more difficult as delivery tankers use the area when turning into the filling station. Cllr. PA will review this again with Roads for a solution. CG suggested mirrors at the junction would help sight when pulling out at the junction but Cllr. PA advised Roads will not fit and do not support mirrors. JL suggested a flashing speed limit sign to improve behaviour. Cllr. PA advised the Council is moving away from fixed signs to mobile signs so there could be an opportunity for a mobile sign in future. 8.8.3. LM raised a concern about the lack of visibility and exposure to pedestrians at the sharp left turn from Craigour Road onto Woodside Road. It was felt that in the current economic circumstances there is little likelihood of improvements here. Pedestrians are recommended to use alternative routes by Wellburn Park. 8.9. Overgrown Hedges and Vegetation: Cllr. PG has sent the documentation to the Senior Roads Engineer, asking the Council to contact the listed residents and advising them of their responsibilities to maintain their hedges to ensure pedestrian movement is not impaired. 8.10 TCC Logo Proposal: JL presented a draft logo for feedback prior to investing time in additional detail. The recommendation was deemed worthy of further work to finalise the new design.	Cllr. PA LM JL LM ED JL AC NP Cllr. PA LM LM Cllr. PG AC Roads JL

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8.	<p>8.11. Waste Bin on Learney Avenue: It has been confirmed the Learney Avenue waste bin was removed illegally. Aberdeenshire Council has a new supply of bins at Banchory and will assign one to Learney Avenue. This theft has created work and unnecessary expense for the Council, who are nevertheless acting promptly to replace the bin.</p> <p>8.12. Festive Lights Meeting: ED recently attended a meeting with Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services officials on the matter of the new proposals for testing of lamp posts by Community Councils and other voluntary organisations who wish to fit festive lights, hanging baskets, etc. to lamp posts, and the recharging to Community Councils the cost of electricity used, rather than Aberdeenshire Council paying as in past. All this saves £12,000 across Aberdeenshire. ED advised the meeting was frustrating with lack of clarity and understanding by the officials, and when ED subsequently submitted a schedule of lamp posts to obtain specifications from the owners, Aberdeenshire Council, it was clear the officials did not understand their own proposals as they did not know why he was asking. The proposals recommended by Infrastructure Services officials will be very onerous and costly for Community Councils and others, threatening the possibility of continuing to provide festive lighting. Cllr. PA advised the elected members are well aware of the issues and concerns and the need for safety to be addressed. The proposals will be considered at a future Infrastructure Services Committee meeting, of which committee Cllr. PA is Chair.</p> <p>8.13. Dog Fouling: JL has prepared and posted new posters to resurrect awareness and push again for compliance by dog owners.</p> <p>8.14. Torphins Paths Group Feasibility Report and Public Engagement: WM advised TCC the feasibility study by Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, primarily funded by EU South Aberdeenshire LEADER and Marr Area Large Projects Grant has been completed. The results were presented to a well attended public engagement meeting of over 50 people at MDC Lochnagar on 24th April 2018. The proposals are for path developments in Torphins from William Street to Monboddie to MDC and eastern end of Learney Avenue, plus development of green, blue and red routes in Torphins Wood largely following the existing trod core path. Routes to Lumphanan and Banchory have also been defined, substantially following the line of the dismantled railway where feasible. The route to Banchory would initially follow the Beltie Burn, providing a southerly leg to a Torphins orbital route, and is supported by the developer of the proposed Annesley housing site. All developments will be subject to landowner agreement, however some agreements in principle have already been achieved. The Group will also publish walking routes in the near future and will begin a maintenance programme with volunteers, using the tools donated by Aberdeenshire Council. The public engagement meeting was unanimously supportive of the proposals, which the Group now plans to advance with volunteer support, landowner agreements, funding applications, and planning and design and build activities.</p>	<p>Cllr. PA AC</p> <p>ED</p> <p>Cllr. PA</p> <p>JL</p> <p>WM</p>
9.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>9.1. The Community Council training event at Aboyne on 19th May was reported, following up on email already sent, with those interested asked to register.</p> <p>9.2. An email has been received from Alexander Burnett MSP requesting he be added to the distribution of community councils. TCC agreed and added AB MSP.</p> <p>9.3. Learney Hall curtains have been missing for some time after removal last year for repair and cleaning by AC facilities dept. Cllr. PG has followed up and quotes are now being obtained for the repair, clean and rehang of the curtains. Hopefully the saga will be resolved soon.</p> <p>9.4. The letter from Mr. and Mrs. Dow regarding the former funeral director's business has been replied to with thanks for the information and pledging support for the new business negotiating a lease of the premises at 1 Station Square, this being the proposed Beauty Salon.</p>	WM

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9.	9.5. Strategic Development Plan: Following notification of the Strategic Development Plan Main Issues Report it was agreed TCC would submit a response. The response has been submitted and has been acknowledged by the SDPA with reference MIR18002.	
10.	<p>AOCB:</p> <p>10.1. JL advised the new constitution will be tabled for approval at the TCC meeting on 7th June 2018.</p> <p>10.2. JL has requested James, the hall keeper to report the Learney Hall clock failure to Claire at IS. The clock has stopped and the light has failed.</p> <p>10.3. CL requested TCC preparation for Torphins Gala be added to the June meeting agenda.</p> <p>10.3. CG expressed his extreme concern about the major potholes on the unclassified road running north from Campfield Filling Station. The road is used by increasing numbers of vehicles, in particular heavy agricultural machinery. Specifically the damage to this road demands repair by Aberdeenshire Roads. More generally there is very significant concern that the lack of a proper planned maintenance for all roads in general is leading to major potholing and road degradation that will be more costly to remediate in the long run than proper ongoing preventive maintenance, such as regular surface dressing to prevent water ingress before problems arise. This is recognised as a national funding issue but one that needs a new approach.</p> <p>10.4 CG also requested a pavement should be provided to connect the housing on this road running north from Campfield Filling Station due to the volume of traffic and risk for pedestrians. CG asked what are the standards that define when a pavement has to be provided by Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>10.5. Cllr. PG notified the meeting of the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership Aberdeenshire Wellbeing Festival, which runs from 16 to 22 May and is highly recommended.</p> <p>10.6. HB requested more, smaller, sand boxes be provided by AC in the areas where elderly and less able people live. What are needed are many more localised small boxes rather than a few large boxes.</p> <p>10.7. NP noted the water run off from upper Learney Avenue has increased since the tree felling in the area and requests culverts be maintained and cleared to prevent serious water damage occurring.</p> <p>10.8. JL asked what plans are in place for the clear up of Torphins Woods after the tree felling there. HB advised he understands the Estate plans to clear up the Torphins Woods and will commence with the coming of dryer spring and summer seasons.</p> <p>10.9. CG advised his pleasure in sighting red squirrels at his garden since installing a nut store for squirrels. CG recommends others take action to encourage and support the red squirrel population in the area.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>JL AC CL/WM</p> <p>CG</p> <p>CG</p> <p>Cllr. PG</p> <p>HB</p> <p>NP</p> <p>JL</p> <p>CG</p>
11.	Next Ordinary Meeting: Thursday 7th June 2018	
12.	Meeting closed at 9:37 pm	
	<p>Adoption of Minutes:</p> <p>These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 6th May 2018 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 7th June 2018.</p> <p>Proposed: Liz Moore Seconded: Eric Day</p>	