

# Torphins Community Council

## Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting

The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Torphins Community Council, which serves the electoral district of Torphins, Glassel and Tornaveen, was held on Thursday 3rd February, 2011 in the Small Learney Hall, Torphins

1. **Those present:** Liz Moore (Vice-Chair), Eric Day (Treasurer), Anna Fraser (Secretary), Sheila Blair, John Lucas, Emma Pattullo, Gordon Pirie, Robert Reid, Steve Thorn.  
**In attendance:** Councillor Rosemary Bruce, Rona Edgar, Gordon Smith.  
**Apology for absence:** Councillor Peter Argyle, Richard Owens.
2. **Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010.** These were agreed as a true and accurate account. Proposed: Liz Moore, Seconded: Emma Pattullo.
3. **Chairman's Report:** Liz Moore presented the Annual Report. Liz praised the efforts of Denis Christie during his time as Chair of TCC. TCC would like to thank Liz for standing in as Chair following Denis' resignation. (Report attached)
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Eric Day presented audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and gave his report on these accounts. They show a balance £1,099.08. (Report attached)
5. **Retiral of sitting members:** One member, Anna Fraser, was due to retire having served 3 years on TCC and duly did so. Three members tendered their resignation, Anne Allardyce, Denis Christie, Richard Owens and Emma Pattullo, resulting in a total of five vacancies.  
One valid nomination has been received and Rona Edgar was duly elected onto TCC. Liz Moore proposed co-opting Anna Fraser onto TCC until the next AGM, this was seconded by Sheila Blair. Three vacancies remain unfilled.  
Notice to be placed on the website and on the noticeboard advertising vacancies.
6. **Election of New Members:**  

<b>Chair:</b> Steve Thorn	Proposed: Liz Moore	Seconded: Gordon Pirie
<b>Treasurer:</b> Eric Day	Proposed: John Lucas	Seconded: Robert Reid
<b>Vice-Chair:</b> Liz Moore	Proposed: Gordon Pirie	Seconded: Eric Day

John Lucas agreed to continue as roads correspondent.  
Sheila Blair agreed to continue as our link with the senior members of the community.  
Anna Fraser agreed to continue as secretary.
7. **Any Other Business:** There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

## **Torphins Community Council**

### **Chairman's Report to the AGM for the year 2010/2011**

Presenting this report is not something that I anticipated having to do this time last year and it was certainly not something that I ever wanted to do but following the resignation of our Chair Denis Christie it fell to me to undertake this task.

Denis' resignation in the middle of the year caught the TCC membership by surprise. We greatly missed his competent, dedicated and committed leadership; however we understood his reasoning and set out to continue to complete work that was ongoing.

During the time since Denis left I have been truly impressed and grateful for the ongoing support of fellow members. It never fails to surprise and impress me just how much time and effort members are prepared to make for the village.

Anna Fraser has and continues to be our communication and information guru a secretary extraordinaire, we are deeply indebted to her for her commitment and efficiency.

Gordon Pirie has accepted the thankless responsibility for planning matters, and Eric Day continues to keep an accurate eye on the Council's finances, all of these tasks are significant undertakings in terms of time commitment and responsibility. I would like to thank them for all their efforts.

#### **The membership**

We started this year with a full membership following the first community council election for some time. The council members were encouraged by the enthusiasm shown in the election, the turnout of the community to express their views and the resulting full membership and the feeling of legitimacy that the election engendered for members.

We end the year saying thank you to Anne Allardyce and Richard Owens who are retiring.

Emma Pattullo is also stepping down. Throughout the last couple of years Emma's ongoing enthusiasm and positive approach to the TCC's activities, her design and art work has resulted in striking and successful advertising for village events and we are grateful and relieved to hear that she is not to sever all links with us rather she will remain as a resource for us offering artistic advice and design as well as thankfully continuing with the production of the village directory. For both of these offers and her past work we have been and are very grateful.

#### **Planning**

The Local development plan kept our planning officer Gordon Pirie busy, at the moment we are watching and waiting the final stages of the plan's progress.

Locally there have been a number of developments that have exercised the minds of members. In particular I think of the trial wind turbine and the presentation about the potential development around the Station Garage showroom and the proposed extension to the church.

Currently the redevelopment of the church (currently Mother Hubbards) into the new local store has been foremost in our minds. It feels to be very important to get the changes to the building and the surrounding land right as it will hugely impact on the look and feel of the village for a very long time. For all Gordon Pirie's efforts and his patience we say thank you.

#### **Crime**

The village is fortunate to be an area with a low crime rate.

A number of complaints have been made to the police this year most of which have been successfully resolved.

There continues to be a small amount of petty vandalism, reported underage drinking which often becomes associated with litter and nuisance.

There continues to be anxiety about the noise and speed of a number of cars driven by young drivers.

There has also been frequent comment on the number of early morning 'Daddy Drivers' who travel through the village with no regard to the speed limit. Speeding is one of the most frequently raised concerns, the police are tackling the problem, having monitored and checked the traffic flow and we are encouraged that they will repeated the monitoring exercises in the near future.

The extension of the 30mph and 40 mph speed zones has been difficult with works and process not being synchronised however we hope that the new zones will be operational soon and that it will have an impact on the speeding problem

The community have responded to requests from the police to report incidents and to provide sufficient detail and witness corroboration. This cooperation has helped to improve and to help resolve a number of situations.

The community action plan includes actions that will hopefully lead to a further reduction in these nuisances as well as to a greater understanding of the positions of the wider communities.

### **General state of the village**

There have been a number of ongoing projects to improve the appearance and environment. of the village. The village fountain is being restored, the Reid family have worked particularly hard to plant and maintain the flower beds and troughs around the village and we are a very appreciative of their efforts. This coming year the number of flower displays will be greatly increased as we have been able to purchase additional wooden troughs that will be located and planted around the village. These troughs were funded by a donation to the village by the late John Robertson.

The TCC has been active in encouraging the completion of the sale of the school house as its current dilapidated state is both a source of some anxiety and its ever deteriorating appearance detracts seriously from the look of the village centre. Our local elected members have endeavoured to keep us up to date with any progress; the speedy completion of that sale continues to be a priority for the TCC.

Another ongoing issue is the recycling point in the centre of the village. We are about to have a consultation on the possibility of the bins being removed from the village centre to be added to the number in the park. The action planning event made us aware of just how many people felt that the bins are detrimental to the appearance of the village centre. We hope that this issue will be finally resolved soon.

The village warden scheme was in place again last summer the incumbent worked very hard and efficiently to keep the village looking cared for.

We have been pleased to have the local public toilets refurbished

The community council took ownership of the two local red telephone boxes that we felt enhanced the appearance and atmosphere of the village.

We have worked with the local authority to resolve difficulties around the usage of the village hall so that local groups should no longer be experiencing difficulties in booking the hall

December saw the village in seriously sub zero temperatures organising the annual carol concert, despite the weather there was a good turnout and a there was a friendly warm atmosphere

engendered in no small part by our musicians, it was a great pleasure to welcome them along with the Rev Peter Taylor who did a masterful job as 'master of ceremonies'.

Sheila Blair with Eleanor and Eric Day are to be congratulated on both their culinary and organisational skills.

The TCC have worked in partnership with a number of organisations, the school has been really enthusiastic supporting us with adverts for various events, and helping us with the development of the community action plan.

The Marr Area Partnership has supported us both financially and physically.

The Upper Deeside Community Development Group have also supported our work to improve the village. We have links with the walking to health group and with the local 'Patients' Participation Group'.

The Local police attend our monthly meetings when duties permit but they always keep us up to date with developments and respond promptly to enquiries

We appreciate the attendance of our local elected members and the contribution that they make.

**Christmas lights** We continue to deliver the plan to have the village brightly decorated for Christmas. Local businesses, the Round table and the MAP have donated towards the purchase of lights. Again we are indebted to the Learney Estate for the donation of the Christmas tree and to Nick Edgar, Eric Day for their efficient management of the decorations

### **Roads matters**

Some matters of the roads have already been mentioned however the bridge on Bridge Crescent was deemed to be in need of a weight restriction, this combined with a number of requests to tackle a level of antisocial and dangerous driving practises lead to the presentation of five possible solutions for consideration, following a number of consultations the option favoured by the village has been agreed and will be trialed for a twelve month period starting quite soon.

### **Website**

We monitor the progress and increasing usage that is being made of the website. We are increasingly using it as a means of communication and our thanks go to Gordon Smith for his permission to use his site efforts and to John Lucas who in addition to monitoring the issues associated with roads acts as a very efficient go-between'between.

### **Community Action Planning**

We held our first community action planning event early in the year, we combined it with the TCC election. It was a huge success gathering information and views from across the community. The Action plan should be published by Easter and will be launched with a village event soon thereafter.

The village now needs to take ownership of the plan and work to achieve their goals.

Some 'quick wins' have been identified that we hope will encourage people to become involved working to achieve the communities' vision for its future. We hope to be able to deliver the first of these - the upgrading of the pathway between Monboddo Road and the entrance to Craigmyle Estate before the end of March

I had intended to keep this short but I felt that it would be wrong to ignore the work and achievements that the TCC working as a team have achieved this year.

I would like on behalf of the village to thank you all for your efforts.

Liz Moore Vice chair acting as Chair

# Torphins Community Council.

## Financial Report 2010

Please see Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

Income this year was £1099.08. Apart from the annual grant from Aberdeenshire Council, this includes a donation of £100 towards Xmas Decorations from the local Vets, plus funding received from the Marr Partnership for the Youth Views Project.

The previous three years show Income received, compared to 2010, as follows:-

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
£2299	£1764	£3227	£1099

Advertising from the production of the Village Directory boosted funds during the preceding years. The directory was not produced in 2010.

Expenditure through the year amounted to £1372.91.

Compared with previous years

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
£2581	£1804	£4734.	£1372

Expenditure, which had to be monitored closely this year due to a reduced Bank Balance, covered the following:-

- . Repairs to the Tornaveen Notice Board - £168
- . Purchase of new Flower Barrels - £120
- . Website Support - £175
- . Youth View Project – Funded by Marr Partnership £350
- . Xmas Lights & Equipment - £166. Partially funded by £100 Donation

Other costs are itemised on the report.

### In Summary

#### **Main outgoings**

Continued Maintenance of Village Notice boards  
IT Costs  
Renewal of Flower Barrels and up keep of same  
Youth View Project – Fully funded by Marr Partnership  
Repairs to Sundays Wells Telephone Box  
Newspaper Announcement for AGM and Electrical  
Roster  
Electrical fittings, lights and plugs for Xmas

Decorations – Partial funded by Donation from  
Woodside Vets.

**Photocopier** : This does not appear to be used as much as in the past. No additional paper has been supplied this year, although the ink cartridge was replaced earlier in the year. Income from the photocopier is not yet known but it is expected that this will show, at best, no more than a break even situation.

**Flower Barrels**: Five new barrels were purchased at the beginning of 2010 to replace the existing tubs which are deteriorating. It is expected that the new barrels will be put in place in the Spring.

**Carol Concert**: On paper the Carol Concert showed a profit of £44.36. However, three donations totalling £65 were made. The bill for the hire of the hall has not yet been received. Taking all of these into account, a loss would have been made.

**Xmas Lights**: Additional money had to be spent on the electrical cables and plugs to comply with Health & Safety requirements now the connections for the lights are situated on the outside of the hall. A further set of lights had also to be purchased due to vandalism of previous sets. £100 was donated by the local vets towards the lights. TCC are very grateful for this donation.

**Total Donations Received:-**

**Scotmid** donated vouchers to the value of £100 towards the Carol Service.  
£50 worth of vouchers was used in the purchase of wine, etc. £50 worth of vouchers are still available for use next Xmas. This is a generous donation for which the TCC are very grateful.

**Woodside Vets**: £100 donation towards Xmas Lights

**Anna Fraser**: Donated £10 to purchase the License for the Carol Service

**Liz Moore**: Donated £5 to purchase the plastic cups for the Carol Service

**Eric Day**: Donated £14 to purchase two bottles of wine given in appreciation for assistance by Nick Edge and Colin Rouse to erect and dismantle the Xmas Lights and Xmas Tree.

**Banchory & District Round Table**: **A Donation of £600 made January 2011 for the sole purpose of providing additional Xmas Lights for Torphins. They have asked that this money be ring fenced for this purpose. The TCC would like to show it's appreciation for this very generous donation.**