

# **Torphins Community Council**

## **Minutes of the meeting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 Held in the Small Learney Hall**

**1. Present:** Liz Moore (Vice Chair), Anna Fraser, (Secretary),  
Eric Day (Treasurer), Sheila Blair, Denis Christie (Mins),  
John Lucas, Gordon Pirie

**2. Apologies:** Steve Thorn

**In Attendance:** Cllr Peter Argyle, Cllr Rosemary Bruce

### **3. Police Report:**

In attendance were two of our local Officers Morrison & Wallace

They indicated that speeding checks had recently been carried out in the village but few cars had actually been travelling over the speed limit. For logistical reasons it is not possible to carry out speeding checks in too many locations in the village. It is important to ensure that the speed limit is strictly observed in the vicinity of the school.

It had been noted that several parked cars in Craighour Road had been deliberately scratched but the officers pointed out that finding the culprits was difficult.

Parking near the new Scotmid store was not ideal but because the pavement opposite the store was very wide the situation was not as bad as it could be. What was an issue was parking too close to the junction and this should be stopped.

Denis Christie proposed that the parking space on Craighour Road immediately next to the entrance to Scotmid should be designated as a disabled parking space. This was unanimously agreed and an approach should be made to Aberdeenshire Council in regard to this. JL

### **4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011**

These were approved subject to the change that under the matter Traffic Survey 'P C Smith' should read Inspector Todd'.

Proposed John Lucas and seconded Eric Day.

### **5. Matters Arising:**

<u>Gargoyle</u> -	Work is in hand	GP
<u>Flower tubs</u>	- Agreed that TCC would purchase another five tubs	ED

### **6. Community Action Plan:**

Various items of cleaning equipment have been bought for use in the Learney Hall by the TCC

Denis Christie had circulated members of the Community Safety Group with a synopsis of the matters discussed, but has still to

make contact with two of the members. He had previously given copies of the synopsis to all TCC members. TCC members to consider this for discussion at the next meeting. ALL

Other group are struggling to recruit active members.

Emma Patullo is preparing the Village directory. A history of the village to be given to Emma for insertion into the directory. Consult Ian Hendry for assistance with this. ED DC

#### **8. Finance:**

Bank Account balance is £572.32 The photocopier has been paid and the sum of £272 is to be contributed by Scotmid.

#### **9. Planning:**

**APP/2011/3907** Replacement Sun Lounge and Extension to Dwelling house 1 Grove Terrace, Torphins. No Comments.

**APP/2011/0368** Ongoing application by Station Garage to demolish the body shop in Station Square and erect flats.

A letter had been sent by Mary Ellmers to the Chairman of the TCC raising the matter of a possible conflict of interest between the Planning Officer of Torphins Community Council, and the above application. Mary Ellmers was present and addressed the meeting. She wished clarification as to whether the proper procedures regarding conflict of interest had been adhered to. She was concerned about the content of the October Minutes which made no reference to the possible conflict of interest not to the public concerns about the application. She indicated that if a planning matter comes back on to the agenda, due adherence should be given to the representations, made by the public to the application, in the intervening period.

The chair of the was clear that the planning officer of the TCC had declared an interest in the application immediately it occurred although it is clear that he did not nor does have a direct influence on nor personal interest in the application.

Regarding any public concern and the TCC response to it the chair was again clear that the only representation that the TCC had had was by way of a clear well articulated presentation from Brian Adams a local resident who attended the October meeting where he stated that although he did not in anyway represent the residents of Station Square he had spoken to them and that what he was presenting to the TCC was the common view. Mr Adams was present at this meeting and agreed that that was the case.

The meeting chair gave a brief description of the application and TCC's comments thereon, she indicated that the proper procedures had been followed, but also accepted that the minutes should have reflected this more clearly. She explained that, although planning officer is a member of the firm handling the application, he was not personally involved in any way with the development of the application.

The chair noted that TCC had submitted several comments on the application via their planning officer to the planning department in March 2011. The Chair stated that the views expressed in that letter were and continued to be the views of TCC.

Mr Brian Adams, who was present at the March meeting, agreed that the points raised by TCC in their letter to Aberdeenshire Council correctly reflected what was agreed at the TCC meeting in March.

Mr Adams stated that he felt that he had had a good reception from the TCC and that his views had been listened to and that the TCC response the Aberdeenshire council had included a considered response to what he had presented. However, He felt that the TCC could have been more forceful in their letter.

Mr Adams mentioned the more recent application to develop the site of the former butchers shop and the potential difficulty that that addition development could present for parking in the area.

Mary Ellmers stated that she was concerned that TCC had indicated in March that the application should only be for a two storey building but that TCC had not followed up on this point in October. It was pointed out that the TCC had asked for the roof to be altered to include dormers and velux windows effectively making the building two and a half storeys high.

Councillor Argyle stated there had been a full discussion about the application at the March TCC meeting. He also informed the meeting that subsequent to the meeting the three ward Councillors were consulted on the application. All independently wished that the matter be referred to the Area Committee. Cllr Argyle informed the meeting that the time for comments by members of the public had passed. Lastly he suggested that in response to the query raised by the member community all future minutes of the TCC should have a note of any conflict of interests of member clearly stated at the start of the minutes of any meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

Whilst indicating that TCC cannot change what has happened in this case, the Chair of the meeting said that for any future planning application:

- where a member of the Community council declares a conflict interest the minute will reflect this;
- when a letter is written to the planning authority it will be made clear that the planning officer is representing the views of the community council not any personal views;
- the community council will continue to publish their meeting agenda one week in advance and that members of the community who have views for the TCC to consider will attend the community council meeting to express them or will write or contact a member of the community council, to express their views.

The community council expressed their thanks to the members of the community who had attended the meeting.

## **10. Roads Matters**

Speeding Survey: It was noted that some of the excessive tops speeds recorded by the recent traffic survey were concerning.

Parking outside Scotmid: this issue has been raised with Aberdeenshire Council who had indicated that this was a matter covered by the Highway Code but was not enforceable. It was agreed that TCC should write to Scotmid and request that should go to back door of the shop, and not park on Craigour Road, for safety reasons. It was noted that the post office van sometimes double parks and that this practise should cease. Aberdeenshire Council to be reminded about the erection of road signs at the new road layout on the bridge by the school

## **11. Community Action Plan**

Community Safety: Denis Christie had circulated members with

a list of the matters which had been discussed by the Community Safety Group and asked members to consider this for discussion at the next meeting. ALL

Leisure: This group was starting to address issues which it had raised but it was stalling a little due to the overload of the members who are already heavily involved in supporting the community.

## **12. Christmas Carols:**

Final arrangements were agreed. The license has been received.

## **13. Christmas Lights:**

Eric Day reported on progress regarding the erection of the lights. Councillor Argyle suggested that TCC contact Aberdeenshire Council to try and obtain funding for sockets for the lights and for a contribution towards the purchase price of the lights.

## **14. Learney Hall:**

There are issues with the cleanliness of the hall now that there is no longer permanent hall keeper.

Although each group tidies up after themselves there is an accumulation of low level dirt and small litter that gradually becomes unacceptable .

Councillor Bruce stated that safety and maintenance checks were supposed to have been carried out.

Lights had been left on the hall.

Everyone who was sent a key to the hall has been given a check list that they are to follow when they open or later lock the hall. Clearly the instructions are not being followed by all.

Discuss issues with the manager at Aboyne

LM

## **15. Gala Committee:**

At a recent public meeting of the committee only four people indicated a willingness to become Gala Committee members.

TCC to ask the Gala Committee to develop a business plan, so that the TCC could offer appropriate support.

Torphins Gala to be an item on the January agenda for the TCC.

## **16. Queens Jubilee:**

All members to think about this matter for discussion at the January meeting.

ALL

## **17. Any Other Business**

a. Colin Rouse who was present indicated that Abbeyfield in Torphins was now going to be run by Abbeyfield Scotland based in Edinburgh. Sue Rouse is actively involved in the running of the house and had suggested that, when the administration is moved to Edinburgh, there should be a local representative appointed. Invite Sue Rouse to the January TCC meeting when this matter will be on the agenda

The Torphins After School Group in was congratulated for winning the Northsound song contest. (I thought that this was associated with the Sunshine Nursery in some way - if it is they should get a mention)

c. Torphins website. There continues to be a small but steady increase in the use of the site.

d. Aberdeenshire Council Planning website. There are difficulties accessing this site. Councillor Argyle indicated that this matter was being addressed.

**18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.**

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm