

TORPHINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 7th April 2011
Held in the Small Learney Hall

1.	<p><u>Present:</u> Present: Steve Thorn (Chair), Liz Moore (Vice-Chair), Eric Day (Treasurer), Sheila Blair, Rona Edgar, John Lucas, Gordon Pirie, Robert Reid.</p> <p><u>In Attendance:</u> Cllr P Argyle</p>	Action
2.	<p><u>Apologies:</u> Anna Fraser, Cllr Rosemary Bruce.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Police Report:</u> No update available. The Marr Area Policing update had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 3rd March 2011:</u> The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed: Gordon Pirie Seconded: Eric Day</p>	
5.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> Fountain Gargoyle: Contact Grigor Robertson. No update. Bridge Crescent: John Lucas provided an update on the implementation of the road upgrade, which Mark Skilling has indicated will be completed by end-May 2011. Notice board outside the Chemists: Repairs being progressed Funding for additional Christmas Lights: (See Finance Section.) Eric to develop a plan of which lamp-posts to use for the decorations. Any Other Business: The bushes growing at the side of the road on the eastern approach to Glassel still require to be cut back. Cutting the bushes back for a distance of 300 metres was suggested as a means of informing the roads department of the location of the offending bushes.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>JL</p> <p>ED</p> <p>ED</p> <p>Cllr PA</p>
6.	<p><u>Finance:</u> Balance currently stands at £1994.39. £600 of this balance is ring fenced for the purchasing of Christmas lights for the village. An application for match funding has been made to the Marr Area Small Grants Fund and an award of £600 to TCC had been approved. A cheque for £2856 will be paid into the account from the Marr Local Community Planning Group as payment for the work to upgrade the surface of the lane from Woodside Road. This money will be used to pay the contractor.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Planning Matters</u> App/2011/0771: Variation of Condition 11 (Wet Harling). No comment. Station Garage Application. The developer has produced plans that can be displayed on the village notice board.</p>	ST
8.	<p><u>Road Matters</u> Update previously circulated.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Torphins Community Action Plan:</u> The draft document was circulated. The document will be returned to the designer next week when work to prepare it for printing will be finalised. The plan is to launch the Torphins Community Action Plan at an event in late May or early June 2011. <u>Repositioning of the recycling bins:</u> The consultation finishes on Monday 17th April 2011. Everyone is encouraged to make sure that the community responds.</p>	All

	<p><u>The Old Schoolhouse:</u> The preferred buyer has now informed Aberdeenshire Council that they no longer retain an interest in buying the property. Given that the process of selling has been ongoing for at least 10 months Cllr Argyle agreed to investigate why the Council were unable to complete the sale. The deteriorating condition of the schoolhouse is a matter of great concern within the village.</p> <p><u>The surfacing of the lane between Woodside Road and the entrance to Craigmyle</u> has been completed. Gordon Pirie is to be congratulated for the successful outcome of all his hard work. A letter of thanks for the upgrading of the path has been received from the Torphins Walking to Health Group.</p>	Cllr PA
10.	<u>Correspondence:</u> Various items were tabled.	
11.	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u></p> <p>Waste Collection- The Community Council has asked Aberdeenshire Council to consider introducing a garden waste collection service at the weekend similar to the service in Aboyne. Cllr Argyle confirmed that this is not a possibility.</p> <p>Closure of the Post Office- Much consternation has been expressed over the sudden announcement that the Post office is to close on the 23rd April 2011. The loss of this local facility is viewed by the community with dismay. Following discussion it was agreed that there are probably two possible solutions, the most popular would be the inclusion of a sub post office in the relocated Scotmid shop. This would retain all advantages currently available. It would allow access to money and facilities, services and advice for all the community but importantly it would allow more vulnerable members of the community to continue to operate independently. The other option would be for the post office to send a mobile or outreach van to the village on a weekly basis. This is the service available to other communities on Deeside. This option was not popular with members. It was agreed that the Chair would raise this issue with both the Post Office and Scotmid to explain the community's concerns and try to obtain an update on a way forward. The sudden and short notice given to everyone has limited the opportunity to take positive pro-active action.</p> <p>Village flower tubs- Robert Reid confirmed that the village flower tubs would be planted in early June 2011.</p>	ST
12.	<u>Date of next meeting:</u> Thursday 12 th May 2011 at 7.30pm (Due to elections on the 5 th May)	