

**Torphins Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7:30pm**

Held in the **Small Learney Hall**

1 **Present** Denis Christie (Chair), Liz Moore, Anna Fraser, Rona Edgar, Sheila Blair, Gordon Pirie, John Williams, Anne Allardyce, Action  
By

2 **Apologies** Eric Day, John Lucas **In Attendance** Cllr P Argyle,  
Jo Pick, Alan Bainbridge

**Police Report**

The report is available to read on the village notice board.

Concerns were expressed about the way in which some cars continue to be driven in an irresponsible manner through the village and the noisy exhausts of some cars.

It was restated that when informing the police of an issue or of a particular incident it was important to include as many facts as possible ( time, place, type or description of car, registration number), this will allow the police to intervene more successfully.

4 **Minutes of Meeting 05.02.09**

Proposed LM Seconded JW.

The circulation of the minutes has been problematic this month. The circulation list has been corrected and all members are asked to contact the Chair if they have not received the minutes within a fortnight of this TCC meeting. All

5 **Matters Arising**

**Old School House**

The Council are still awaiting the final copy of the EPC and Home Report.

The Council still intend to have the property on the Market by the end of March 09

An approach has been made to the TCC asking that should a buyer for the Property express an interest in developing sheltered housing on the site that their bid be given preferential consideration

Although it was agreed that there is a need for sheltered housing provision in the Village.

Cllr Argyle indicated that both the building site and the School house will be sold to the highest Bidder, as per Aberdeenshire policy.

**Learney Hall Extension**

Proposal to be tabled at April meeting. GP

**Road Matters.**

**a. Bridge Crescent Bridge.**

Aberdeenshire Council does not own sufficient adjacent land to replace the Bridge with a causeway.

The bus company have stated that they are content not to use the bridge as a means of turning the busses around for the return journey to Aberdeen. Cllr Argyle indicated that, having listened to views Mark Skilling of the Council's Roads Department, his position now, was that he was in favour of closing that part of the roadway where it crosses the bridge.

It is confirmed that the bridge can only carry a three ton weight and that to bring it up to the required standard it would need to be able to carry a weight of at least 44 tons. All

It was agreed to arrange a site visit amongst Cllr Argyle, Mark Skilling and interested TCC members. DC

**b. Sundayswells Pavement.**

Work on the pavement has been recommenced.

Clarification regarding the reallocation of speed limits is to be sought Cllr  
A

**c. Bus Stop on Beltie Road.**

It is proposed that a bus stop sign be erected out side number 26/28 on Beltie Road. It will be screened from the houses by the trees and shrubs in the adjacent gardens.

Confirmation of the TCC approval will be made by Cllr Argyle to John Shinney

**d. Footpath linking Battock Terrace and Grampian Terrace**

Eric has completed an application to the Marr Area 'top up budget' for a 50% grant to help pay for the remedial work to the lane.

**e. Gateway on to Craigour Road.**

Aberdeenshire Council are investing the legality of the gate.

**f. Innermarkie Wynd** The agency responsible for the drainage of Grampian Terrace / Innermarkie Wynd is not clear. Denis will continue to research as will Mark Skilling. Reports to be presented to our April meeting

**g. Car Park Surface in the park** Landscape Services to be approached

DC

Cllr  
A

**Children's Play Equipment**

Installation delayed due to bad weather.

It was suggested that approaches should be made to Sandy Grant or Jock Black or Doug Allan.

SB  
DC

Repairs have been carried out to broken equipment.

**Torphins Website**

Denis has met with Deeside Design.

'Visit Torphins' is the Suggested name of the site, this links with the 'Visit Scotland' Name/theme of the National Tourist Board and many village and town websites.

Agreed unanimously to use this name initially, we will review the name later in the year as part of our review of the whole site..

Deeside Design are awaiting information with which to populate the website.

Jim Henderson has agreed to supply some photographs for the site.

We will investigate possible links with other websites including 'Royal Deeside Partnership'

It is suggested that the following could be included as 'gates' in the site.

- Events,
- History,
- School,
- Fundraising,
- Links to other sites

**Footbridge over the Learney Burn**

Responses to enquiries re ownership and responsibility for maintaining the bridge will be tabled at the next meeting.

**Torphins Directory**

Alan Bainbridge, the Editor of the directory, was thanked for his efforts in producing the 08/09 Directory.

Agreement to produce a paper directory for 09/10 and Alan Bainbridge agreed to edit the 09/10 Directory. We will aim to have the Directory ready for distribution during October/November 09

AB

**General state of the village**

A letter has been written to a local shop regarding the state of their naming board.

Locks have been ordered to replace the broken ones on the notice boards.

It is too early in the year for the school to have undertaken any work on the flowerbeds in the village.

JW

**Car park on the Avenue of Beeches.**

Currently walkers have tidied the car park up.

Write to the council asking them to undertake future cleaning.

DC

**Dog Fouling in Kinnairdy Terrace and other areas of the village.**

Where appropriate report any fouling to the Dog Warden

All

**Overfilled wheelie Bins**

Member of the Community reported that Sunshine Nursery had an overfilled bin that had resulted in soiled nappies spilling onto the pavement. This was unsightly and could be a health hazard. The question was asked whether Aberdeenshire Council could assist by providing a commercial rather than domestic wheelie bin. The Council are to be approached on this.

DC

**Homecoming Scotland 2009**

The Torphins Gala Committee are planning to have a Scottish theme.

This will include a Highland Lassie and Lad competition instead of Prince and Princess, events

AA  
RE

such as the Best 'Clutie Dumpling' in show and other competitions that mirror a highland games theme.

The Gala Committee is determined to remain within budget and are looking for sponsors. Consideration was given to sponsoring an event or donating the prize for an event. No decision was taken. We will continue to liaise with the Gala Committee

**Christmas Lights.**

Deferred to next meeting

**Marr Area Partnership**

LM will attend and give feed back to April meeting

Agreed to ask S Wall to conduct 'Planning for Real' type consultation with the residents of the Torphins.

6 **Finance.**

Current bank balance £2973.10

Two recently written cheques still have to clear the bank.

7 **Planning**

50 Beltie Road. Agreed to write letter of support for the application.

Hillcrest retrospective application for lean-to, no objection

App/209 0411 St Marnans Road Letter to be written regarding the unpleasing aesthetics of the proposal GP

App/2009 0558 No comment

**Local Development Plan**

The TCC submission to Aberdeenshire Council in regard to the forthcoming preparation of the Draft Local Development Plan, is soon to be posted on the Aberdeenshire Council Website.

Agreed to place a copy of developers' bid proposals for development in Torphins and area, and the TCC submission, on the notice board. DC

A local group has been formed to object to the proposals currently on the Aberdeenshire website.

Consideration to, and the development of any links with, the new group will be considered at our April meeting.

Approaches have been made to Burnett & Reid Solicitors, Matthew Merchant Architect, and to John Findlay of Ryden Surveyors, the agents for parties who have tendered development bids, to see if they would consider meetings to discuss their proposals to develop lands around the village. Also to be approached is Barton Willmore the agent for a party who has submitted a bid for development on land at Sundayswells. DC

The process of developing the Area Plan will go ahead until the 'Main Issues Report' is developed and presented to the Aberdeenshire Council.

We will have an eight week period in which to consult with the community and to respond to the Shire Council.

We agreed that the TCC should meet at least twice during that period

On the question of any potential conflict of interest, Members were asked to consider if any of them had an 'interest' in any of the land being put forward for development.

No one had any such interest.

8 **Correspondence.**

A variety of items were tabled.

The late John Robertson of Woodside Road has left a bequest of £1000 to the village.

We will consider how to spend the monies at our April meeting.

It was agreed that any purchase should include a plaque in remembrance of John.

Discussion regarding the proposal of Aberdeenshire Council to increase parking charges took place.

9. **AOCB**

Alan Bainbridge was proposed by JW and seconded by DC as a new member of the Torphins Community Council.

Papers for the Marr Area bus forum were presented. Bus services can be developed and amended through presentation and discussion of issues at this forum

**Date of next meeting April 2nd at 7:30 in the Small Learney Hall**