

Torphins Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 5th November 09 7:30pm
Held in the **Small Learney Hall**

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| 1 | Present | | Action
By |
| | | Denis Christie (Chair), Liz Moore (Vice-Chair), Anna Fraser (Secretary), Eric Day (Treasurer), Ann Allardyce, Alan Bainbridge, Sheila Blair, John Lucas, Richard Owens, Emma Pattullo, Gordon Pirie | |
| 2 | Apologies | Rona Edgar | |
| | | In Attendance Cllr P Argyle, Cllr R Bruce, Mike Powell, Robert Reid, Nils Langgaard, Neil Stanton, James Cochrane-Dyet | |

It was noted with great sadness that John Williams had died. John had been an active member of the TCC having been the Chair for a number of years. During a moving tribute to John paid by Eric Day his efforts on behalf of the TCC were acknowledged.

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| 3 | Police Report | | |
| | | No report available. | |
| | | There have been two incidents of vandalism in the village during October. These incidents have been reported to the police. One incident, highlighted by resident James Cochrane-Dyet, centred on underage drinking in the woods at the top of Auchmachoy Road which resulted in antisocial behaviour including damage to property and a lot of broken glass. | |
| 4 | Minutes of Meeting 01.10.09 | | |
| | | Accepted | |
| | | Proposed by Emma Patullo | |
| | | Seconded by John Lucas | |
| 5 | Gala Committee | | |
| | | Neil Stanton, Chair of Torphins Gala Committee presented a paper to TCC that outlined the recent history of the Gala. It included the benefits of the Gala, the non-benefits to the community, the future and possible formats of the Gala. | |
| | | The paper can be viewed on the TCC website and on the notice board. | JL |
| | | In 2007 there was no Gala, in 08 the Gala resulted in a financial loss of £5000 and in 09 the Gala was refocused to ensure a family orientation. However the Gala again made a loss. The main cause of their losses is the hire of the marquee. TCC agreed to try and assist them in this regard. | DC |
| | | Agreed that future Galas should be family orientated. The Gala committee and TCC will work together to ensure the future of the Gala. The Gala committee will present a budget for support early in 2010. | |
| 6 | Community Action Planning | | |
| | | Presentation by Mike Powell from Marr Area Partnership in regard to the creation of a Community Action Plan. | |
| | | To examine examples of community planning go to www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk | |
| | | Mikes paper can be viewed on the website and on the notice board. | DC |
| | | Agreed to form a sub committee to progress the development of a Local Community Action Plan. | DC |
| 7 | Local Development Plan | | |
| | | Aberdeenshire Council has received a very good response to the consultation. | |
| | | The report to committee is due early in 2010 although the timetable may 'slip' a little. | |
| | | A public meeting will be held on 2 nd February 2010 in Alford. This meeting will not be an opportunity to lobby or consult. Thereafter Aberdeenshire Council will be producing the draft Local Development Plan. | |

8 Road Matters

- a. Battock Terrace to Grampian Terrace Lane.
No update. We understand that the lane is owned by the Learney Estate.
Contact Mike Powell, Grants Officer Aberdeenshire Council. ED
- b. Gateway onto Craigour Road
Awaiting response from Mark Skilling.
- c. Innermarkie Wynd Rainwater runoff
A site visit has taken place. Follow up action. DC
- d. Pavement to Station Garage
Awaiting response from Mark Skilling.
- e. Woodside Road
Write to Mark Skilling raising the concerns of resident. DC
- f. Proposed Speed Limits in Torphins.
A new speed sign has been activated outside Sundayswells before the speed limit has been reduced, this is causing annoyance to residents.
Speed limit flashing sign to be erected outside Station Garage. Raise concern over number of flashing signs with Aberdeenshire Council. AF
- g. Rough Ground, Learney Arms
The rough ground outside the back entrance to Learney Arms, surrounding the Fountain, is owned by the Hotel. It is improperly being used as a turning area by traffic. Improvement could be included in the Community Action Plan in consultation with the owners.

9 Bridge Crescent Bridge

- Representation and presentation by Nils Langgaard resulting in the consideration of a fifth option. Display the fifth option on notice board and on website. DC
- Write to Mark Skilling to make him aware of the fifth option and ask for a plan to reflect this in order for it to be displayed. DC
- Raise awareness of the issue by including a flier in the soon-to-be-distributed village directory. ALL
- Include on agenda for next meeting. DC

10 Village Directory

- Copies available for distribution by TCC members – awaiting crèche fliers. ALL
- Thanks to Alan Bainbridge for all his efforts.

11 Matters Arising

- a. School House
The house and the plot have been sold to the same party.
Suggestion by the Horticultural Society that the remaining plot be used to involve the village residents in growing plants. They would be particularly interested in involving young people. Cllr
Enquire whether suggestion would be possible. P A
- b. The Colours
A local representative is to meet with the Area Leader of the Royal British Legion arranged for next week. TCC are still of the opinion that the Colours should be displayed in the church but failing that that they should be displayed publicly and locally. The Learney Hall would be a suitable venue for the 'Colours to await reinstatement in the church. Write to representative asking for outcome of meeting. AF
- c. Torphins Website
To be removed from the agenda.
Place Bridge Crescent Road options on website.
Place Gala paper options on website. JL
- d. General state of the village

Signage

Progress is being made on the improvement of the shop sign.

Fountain

Agreed to explore the cost of a new gargoye to fix to the Fountain and then to consider whether the water should flow.

LM

The deteriorating foundations are due largely to the constant application of salt to the surrounding area during the winter.

Flowers.

Robert Reid gave advice to TCC in relation to flowers for village tubs. The flower tubs are deteriorating and need replacing.

Agreed to replace tubs and increase number to 12. Include supports in purchase. Look into possibility of distillery barrels.

GP,
AB,
JL

We could apply to the Marr area for a top up grant to help with the funding.

ED

Notice boards

The freestanding notice board has been repaired. Thanks to Eric for his efforts here. Volunteers required to help with the re-erecting

Road Sweeper

To be asked to remove the broken glass at the top of Auchmacoy Road

General state of the village

Cllr P
A

The crates outside the village shop are unsightly and are potentially a safety hazard. Write to shop owners seeking alternative storage for crates.

e. Christmas lights

DC

Agreed to purchase five Christmas illuminations – allocate up to £1,000.

The Learney Arms have offered to sponsor a light.

Approach other local businesses for to seek sponsorship.

Apply for a grant from village improvement fund

ED

More lights or bulbs for the Christmas Tree to be sourced, LED lights being the preferred option.

ED

f. Marr Area Partnership

No update

g. Repositioning of re cycling bins

An estimate of the proposal has been prepared evidencing that it could be quite costly and Aberdeenshire Council have decided to take no action.

Cllr
PA

Agreed that this action be included in the Community Action Plan. Aberdeenshire Council may then consider match funding.

Consider moving the bins to another village that do not currently have any recycling amenities.

h. Donation to Football club

The Football club members have renovated the pavilion in the park.

T AFC has been offered a tenancy agreement for the pavilion and is considering the offer. They are keen that the pavilion remains a community resource and were asking for future support from TCC should this tenancy go ahead.

DC requested sight of the proposed agreement.

AF

i. Cycle rack at the medical centre

Has been discussed with the relevant parties.

No monies available. Continue to progress.

Cllr
P A

10 Finance

Current balance £3507.53

11 Planning

Two applications in our area:

1. APP/2009/3315 Extension to house at 7 Annesley Grove – No comments.

2. APP/2009/3131 Erection of lean-to at West Maldron Farm – No comments.

During a presentation to the council at its September meeting it was stated that a proposed development at the site of Station Garage would include at least 2 three-storey blocks of flats. TCC wish to record that they would be strongly against any three-storey development on the outskirts of the village.

A summary of the major points of the changes in planning law was given
They include a change in the responsibility for neighbour notification -the authority now has responsibility – formerly the applicant had to notify neighbours. A neighbour is anyone who owns property within 20m of the proposed development site.
There is a three-month appeal period – previously six months.
Planning law now requires that development is commenced within a 3 year period – formerly 5 years.

New EEC rules regarding developments of 50 units or more. In such developments a Pre-Application Consultation is required. TCC is of the opinion that this rule is inappropriate in a rural setting.

Write to Mike Rumbles stating objection.

AF

12 Standing Orders (Decision making process)

Present option paper at next meeting.

DC

13 Correspondence

Various items were tabled. Including-

Letter from BT offering the opportunity for us to adopt the telephone box at Sundays - wells for £1

Agreed to adopt.

AF

Association of Scottish Community Councils

The Local Authority is suggesting that they may cease paying membership for all Local CC's.

Agreed to write to authority saying that they should continue to pay subscription fees.

AF

Licence for the Christmas Carols concert received.

Aberdeenshire Design Awards

Subject to consent from the owners, TCC wish to nominate the extension on the corner of Auchmacoy Road and Grampian Terrace.

DC

Letter proposing new walkway to the south of the village.

Write in support of the suggestion to Aberdeenshire Council.

DC

Hall keeper

The hall keeper has had her hours 'capped'. This has effectively curtailed the use of the village hall.

One meeting of the Horticultural Society had to be conducted in the Hall car park as a result of the Hall keeper's hours being restricted. This is an unacceptable state of affairs.

All bookings must now go through Aboyne Centre

To investigate and report back to next meeting

Cllr

PA

14 AOCB

The streetlights at the crossroad still have an intermittent fault.

Cllr

RB

Meeting closed 10.20pm.

Date of next meeting 3rd December at 7:30 in the Small Learney Hall