

TORPHINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 2nd September 2010

Held in the Small Learney Hall

	Action
<p>1. Present: Denis Christie (Chair), Liz Moore (Vice-Chair), Anna Fraser (Secretary), John Lucas, Emma Pattullo, Gordon Pirie In Attendance: Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Rona Edgar</p>	
<p>2. Apologies: Eric Day, Robert Reid, Steve Thorn, Richard Owens, Cllr Peter Argyle</p>	
<p>3. Police Report: No police presence. Tullynessle Forum: Survey results showed that the average speed for vehicles on Beltie Road was 32mph. Kincardine Road was highlighted as having a higher average speed and as a result speed detectors will be put in place in the near future. Police have been informed about a quad-biker riding in the village with no number plates and wearing no helmet. Concern was raised about the reappearance of campers in the woods, leaving behind broken bottles, a burnt out tent and overturning two 'portaloos' in the park. Although believed not to have been reported to the police it is important that such incidents are brought to their attention as they have a duty to respond to such reports.</p>	
<p>4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 1st July 2010: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Liz Moore.</p>	
<p>5. Finance: The bank balance currently stands at approximately £1241.</p>	
<p>6. Planning: APP/2010/2594 - Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse at 5 Fareview Courtyard, Glassel - no comments. APP/2010/2774 - Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Garage at Annesley Steading West, Torphins - no comments. TCC members expressed concerns that the recent approval of a wind monitoring mast had been reported in the papers as being approved 'unanimously' by Aberdeenshire Council when TCC had expressed strong objections to it. Councillor Bruce clarified that the decision didn't actually go to a vote as there were different planning regulations for a monitoring mast (as opposed to a wind turbine) as it was a smaller, slimmer and a more temporary structure. As the proposed mast fitted planning regulations and guidelines the application was approved. TCC objections were discussed at the meeting but, unfortunately, there is no mention of this in the media or on the website. In response to TCC's question as to how their comments are taken onboard, Denis Christie has received an email explaining that TCC comments must be on 'material planning considerations.' TCC was asked if they wished to highlight any instances where it was felt their comments were not taken onboard and it was agreed to mention recent planning applications including the monitoring mast and a porch extension. An extension on Beltie Road has raised concerns over both its size and the amount of debris that is being left along the old railway line at the back of the property. This has highlighted TCC's concerns over 'add-on' extensions being considered by the planning department in isolation rather than taking onboard the overall effect a number of seemingly small extensions have on the original building. Write to Mr Innes/ Mrs Grant to see about getting this tidied up.</p>	DC/JL

7	<p>Local Development Plan: The Draft Local Development Plan has been on the noticeboard for a number of weeks now. On reviewing the document it appears to have taken onboard many of the comments and recommendations of TCC. However, in area M1 the Plan recommends 50 houses whereas TCC had recommended 16 low cost houses. The deadline for any comments is 1st October 2010. Concern was raised over the need for infrastructure to be in place before any new developments go through planning as these being discussed alongside any planning applications would be too late. Overcapacity of the school in particular is an issue as Aberdeenshire Council predicts that the school role is going to fall in the future yet evidence at the moment doesn't seem to support this and the school is already two classrooms over capacity. An additional meeting to discuss the Draft Local Development Plan will be held on Thursday 16th September at 7.30pm in the small Learney Hall. As with all our meetings, members of the public are welcome to attend.</p>	
8.	<p>Community Action Plan/ Youth Event: Next CAP meeting Thursday 30th September, 8pm, at Anna Fraser's house. Invite Mike Powell to attend.</p>	LM
9.	<p>Adoption of BT Phone Box: Denis Christie has spoken to the owners of Campfield regarding them taking over the maintenance of the phone box there. This is subject to BT agreeing to this. The phone box at Sundayswells has a number of panes of glass missing following a recent act of vandalism. Look into police support in reclaiming costs from perpetrator. Price for replacing glass with Perspex - ask Gordon Duncan for advice on this.</p>	DC JL
10	<p>Roads Matters:</p> <p>a. Innermarkie Road Rain Water- A letter from Aberdeenshire Council has been received stating that they are not responsible for the cleaning out of these ditches, they need to be cleaned out by surrounding landowners. Contact adjacent proprietors and Learney Estate.</p> <p>b. Road Speed Sign at Campfield- The clearing of bushes to the east of Campfield to aid visibility has not yet been carried out. To chase.</p> <p>c. Litter and Roads Mess- Local residents have been asked to comment on the road conditions heading towards the golf course - this seems to be fine until it rains. Contact residents who were away on vacation for confirmation of this. The road leading to the proposed new cowshed appears to have been started - continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>The litter situation behind Station Garage improved slightly but there are still remnants of discarded rubbish dating back a number of years. To chase.</p> <p>A number of outstanding roads matters have been chased with the following results: <i>Kincardine Road</i> has no space for a pavement on both sides of the road and so there will be no alterations made. <i>Bridge Crescent-</i> the views of TCC and local Councillors have been put into a draft report and TCC should be receiving this soon. <i>Woodside Road-</i> The 30mph limit officially extends out of the village to the last street light. The speed limit sign shall be moved accordingly in the autumn. By the same account, the street lights along the main road heading past the church extend as far as Learney Avenue and therefore the speed limit sign there should be moved accordingly. Ask Malcolm Christie for this to be done in the autumn also. <i>Gateway onto Craigour Road-</i> This is a planning issue as there is no pavement on this section of the A980 and therefore there should be no</p>	DC Cllr RB JL DC JL

gateway onto it. Mark Skilling will remind the planning department of this. *Surfacing of Car Park at Park-* The car park has not been adopted by Aberdeenshire Council though they do have some responsibility for its maintenance through the Landscaping department. Planings from other works done in the area will be laid in the car park and compressed as a short-term measure. *Grampian Terrace/Battock Terrace lane-* Awaiting response from Mike Powell regarding funding for this.

JL

The new dog waste sign on Woodside Road was reported to have been put in the nearby burn. Contact dog warden regarding this.

Cllr RB

11 Matters Arising

- a. **Torphins Website.** c/f
- b. **General State of the Village.** A letter has been received confirming that Aberdeenshire Council will be continuing its Plants For Community Project in 2011. Orders are to be in by 30th September and our best efforts will be made to have all tubs planted up next year. All agreed Robert Reid was the best man to order flowers for next year. The hunt for a photo of the original *Gargoyle for the Victoria Fountain* is still on. Contact Press & Journal for photos in archives. Contact Gordon Ingram to see if he has a photograph.
- c. **Christmas Lights.** Cllr Peter Argyll is awaiting specific lampposts for requesting adaptation for Christmas lights. Eric Day has circulated a map to all TCC members for consideration. All comments to Eric ASAP.
- d. **Marr Area Partnership.** The Scottish Governments Home Insulation Scheme was highlighted and people are encouraged to take up this offer. The scheme offers a free home inspection and home energy assessment and may result in homes being insulated free of charge. A recent meeting offering training for Community Council members was attended by Liz Moore and was said to be very good. MAPs AGM is in Tullynessle on October 2nd 2010.
- e. **Repositioning of re-cycle bins.** Aberdeenshire Council do not see the issue of the recycling bins in the centre of the village as a problem. As far as they are concerned the bins are used to capacity and they have had no complaints about them. A satellite recycling point at Sundayswells is not suitable and Aberdeenshire Council cannot empty the bins more regularly if the number of bins was to be reduced. It was noted that Torphins has 25 bins in total whereas The Crows Nest has only 12. This stalemate situation is becoming more and more frustrating for members of TCC as they have complained as a body representing the wishes of the community on numerous occasions and yet their voice appears to be going unheard. Removing the recycling bins was the 3rd highest issue raised by residents at our Community Action Plan Event and a huge number of people wish them to be removed. The fact that they are a very visible eyesore in the centre of the village holds no bearing as Aberdeenshire Council wish recycling points to be visible in order for them to be used. Concern was raised that the high visibility means they are in fact being used by 'through traffic' as well as residents. A request for them to be removed temporarily to see what impact this has on the immediate vicinity and recycling in the village was not viewed as an option by Cllr Bruce following her discussions with Aberdeenshire. It was also noted that once again the recycling bins were being emptied at the same time as children were arriving at school in the morning. A formal documentation is now to

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<p>be presented to Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>f. Torphins Gala. TCC have received a 'Thank You' letter from Torphins Gala Committee thanking them for their help in manning the hill race at Gala. Unfortunately, despite favourable weather conditions, a loss was made by the Gala this year. The TCC tent was well attended and commented on.</p> <p>g. Board of Chairpersons. c/f. Consider options for next meeting.</p> <p>h. South Lodge Gate c/f</p> <p>i. British Legion Colours. Liz Moore has spoken to Gordon Ingram who will speak to the British Legion. Unfortunately once Colours have been removed it is not simply a case of rededicating them to the church again, therefore the situation is more complicated than initially thought. Contact Gordon in October to see if any progress has been made.</p> <p>j. Village Directory. Emma has been working on this.</p> <p>k. Cycle Rack. The NHS hopes to insert a 'Cycle Hoop' at the medical centre. This is a cheaper option than a cycle rack. To liaise about installation.</p> <p>l. Parking. The Post Office van was parked on the knuckle outside the chemist again this morning reducing visibility dramatically. To chase. It has also been brought to the attention of TCC that disabled drivers are not using the chemist due to the lack of a disabled parking space. Previous requests from TCC for a disabled parking space in the village have not yet been fulfilled. Consideration could be given to such a space being used briefly by the post van when emptying the post box. To chase, requesting the space be nearer the crossroads than the hall as previously requested, thus enabling use of more of the village amenities.</p> <p>m. Wind Speed Monitoring Mast. See planning (6)</p>	<p>DC</p> <p>ALL ED</p> <p>LM</p> <p>CIlrRB/ GP</p> <p>CIlr RB</p>
<p>12 <u>Correspondence</u> Campaign newsletter from 'No Need For Nuclear' NHS Grampian poster- looking for non-executive board members.</p>	
<p>13 <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>*A substantial sum has been raised for Mark Scott's memorial and it was put to TCC that a memorial plaque could be placed on the fountain. Although TCC are fully supportive of a plaque, it was felt that it would be inappropriate to have one as part of the jubilee fountain. The siting of a plaque may be an Aberdeenshire Council matter.</p> <p>* Six phone messages have been left at Aboyne by a member of TCC wishing to book the Learney Hall for an event and no response has been received. Look into.</p> <p>*Anna Fraser has received a phone call from Margo Brown on behalf of Torphins Amateur Football Club highlighting their progress to date and their hopes for improving the club. They are looking for TCC to honour their pledge of financial support. C/F for consideration when TCC treasurer is present but in the meantime ask if TAFC has contacted Mike Powell regarding possible funding through the Marr Area Top-Up Fund.</p> <p>*The proposed extension to the church has been revamped and moved to the north side of the church into the woods. It is understood that Learney Estate has gifted some of the woodland area to the church. Developers are keen to talk to TCC before going to planners. To liaise.</p> <p>*TCC has received a petition from Torphins Walking Group requesting a garden waste collection service as received in other communities. To follow up request.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>AF</p> <p>GP</p> <p>CIlr RB</p>

*Residents on Craigmyle Road have raised concerns about clay pigeon shooting, asking if a licence is required. A licence is only needed if clay pigeon shooting is run as a business, not for recreational shooting.

*Comment was passed that the public toilets have been cleaned - a vast improvement.

14	Date of next meeting - Thursday 7th 2010 at 7.30pm in the Small Learney Hall.	
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