

Torphins Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 1st October 09 7:30pm
Held in the **Small Learney Hall**

Action
By

- 1 **Present**
Denis Christie (Chair), Liz Moore (Vice-chair), Anna Fraser (Secretary), Eric Day (Treasurer), Rona Edgar, John Lucas, Richard Owens, Emma Pattullo,
In Attendance Cllr Peter Argyll, Cllr Rosemary Bruce
- 2 **Apologies** Gordon Pirie, Anne Allardyce, Alan Bainbridge, Sheila Blair
- 3 **Police Report**
No report available.
On-going request for speed checks in the village noted.
There is to be an open showing of the road safety show 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' in the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen on 4th November 09 at 7:00pm (MAP). The show presentation is graphic and not suitable for 'under 16s'. It is recommended viewing however for young drivers as it is credited with having played a significant role in reducing the number of young driver deaths in the northeast.
- 4 **Minutes of Meeting 03.09.09**
Accepted : Proposed by Rona Edgar, Seconded Eric Day
- 5 **Local Development Plan**
Awaiting the next stage which is the report for public consultation.
This report is due for publication in October 09
Contact 'SaveTorphins.org' asking that they reword their introductory paragraph. DC
- 6 **Road Matters**
- i Battock Terrace to Grampian Terrace Lane.
Contact Mike Powell grants Officer Aberdeenshire Council for update. ED
 - ii Gateway onto Craigour Road
Awaiting outcome of site visit by enforcement officer. Enquire re status of visit. DC
The question was asked whether or not the gateway would still be regarded as a safety hazard if the TCC were successful in having the pavement extended from the 30mph sign through to Station Garage. (This request has already been lodged with the Aberdeenshire Council).
 - iii Innermarkie Wynd Rainwater runoff DC
Organise a site visit ED
 - iv Pavement to Station Garage DC
Contact Mark Skilling
 - v Woodside Road DC
Write to Mark Skilling raising the concerns of resident.
- 7 **Bridge Crescent Bridge**
Aberdeenshire Council planned a safety audit and this has been reported by way of an email from Mark Skilling. The issue was originally raised as the bridge was designated unsuitable to continue carrying the weight of vehicles over three tons. There are four options for discussion. Only two carried any favour with members of the TCC:
Option 4, is to close the bridge whilst retaining a two-way flow of traffic on the school side of the bridge. A small section of the old road at the rear of the school would be used to provide a 'hammer head' for cars etc to turn. This option was supported as offering the safest route to school by two members of the group present and by one who had contacted the Chair prior to the meeting.
Objections to this proposal included the safety issues caused by the amount of traffic at the start and end of the school day when parents drop off or collect their children.

The difficulties caused by large numbers of cars reverse turning or turning by executing three point turns at the hammer head, while other cars queued to turn and children and or parents try to walk or cycle to school, was aired and it was considered that grid lock would frequently result.

The other option that was considered viable, **Option 1**, was to retain the bridge as a thoroughfare and to extend the pavement from where it currently finishes to the side gate of the school. This proposal includes making the flow of traffic one way from St Marnans Road to Beltie Road. This was considered to be the best option by five members present as it would allow for a continuing flow of traffic, an extended pavement and would not raise any reasons for reducing the number of parking spaces at the side of the school.

The views on Options 1 & 4 are to be reported to Aberdeenshire Council. The final decision on which Option to be adopted will be decided by the relevant committee of Aberdeenshire Council. DC

8 **Village Directory**

At 'set up' stage with the printer, should be ready for distribution by the end of October 2009. 900 copies are being printed.

9 **Matters Arising**

I School House

R Edgar declared an interest in this agenda item. The property and plot are now at the 'preferred bidder' stage. A paper is being prepared for the area committee.

ii The Colours

No update.

iii Torphins Website

Nothing further to report.

iv State of the village

Signage

The owners of the retail outlet are to proceed with a grant application to replace the shop sign. Prepare short specification and scope of works. GP

Fountain

The Press and Journal are following up the cleaning of the Fountain by running an article with a photo. Agreed to research the costs of restoration. Discussion took place regarding the general state of the fabric of the fountain and whether its location (between two heavily used car parks) had and continued to contribute to the deterioration of the masonry. LM

Contact mason for advice. LM

Presentation of the village

Discussion regarding the overall impression given by the village when compared to other Deeside villages took place. It was agreed that a number of factors contribute to the village often looking less that attractive including the recycling point, the crates of used and flattened boxes awaiting collection outside the grocers shop etc.

Agreed to monitor the situation and tackle issues on an ongoing basis.

Parking

The area of rough parking at the rear of the Learney Arms Hotel was noted as being unsightly. It is believed not to be part of the Learney Arms feu. DC

Notice boards

The notice boards are almost all repaired. Thanks to Eric. Perspex is being sought to provide a cover to the sign outside Mother Hubbard's. ED

v **Homecoming Scotland 2009**

Item to be removed from agenda as completed.

Torphins gala will now become a standing agenda item. Neil Stanton to be invited to November meeting of TCC RE

Christmas Tree lights

Site visit from providers was useful. A number of options considered including outright purchase of fittings or a rent to buy scheme.

Site meeting convened and additional street lights were earmarked for Christmas lighting.

Cllr
PA

Marr Area Partnership (MAP)

Update information included elsewhere in minutes where appropriate.

Repositioning of re cycling bins

To progress

Cllr
PA

Donation to Football club

Awaiting the inclusion of information re TCC on the Football Club website.

Pavilion in the park

Noted by Aberdeenshire Council as requiring upgrading, now included in the work schedule. The football club are willing to help undertake the work in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council.

Try to progress partnership approach to the carrying out of the work so as to lead to an early completion.

Cllrs
RB
&
PA

10 Finance

Current balance £4154.83, includes over £600 income from directory advertising.

11 Planning

There were no current planning applications in our area.

Comment was passed on two extensions that are currently being completed within the village. It was agreed to ask for the large plans from Aberdeenshire Council when there are significant proposals within the village so that TCC members could more accurately discuss and consider the impact of proposed changes to buildings.

Significant changes in legislation regarding planning have taken place. Aberdeenshire Council are providing a briefing session for interested parties at Alford Academy on Wednesday 28th October at 7:00pm

Please reply by contacting DC by Wednesday 21st so that appropriate catering can be provided.

GP

All

12 Standing Orders (Decision making process)

Send comments on draft previously circulated to Chair.

JL

EM

13 Correspondence

Various items were tabled, including:

Planning Aid Scotland- an independent organisation who can offer advice on a case-by-case basis.

Letter from a resident who would like to develop areas of the village so that they provide havens for wild flora and fauna. Generally the TCC were supportive of the ideas being put forward.

14 AOCB

A request for a cycle rack at the medical centre. Make enquiries.

Cllr

PA

The streetlights at the crossroad have been seen to have an intermittent fault. No other faults were noted. Report the fault.

Cllr

RB

Platform 22 is offering the opportunity for organisations in the village to join them in their Christmas Fayre.

Aberdeenshire Mediation Service is able to provide assistance on a case-by-case basis. Contact via 01224560572

The TCC wish to record their gratitude and thanks to Mrs Irene Reid who is retiring after nearly 14 years as Head Teacher of Torphins Primary School. Her hard work and remarkable good outcomes for the village children were noted. The TCC wish her a long and happy retirement. Write letter of thanks etc

DC

Date of next meeting 5th November at 7:30 in the Small Learney Hall