



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
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The 47th Annual General Meeting Meeting Minutes Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7:00 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS) In Attendance: Cllr Anouk Kloppert (Cllr AK) Apologies: ; Will Maclean (WM); ; Andrew Macpherson (AM); Stephen Salter (SS); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Sarah Brown (Cllr SB)	TCC
2.	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6 th June 2024 Adopted as proposed by email Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day	PA
3.	Annual Report of Torphins Community Council It has been a busy and at times frustrating year for the community council, but as always members have risen to the challenges faced and I must begin by thanking you all for the work you have done and the huge contribution you have each made over the past twelve months. A major issue facing TCC and the community we represent has been the Hill of Fare Windfarm. We have worked closely with the five other community councils that would be impacted by this proposal and with HOFWIG, a group of volunteers from the wider community which has done a vast amount of work to pull together the evidence and data to support the objections clearly demonstrated by local residents. During the past year TCC submitted objections to Aberdeenshire Council, through both the Marr Area Committee and the Infrastructure Services Committee; we attended meetings of both committees to put forward our community's overwhelming opposition to the proposal. We were delighted when Aberdeenshire Council decided to put forward a formal objection to this entirely inappropriate proposal, thus triggering the Local Inquiry which will be held in September. TCC is working with our fellow community councils and HOFWIG to prepare for the PI. All six community councils and HOFWIG were represented at the Pre Inquiry Meeting held in Banchory Town Hall on 24 April. This established the procedure the Reporter will follow and the matters to be considered. TCC will be represented at and participate in, the Inquiry, scheduled for the first two weeks of September. Of particular importance to	PA

	<p>us will be the Community Hearing on the evening of 8 September, at which TCC will be speaking.</p> <p>We have also spent a good deal of time preparing a Local Place Plan (LPP) for Torphins. A draft LPP was issued for consultation in March; this attracted very little response - but it has to be recognised there was nothing radical in the document. We did however receive a response from the Learney Estate, suggesting the need for development in the village. Members of TCC met the estate and the developer in May and will discuss the estate's proposals at our meeting following this AGM. The question will be whether to include the proposals in a new draft of the LPP rather than discussing the merits or otherwise of the proposals. We will also decide whether to host a 'drop-in' session in the Learney Hall on 16 June, to give the community an opportunity to consider the plans. If TCC does decide to incorporate the proposals in the LPP, we will redraft the document and issue it for consultation in line with the formal processes required, with the aim of having a final version ready to submit to Aberdeenshire Council in the autumn. This will then form part of the next Local Development Plan.</p> <p>The issue of Christmas lights in Torphins has led to a good deal of frustration. The excellent work led by Eric Day for many years, in finding the funding, purchasing, installing and taking down the lights, has resulted in a very attractive and up-to-date annual display, much valued by our community. Aberdeenshire Council's increasingly restrictive interpretation of the guidance issued in 2019, particularly around the definition of the 'main footfall area' in the village and the council's extraordinary reluctance to engage properly with us over the maintenance of the fittings to lighting columns, now threatens to undermine all that has been achieved. This is very much a live issue and one that we will have to work very hard to resolve. The community owe a great debt to everyone who has worked, and is working, to provide such an excellent Christmas display.</p> <p>On the theme of Christmas, we again held a Carols Round the Tree in December. Unfortunately, I was unwell and unable to attend but I know the event was a great success. As always Eric Day, more than ably assisted by other willing souls, led the organisation of the event and our thanks go to everyone who helped and who attended.</p> <p>Also on a positive note, the TCC Website has not only been completely overhauled but has also been moved to another hosting organisation. Our thanks go to Andrew Brazier for the work he has done to provide TCC with an up-to-date and effective website.</p> <p>TCC has dealt with a number of issues highlighted on our monthly Action Log; many of these have been awaiting resolution for a considerable time, sometimes years, which can be frustrating. We appreciate the efforts made by two of our Councillors to resolve these matters and while recognising that the council has serious budget challenges, we do have concerns over the lack of communication -at times conflicting - we and the Councillors receive. This is an issue which Aberdeenshire Council really do need to address. Items on the Action Log include road repairs, the cutting back of trees opposite the Station Garage, the access road to the Health Centre and issues around parking and safety in the village centre. We have been discussing these matters for, in some cases, years without achieving a satisfactory outcome.</p> <p>One notable success this year has been the renovation of the Learney Hall. TCC has been engaged in this matter for many years and is delighted that the work we have done has resulted in a marked improvement of the facilities and decoration of this valuable community asset. The kitchen and toilets have been modernised; the hall floors have been redone and vital electrical works carried out in part of the hall. On</p>	
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	<p>behalf of TCC I would like to thank the council for undertaking this work and holding to its longstanding commitment to the Torphins community.</p> <p>The issue of traffic speeds in the village is a perennial challenge. We have responded to Aberdeenshire Council's consultation on 20mph speed limits as well as seeking more enforcement of existing speed limits, particularly along Beltie Road and Kincardine Road. Sadly, there remain a considerable number of motorists passing through the village, or even resident here, who appear to have scant regard for the safety of people living here.</p> <p>We have worked with other groups during the year, particularly TORCH, the Paths Group and the Gala Committee. Groups such as these help significantly to ensure Torphins is a safe and vibrant place to live and their efforts are greatly appreciated.</p> <p>By necessity this is but a summary of the work TCC has done over the year. In much of this we have had the help and support of Councillor Sarah Brown and Councillor Anouk Kloppert; our thanks go to them for all they have done for the community.</p> <p>The amount of correspondence which flows into the TCC is extraordinary. In addition, meetings are arranged, venues found and booked, minutes accurately taken and support is given to members. A great deal of this falls to the lot of our Secretary; my personal thanks and the thanks of TCC and the community, to Will Maclean for everything he has done over the year.</p> <p>Thanks also to Eric Day, our long-standing Treasurer, for keeping the finances on track – and keeping an eye on planning applications on our behalf.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank every member of this Community Council for the work you have done and the part you have played in our activities and our meetings. Your commitment has been exemplary, and it has been an absolute pleasure working with you all.</p> <p>Annual Report of TORCH sub committee: Not provided.</p>	RD
4.	<p>Consideration and Approval of Independently Verified Statement of Accounts for the year 2024-2025: See financial report below.</p>	ED

Torphins Community Council.

Financial Report 2024-2025

Please see Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024

The Accounts are split into four specific areas to provide clarity.

Torphins Community Council

Xmas Lights

The Hardship Fund

TORCH

<u>TCC:</u>	Bank Balance at 31/3/24	£166.29	
	Income	£1127.18	
		£1293.47	
	Less Expenditure	£616.24	
	Balance C/Fwd	<u>£677.23</u>	
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<u>Xmas Lights</u>	Bank Balance at 31/3/23	£530.57	
	Income	NIL	
	Less Expenditure	422.12	
	Balance C/Fwd	<u>£108.45</u>	
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<u>Hardship Fund:</u>	Bank Balance at 31/3/23	£649.73	
	Income	NIL	
	Less Expenditure	£652.69	
	Balance C/Fwd	<u>-£2.96</u>	Account Closed
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<u>TORCH:</u>	Bank Balance at 1/3/23	£9106.45	
	Income	NIL	
	Less Expenditure	£ 920.49	
	Balance C/Fwd.	<u>£8185.96</u>	

5.	<p>Election/Re-election of Office Bearers, only if any retire before completion of three year term ending in 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Vice-Chair • Treasurer • Secretary <p>No changes to membership, all office holders continue in post.</p>	TCC
6.	<p>Approval of the Community Council's Annual Budget: Approved.</p>	Chair
7.	<p>Review of TCC Constitution and Vote on Any Proposals for Amendment: No changes to the constitution.</p>	Chair

8.	Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 3 rd July 2025, 7:30 pm, Learney Hall	
9.	Meeting closed at 7:25 pm	