



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7:30 pm Meeting online on Zoom		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Colin Rouse (CR); Stephen Salter (SS); In Attendance: Cllr. Sarah Brown (SB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (Cllr AK); Robbie Dow Apologies: Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB);	
2.	Intimation of noted interests: None	
3.	Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 4th December 2025 previously by email: Adopted as proposed by email without changes. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day	TCC
4.	Police Report: Still no Police Report despite earlier advice reports would restart. Cllr SB agreed to follow up.	PS Cllr SB
5.	Finance Report: The bank balance at 1 January 2026 is £8,560.80, comprising TCC funds £286.86, Christmas Lights £10.98, TORCH unchanged at £7,587.96, and new Village Flower Tub Fund £675.00. TCC general fund expenditure was £67.50 for bouquet on retirement of Diane from Torphins Pharmacy, and £42.47 for mince pies for Carols Around Christmas Tree. The cash donation income from the event was a generous £259.83 which will be banked shortly. All donors are thanked, plus Platform 22 for donating the mulled wine. AM advised the members that the application to Robertson Trust for hardship funds has been successful with £2000 awarded, although this cannot be used for the Pantry due to association with the church. AM was thanked for his success.	ED AM
6.	Planning: Following application approved: APP/2025/1348 – Erection of replacement dwelling house at Little Maldron, Torphins.	ED
7.	New and Focus Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TORCH Report: Robbie Dow, Chairman of TORCH, was welcomed to the meeting to give his latest report. Robbie said it has obviously been a challenging start to the year, however we are fortunate there has been no effect on power supplies due to the dry snow. TORCH has responded with the message to adapt and to warm and inform. The key for resilience as always is to Be Prepared and Be Good Neighbours. 	Robbie Dow

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7.	<p>New and Focus Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TORCH Report (Continued): A great example is the response within five minutes by a local tractor owner to a TCF Facebook request for help to clear a side road for an unwell person stranded at home. In Tornaveen Findrack Estate has been good at helping people. Also Aberdeenshire Council Resilience Team has been good with regular contact. TORCH continues in steady state. The generator was recently serviced and is frequently given a test run. There are thirty volunteers and relations with the Church are very good. When the planning approval for the generator container was renewed there was a request for screening, therefore TORCH is looking into a new permanent housing for the generator. RD answered a number of questions. TORCH has links with COTAG however they have been focused on NHS and Carer needs in the snow. The condensation problem is resolved. TORCH has a management committee of six members and a WhatsApp Group of 30 Volunteers. The good relations with the Church provides confidence more volunteers would be available if needed. There is not a lot of change in Volunteer pool so it would be good to get new participants and to enable good succession planning. Robbie advised he is available for periodic updates as needed. PA thanked Robbie for his leadership of TORCH and the positive update. LDP Proposed Bid Sites for Review: Members noted the development bids following the Call for Bids closure on 31 October 2025 have now been published online, including five sites at Torphins. These are available to view under /Marr/Torphins at: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1a7c49fa58b643b991f306a975e11fe9 There was some discussion if TCC should respond with a submission to the Call for Ideas relating whether the proposed bids align with strategic spatial aspirations for the area, however it was felt the views on the future of the settlement are clearly expressed in the Torphins LPP which has already been submitted for registration. PA noted most of the sites have been proposed but not approved in the past, however SS stated there are two sites south of Beltie Burn and west of B993 Kincardine Road which have not been proposed before. Although the process is not entirely clear it is understood there will be future wider consultations during the LDP development process which will allow comments to be submitted by TCC and the public. Both Cllr SB and Cllr AK undertook to follow up to inform clarity on the process. Proposal from IBGCC for Online Meeting of local CCs regarding Call for Sites TCC received a proposal from Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel CC for a joint online meeting of local CCs to consider the large numbers of bids and houses submitted under the LDP Call for Sites. For IBGCC the bids if successful would double the number of houses in the CC area. The Torphins bids total 155 houses, although several of the proposed sites have been rejected in the past. It was agreed TCC will attend the proposed meeting on 15th January 2025, represented by our Chair PA. The meeting will consider the proposal to form a "Coalition of the Willing" to campaign for appropriate and balanced solutions for CCs in the area, in terms of numbers of sites and houses, adequate provision of all services and provision of transport strategies, etc. AM expressed his concern the LDP process ignores the importance of small site developments since only bids over five units are accepted, whereas individual and small developments actually make a significant contribution to housing stock in the area. Not only that, these small developments employ local labour and resources and often fix problem sites, rather than being implemented by large scale developers who bring in materials and work teams from out with the local area. 	<p>Robbie Dow</p> <p>PA</p> <p>Cllr SB Cllr AK WM PA</p>

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7.	New and Focus Items (Continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal from IBGCC for Online Meeting of local CCs regarding Call for Sites (Continued): PA said AM's view is valued and suggested Councillors raise at committee the matter of proper LDP planning and representation for small-scale developments in the LDP process. The consultation process for the LDP was discussed again and Cllr SB was requested by PA to ask the Planners for when the full consultation on valid approved sites will proceed. 	Cllr SB
8.	Open Action Log: The Open Action Log is an appendix integral to the minutes of meeting. All items were reviewed and updated as detailed in the log, which is available online with the minutes at www.torphins.net	TCC
9.	Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All correspondence received has been distributed by email to all members for review and action as appropriate or desired, including discussion as necessary at TCC Ordinary Meetings. Noted: Request from Westhill and Elrick Community Council to support the idea of a joint statement by all Aberdeenshire CCs calling for equitable and fair funding for Aberdeenshire Community Councils. Summary of four pages document: "We call upon our MSPs, representing constituencies covering Aberdeenshire and the North East Region, to secure from Scottish Government a more equitable and fair funding settlement for public services in Aberdeenshire." It was agreed TCC will advise W&ECC of our support and our nominated contact to approve changes is PA SEPA consultation on the Nation's Water Environment is open for comment until March. Ten Feet Tall Theatre – Encore Script Reading in Torphins have been in touch today to advise the sessions will recommence at Learney Hall on Wednesday 14th January 2026 and run until end of March. TCC supports and publicises this popular initiative for Torphins and although funding is not yet successful for future years does hope the sessions will be able to continue after this spring session. Marr Area launched a survey on challenges facing communities in current conditions and the Marr Area Partnership have launched a survey on the impact in current weather conditions: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C7ZDHN3 	WM
10.	AOCB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED questioned again why the grit bins map is still not updated. He has submitted an incident ref 941923, which is accompanied by very many others on same subject. It was also pointed out that even the retained bins have not been filled this season and remain empty. Cllr SB undertook and follow up again on the matter. SS requested the contact details for the authors of the book A History of Torphins and ED undertook to provide these. IF mentioned the Christmas Lights have suffered from water ingress and ED advised this known problem has a solution to be proposed for next season. Learney Hall PA - WM has been contacted by Adrian Mitchell who is concerned there is no PA system at Learney Hall, a matter brought to the attention of many during the recent Children's Drama show attended by over 130 people. Adrian has personally sourced two suitable speakers and an amplifier to equip the hall and seeks the support of TCC. Adrian requires to PAT test the equipment, source cabling, and seek permission to install the equipment at the hall. (Continued) 	ED SS, ED IF, ED AM, WM

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10.	AOCB (Continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learney Hall PA – Adrian also plans a Crowd Funding to finance the project. TCC undertook to support the initiative and will contact Live Life Aberdeenshire to obtain permission for installation of the PA system. We will also promote fund raising. Thank you to Adrian for this initiative. • Learney Hall is booked for all 2026 planned ordinary meetings and the AGM. • Cllr AK remarked that it is important to make Councillors aware of our community priorities for the upcoming budget setting process. • Thank you to Cllr AK for the unlimited time Zoom access. 	WM Cllr AK Cllr AK
11.	Next Ordinary Meeting: Thursday 5 th February 2026	
12.	Meeting closed at 8:56 pm	
	Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 9 th January 2026 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 5 th February 2026. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas	