



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
<http://www.torphins.net> & <https://www.facebook.com/TorphinsCommunity>

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Thursday 5 th February 2026 at 7:30 pm Meeting online on Zoom		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Colin Rouse (CR);</p> <p>In Attendance: Cllr. Sarah Brown (SB)</p> <p>Apologies: Andrew Macpherson (AM); Stephen Salter (SS); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (Cllr AK);</p>	
2.	<p>Intimation of noted interests: None</p>	
3.	<p>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 8th January 2025 previously by email: Adopted as proposed by email without changes. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas</p>	TCC
4.	<p>Police Report: Police Report expected by end January following contact of Cllr SB with the Inspector has not yet been received. Discussion of the purpose and need for a Police Report was initiated by Cllr SB. TCC know we are fortunate to have very few incidents in the Torphins area, however it had been agreed years ago that a quarterly report would be issued (a reduction from a monthly report, and previously regular visits), so we wonder what has happened to the reports, since none has been received since a Banchory based sergeant retired. We understand the Police Report is of value to the Police as well as the community in the interest of "community policing", since TCC may not be aware of local policing issues. TCC also understands the resource pressures on the police, therefore if a regular report is no longer practical we will accept this, but would like to know if this should be a quarterly agenda item or not. Cllr SB offered to follow up again after a reasonable passage of time to resolve this matter one way or the other.</p>	PS Cllr SB Cllr SB
5.	<p>Finance Report: The bank balance at 31 January 2026 is £11,407.80, comprising TCC funds £1,133.86, Christmas Lights £10.98, TORCH unchanged at £7,587.96, the new Village Flower Tub Fund £675.00 and Hardship Fund received with thanks from Robertson Trust £2,000.00. TCC general fund was augmented by the Aberdeenshire Council Admin Grant of £847.00 which includes the cost of our insurance premium paid directly by TCC. The renewal insurance premium to be paid is £309.18, which is a 2.7% increase on last year. The Carols cash donation income of £259.83 has to be deposited with a visit to Inverurie branch of Virgin Money as the Post Office would not accept the cash deposit locally.</p>	ED

Item No.	Description	Owner
6.	<p>Planning: No new activity to report.</p>	ED
7.	<p>New and Focus Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Meeting of Local CC Regarding Local Development Plan Six local Deeside community councils met to agree a sustainable development charter for the LDP, placing factors such as infrastructure first and quality design at the forefront, and all drivers aligned with NPF4. The draft charter is being completed imminently and will be circulated to the CCs for review. PA is the TCC representative on the group.</p> <p>• 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 with 155 houses in total, although several of the sites have been rejected in the past. Following confirmation of the LDP consultation process since last meeting it is agreed the Secretary on behalf of TCC will make a submission to the Call for Ideas to reiterate the position of TCC as set out in the recently completed LPP, which has now been registered with Aberdeenshire Council as of 26 January 2026. https://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/local-place-plans-register</p> <p>• Festive Lights: ED raised his concerns over the reported review of the Festive Lights policies by Aberdeenshire Council. On January 22nd, the Infrastructure Services Committee reviewed a report regarding the Festive Lights and Bunting Policy. The report highlighted a new approach and sought initial feedback, as well as approval to conduct public engagement and consultations with Area Committees. The report recognised Community Groups would like to have more flexibility in the placement of festive motifs across towns and villages. In response to that aspiration, it is proposed that the current approach, whereby suitable locations are specified, namely, town centres or high footfall areas, be removed. This will be replaced by a framework that would allow a Community Group to apply to install a festive light on any street in their community. The presumption would be that the location be approved, so long as the installation did not compromise the safety of road users, including pedestrians. However, it is important that the revised approach also follows the principles of Full Cost Recovery. It is therefore proposed that the cost burden associated with the installation and operation of festive motifs be shared between the Council and Community Groups. The two main cost elements associated with the approval of festive light installations are infrastructure upgrades and electricity costs. PA highlighted the importance an early decision as community groups will need time to plan and to fund raise if there are any additional costs, and WM asked if a schedule had been set for the community engagement and implementation. Cllr SB highlighted the importance of community consultation on the matter and advised she has already requested a timeline for the engagement process and is currently awaiting confirmation.</p> <p>• Potholes: Noting the proliferation of road potholes since the severe weather ED asked what is the plan to fix them? He suggested the Council should have teams visit towns and villages to methodically fix all potholes in the area rather than the scattered approach of responding purely on the basis of the Council's priority criteria. IF reckoned the current process is extremely inefficient with teams moving all according to priority assigned. Cllr SB agreed to check if there is a specific plan.</p> 	<p>PA</p> <p>WM</p> <p>ED</p> <p>Cllr SB</p> <p>ED</p> <p>Cllr SB</p>

Item No.	Description	Owner
7.	<p>New and Focus Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Installation of Learney Hall New PA System: Following recent concerns in the community over lack of a public address system in Learney Hall for functions, Andrew Mitchell has voluntarily sourced suitable speakers and amplifier for installation. At a site meeting with Aberdeenshire Council officials, agreement was reached for Andrew to install the equipment following PAT testing, as there is no hard wiring required. This is a fantastic personal initiative which warrants strong support when the funding initiative is launched. SEPA Flood Risk Management Consultation: People across Scotland are being invited to share their experiences of local flooding issues to help inform how flood risk is managed in their communities, as work continues on Scotland's next Flood Risk Management Plans. Individuals are recommended to contribute by going to the consultation at: https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmp-phase-1-consultation/ 	WM A Mitchell WM
8.	<p>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</p>	TCC
9.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <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. <p>Marr Community Forum for all CC members is on Tuesday 24th February 2026 on MS Teams at 7:00 pm. Subject is Community Benefit Strategy/Community Benefit Funds and other agenda items are sought. Contact Kirsty MacLeod at Marr Area.</p>	WM
10.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR mentioned the flaps are broken on the waste bin on Innermarkie Wynd and others mentioned the bin at Scotmid. Cllr SB noted to report. ED reported he had been advised Learney Hall users should treat ice and snow in the area with the salt from the grit bins in the area. In fact the nearest bin is around 300 meters away. A bin should be located at the hall. JL reckoned few drivers are observing the 20 mph speed limit and Police should take action to enforce. IF pointed out that the enhanced snow clearing noted in Lumphanan was actually organized and performed by parents to enable their kids to get to school safely. WM reported he attended the National Energy System Operator Webinar on their plans. There was widespread concern from most attendees from across Scotland that NESO plans are developing for 2028-2033 onwards and seemingly will have limited impact on the many current proposed renewable energy developments. 	CR ED JL IF WM
11.	<p>Next Ordinary Meeting: Thursday 5th March 2026</p>	
12.	<p>Meeting closed at 9:10 pm</p>	
	<p>Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 6th February 2026 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 5th March 2026. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day</p>	