



Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen
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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Thursday 5 th March 2026 at 7:30 pm Meeting online on Zoom		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p>Present: Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Eric Day (ED); Will Maclean (WM); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Stephen Salter (SS); Colin Rouse (CR)</p> <p>In Attendance: Adrian Mitchell</p> <p>Apologies: Andrew Brazier (AB); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Sarah Brown (SB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (Cllr AK)</p>	
2.	<p>Intimation of noted interests: None</p>	
3.	<p>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 5th March 2025 previously by email: Adopted as proposed by email without changes. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: John Lucas</p>	TCC
4.	<p>Police Report: The Torphins Police Report received on 18th February 2026 was welcomed. New officers in Banchory who recently communicated with TCC regarding the Police Reports are Insp Tom Spencer and Sgt Pete McAndie. There were no crime statistics to report for Q1 2026 and the statistics for late 2025 were reviewed. A housebreaking incident on a vacant property remains under investigation. Other incidents have been reported to court or closed. A complaint of ongoing speeding on St Marnan Road has been received, and Police hope to meet with the resident who has raised the matter to discuss it.</p>	PS
5.	<p>Finance Report: The bank balance at 31 January 2026 is £11,257.45, plus £100.00 now retained in cash as float. The bank balance comprises TCC funds £1,138.10, following deposit of Carols Around Christmas Tree donations which total £258.83 before retention of £100 toward cash float, and expenditure £154.59 on TCC share of insurance premium. Other balances are: Christmas Lights £10.98; TORCH £7,433.37, after £154.49 share of insurance premium; the new Village Flower Tub Fund £675.00; and Hardship Fund received with thanks from Robertson Trust £2,000.00.</p>	ED
6.	<p>Planning: No new activity to report.</p>	ED
7.	<p>New and Focus Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Update on Installation of Learney Hall New PA System: Adrian Mitchell confirmed the new PA system has been installed, indeed we had positive evidence from the lively Scout meeting in the large hall where the system is already in use! The total cost of the project is £480 with the funds to be raised by crowd funding organised by Adrian and donation from the Scouts.</p> 	AM

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7.	<p>New and Focus Items (Continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Update on Installation of Learney Hall New PA System: It was agreed the equipment will be labelled with name of TCC to confirm “ownership” and TCC will investigate the cost of insuring the equipment under the TCC policy. (Subsequent the meeting Zurich agreed to add the PA at no charge).</p> <p>Local Development Plan Call for Ideas: The proposal was agreed to make a submission to the Call for Ideas following the closure of the Call for Sites, which revealed bids for housing development on five sites around Torphins. See: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/call-for-ideas-2 The following submission will be lodged: <i>Torphins Community Council notes five LDP29 Proposed Bid Sites for Torphins. Consideration of these bids should refer to the Torphins Local Place Plan (TLPP) submitted on 24th November 2025 and registered on 27th January 2026. The TLPP refers to housing on page 8 under Development Opportunities and on pages 9 and 10 under Challenges, Aspirations, Priorities and Projects. The Torphins LPP defines the community’s expectations and aspirations for future development within the village. It does not identify land for development but does define the issues facing the community around housing and other development.</i></p> <p>Convention of Community Councils Round Table with MSPs at Holyrood: PA reported on the recent Convention of Community Councils meeting with MSPs at Holyrood. Members from the North East Scotland, Highland and Borders Conventions attended the meeting with MSPs, at which the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, Ms. Gillian Martin MSP, attended for 30 minutes before excusing herself. The members of the CCC expressed their strong concern about the failure of the current system to engage with the views of local communities in the decision making and approval process for energy developments.</p> <p>Draft Sustainable Development Charter: Eight Deeside Community Councils have come together to agree a joint statement of shared principles in support of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. The final charter will be published as a submission to the LDP Call for Ideas. It was agreed to submit comments by AM to the group to review for potential inclusion, although it is recognised the document may already be approved by some CC. Particular concern was noted that NPF4, which forms foundation of the approval process, provides for Community Benefit only as advice and not as policy.</p> 	<p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>PA</p> <p>PA</p> <p>AM</p>
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 general 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. We also received direct correspondence from local residents as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Torphins Playgroup is in urgent need of people willing to serve as Chair and as Vice Chair. These positions must be filled to ensure the continuation of The Torphins Playgroup to the benefit of many local families. TCC strongly urges anyone interested and willing to help to contact The Playgroup directly as soon as possible at: Torphinsplaygroup.committee@gmail.com We received a request from the Community Leisure Officer at Live Life Aberdeenshire to review whether any of the old equipment at Learney Hall can be disposed of to tidy the premises and improve efficiency of maintenance. 	WM

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9.	<p>Correspondence (Continued):</p> <p>It was agreed Secretary to arrange a site visit with the Officer to review. It was also noted with extreme concern and disappointment that during the refurbishment of the hall all the crockery and cutlery had been disposed of by the Council, apparently for health and safety reasons of cleanliness. It was felt a better solution would have been to store the items in sealed boxes to keep away from mice etc. and it is not understood why such wanton waste was allowed. Agreed Secretary to contact the Officer for explanations and actions.</p> <p>3. A local resident on Inchley Place contacted TCC seeking information on who to contact to gain permission to plant flowers on the island at the junction of Inchley Place and Woodside Road. TCC made contact with the Greenspaces Team who promptly lodged approval subject to certain reasonable conditions. On request of Greenspaces Team TCC informed the resident to contact the Team to progress the idea, which has the support of residents in the area.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>WM</p>
10.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS reported the identification while lining on the disabled space at Scotmid is already worn away and needs redone. Similarly the space at the Pharmacy. Councillors to be advised. • SS reported the broken wall on Beltie Burn to east of Kincardine Road is worse and becoming more concerning. Ownership is uncertain. • WM mentioned the Council attack on potholes in the village last week. Disappointing the fixes are temporary but the concerted effort to progressively repair multiple potholes in one effort rather than one offs by priority is recognised as helpful in the short term. None the less, the disgraceful delay in repairing the massive potholes between Torphins and Wester Beltie was noted as a serious matter of community concern, with multiple punctures and wheel damages at the location. • AM raised his extreme displeasure with the 10% increase in Council Tax and the failure of Aberdeenshire Councillors to attend the TCC meeting to explain. The Council needs to demonstrate and explain its efforts to make efficiencies, to meet the increasing demand on certain services, to minimise any increases, and prove value for money to the electorate. Failure to do this loses faith in the Council. This view as strongly upheld by all members, while WM mentioned the extreme demand on Council finance given the years of freeze and limitations of central government funding, and said cuts to services are at a point we may need to pay. PA proceeded to explain based on his knowledge and experience the pressure on Council budgeting and the complexities of managing the budgeting process, and demands of statutory services such as education and care services on Council. SS and others still felt the increase unacceptable and should be better explained. • Adrian M reported the street light at the corner of Woodside Road and Craigour Road has been out for many months if not years, as have the lights on the speed limit signs. These have been reported but not repaired. We will verify reports and report to Councillors. • Adrian was thanked for his attendance and great contribution to the PA system. 	<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p> <p>WM</p> <p>AM</p> <p>Adrian Mitchell</p>
11.	Next Ordinary Meeting: Thursday 2nd April 2026	
12.	Meeting closed at 9:10 pm	
	<p>Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 9th March 2026 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 2nd April 2026.</p> <p>Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: Colin Rouse</p>	