



## 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 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7:30 pm Meeting online on Zoom		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p><b>Present:</b> Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Iain Firth (IF); John Lucas (JL); Will Maclean (WM); Colin Rouse (CR)</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Sarah Brown (SB); Brian Murray (BM) for TPG (part only)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Andrew Macpherson (AM); Cllr. Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (AK)</p>	
2.	<p><b>Intimation of noted interests:</b> ED, IF, WM, all expressed an interest as Trustees of Torphins Paths Group in the proposal at item 4 and did not participate in the decision.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 2nd April 2025 previously by email:</b> Adopted as proposed by email without changes. Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day</p>	TCC
4.	<p><b>Torphins Paths Group Proposal:</b> BM presented the proposal on behalf of Torphins Paths Group to develop a path with bridge and safe connection to Woodside Road. The "Blacksmith's Path" is a route linking from Woodside Road to the Old Smithy, passing through the new tree plantation owned by Learney Estate. At the south end the path travels through a field owned by Leys Estate, to cross the Learney Burn and terminate at Woodside Road, where it meets the path in Torphins Woods previously developed by TPG. The path provides a safe route avoiding the dangerous A980 for walkers and cyclists who desire a circular route to/from the village via Craigmyle or from Bog Road. Following a pre application a planning application is required for the new fenced section in the field and the bridge, including flood risk assessment and ecology report. TPG requests the support of TCC. The meeting strongly supported the proposal and agreed TCC to submit the planning application with the consequent discount for CCs.</p>	BM
5.	<p><b>Police Report:</b> The meeting welcomed the new Police Report format received covering Winter 2025 and noted with interest the wide range of matters and advice included. We look forward to future reports and potential occasional attendance at TCC meetings.</p>	PS
6.	<p><b>Finance Report:</b> The bank balance at 30 April 2026 is £12,646.42, plus £100.00 in cash as float. The TCC funds are now split between the Admin Grant fund, and Common Good fund holding funds raised by TCC. TCC fund balance is £504.99, having expended £275.00 on replacement flower tubs and £91.08 on the website fee. Common Good fund is £223.83, Christmas Lights £10.98, and Village Flower Tub now zero with £550.00 accepted by volunteers and £150.00 returned to BoL. Robertson Trust Hardship Fund is</p>	ED

Item No.	Description	Owner
6.	<p><b>Finance Report (Continued):</b>            £2000.00 and TORCH £9,906.62 following receipt of £2,000.00 grant from Aberdeenshire for resilience activities.</p>	ED
7.	<p><b>Planning:</b>            Noted with no concerns the following new applications:            APP/2026/0617 for extension at 44 Beltie Road            APP/2026/0626 for alterations and extension of dwelling at West Maldron. Council have requested a photographic survey due to historic age of building and a bat survey.</p>	ED
8.	<p><b>New and Focus Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>• <b>Hill of Fare Windfarm Application WIN-110-4:</b>                SUBMISSION on behalf of HOFWIG and six Community Councils in Reply to Applicant's Response to Reporter's Procedure Notice of 26 March 2026 re:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recent Court of Session Judgement Renshaw Farms Limited v Scottish Ministers and Energiekantor</li> <li>2. Planning Guidance Battery Energy Storage Systems</li> </ol> <p>The developer RES submitted their response justifying the development, followed by the six CCs with HoFWIG submitting their response, with the assistance of their KC, explaining why the proposal should not be approved. RES submitted a further reply supporting their position. The decision of the Scottish Minister is awaited.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Community Benefits Briefing:</b>                Aberdeenshire Council has begun work on developing an Aberdeenshire Community Benefit Strategy. A key element of this work is the establishment of a Reference Group, made up of representatives from the six Aberdeenshire Community Council Forums, developers, and academia. The Reference Group was keen that a briefing paper be prepared and circulated prior to the Strategy being progressed and before any wider community engagement takes place. The proposal was reviewed by TCC and supported as an important initiative to enable an effective approach to gaining community benefits from renewable energy developments.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Torphins School: Performance now in Aberdeenshire Top 10 and roll forecast down to 142 leading to composite classes:</b>                TCC strongly welcomed the achievements at Torphins School. The discussion on roll and composite classes was deferred to next meeting when AM will be present.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Feedback on Proposed CC Networking Event:</b>                The proposal for a networking event for all CCs in Aberdeenshire was reviewed and TCC resolved to respond positively.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Care of War Memorials:</b>                The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Team had contacted CCs to enquire of groups looking after War Memorials, to confirm their record of those involved. It is understood Aberdeenshire looks after the Torphins War Memorial so it was decided no action is required by TCC.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Learney Hall PA System Funding and Hall Curtains behind stage:</b>                Noting the work of Adrian Mitchell to source and install a PA system in Learney Hall the question of funding was raised. It was agreed Secretary to approach AM to gauge the need for financial assistance, knowing that AM and the Scouts have provided funding to date. It is now confirmed the curtains are fixed.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Status of Pavement Parking Dispensation at north side Craighour Road at Scotmid:</b>                Cllr SB expressed her frustration regarding delays by Council on this matter, however confirming the dispensation has been recommended by Roads and will go before Area Committee in due time for approval.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>PA</p> <p>WM</p> <p>AM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>WM</p> <p>JL</p>

Item No.	Description	Owner
8.	<p><b>New and Focus Items (Continued):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Response to Survey on New Powers for Scotland's CC:</b> This proposal by a Perthshire CC member and supported by 21 CCs was noted. TCC decided to maintain a watch on the matter with no action at this time.</li> <li>• <b>Bread of Life shop unit and Walkers Shortbread History:</b> While a member of TCC Stephen Salter has pursued the idea of a recognition plaque at Bread of Life and had corresponded with Walkers Shortbread and the Lord Lieutenant on the matter, providing the latest correspondence to TCC. It was decided TCC will maintain the project with PA writing to Walkers and the Lord Lieutenant and the sourcing of plaque being pursued.</li> </ul>	WM PA
9.	<p><b>Open Action Log:</b> 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 <a href="http://www.torphins.net">www.torphins.net</a></p>	TCC
10.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 Meeting per New Items above.</li> </ul>	TCC
11.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CR noted the work of the Explorer Scouts collecting litter on local roads. TCC sincerely thanks the group for their efforts to clean up the local roads. Also noted the TCC planning for a stall at Gala should be addressed at next meeting</li> <li>• ED raised again the matter of the extensive potholes on the road near the Church. Cllr SB will follow up again.</li> <li>• JL mentioned the drain in Village Farm Court needing repaired, which is reported.</li> <li>• AB advised full fibre broadband is coming to the village by firm Go Fibre. It is possible to request from the firm. Trenching in the village will be required. AB also advised the next Bus Forum is on 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm in Banchory.</li> </ul>	CR ED Cllr SB JL AB
11.	<p><b>Next Ordinary Meeting:</b> Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 <b>AGM:</b> Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026</p>	
12.	<p><b>Meeting closed at 8:54 pm</b></p>	
	<p><b>Adoption of Minutes:</b> These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Proposed: Eric Day                      Seconded: John Lucas</p>	