



## Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen  
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The 48th Annual General Meeting</b>  <b>Meeting Minutes</b>  <b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7:00 pm</b>  <b>Learney Hall, Torphins</b></p>		
Item No.	Description	Owner
1.	<p><b>Present:</b> Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); John Lucas (JL); Andrew Macpherson (AM); Colin Rouse (CR)</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Sarah Brown (SB); Robbie Dow (RD)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Will Maclean (WM); Iain Firth (IF); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (AK)</p>	TCC
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>            Adopted as proposed by email            Proposed: John Lucas Seconded: Eric Day</p>	PA
3.	<p><b>Annual Report of Torphins Community Council</b>            Beyond any shadow of a doubt 2025 and 2026 will be remembered as the year of the Hill of Fare, although how exactly these events will be remembered is yet to be seen. After several years of work, by TCC ourselves or with our five ally CCs and HOFWIG, the Public Local Inquiry opened in Banchory in September. TCC was well represented throughout and of course participated and spoke at the Community Hearing, an event so well attended that it was standing room only in Banchory Town Hall, a fact that must have carried weight with the Reporter. The proceedings of the PLI could hardly be described as ‘court room drama’ but were, in my view, revealing; the paucity of the developer’s case was laid bare, both by the inadequacy of the evidence led and through the forensic questioning to which it was exposed. John Campbell, the KC instructed by HOFWIG, played his part in this, along with the KCs instructed by Aberdeenshire Council and Historic Environment Scotland, fully and professionally supported by the three parties’ expert witnesses.</p> <p>The Reporter indicated she would report to Scottish Ministers by the end of February but this timetable has slipped, mostly due to the case brought to the Court of Session by Raeshaw Farms Ltd against the planning consent, granted on appeal, on the 8 turbine Wull Muir Wind Farm. The question was over the completeness of Environmental Impact Assessments and the interrelationship between a windfarm and its grid connection. The Court upheld Raeshaw Farms’ case and quashed the planning consent. As a result of this case, the Hill of Fare Reporter sought responses from RES on the issues raised; the Council, HES, HOFWIG and the six CCs then responded to RES’ submission. We now await the outcome with no indication of possible timescales.</p>	PA

	<p>The second major piece of work that TCC has taken forward this year is the Local Place Plan. This has now progressed successfully through all the stages of consultation and engagement and has been accepted by Aberdeenshire Council’s planning team. I rather think I have forgotten how many times we said we would consider the question of an LPP “at our next meeting”...but now it is done and my thanks go to all those who attended the consultations or put in responses.</p> <p>Christmas Lights are important to the community, but I don’t think everyone in Torphins fully appreciates how much work is required to arrange the show each year. This year was particularly challenging, due to the somewhat unhelpful approach taken by Aberdeenshire Council. It took a great deal of careful effort to resolve the issues and ensure the community could enjoy Christmas lighting to the usual high standards. This was a team effort but nonetheless our thanks must go to Eric for his determination and persistence in leading the team. Connected with that was Carols Round the Tree which was a great success in 2025 – again our thanks to the team (and Eric!)</p> <p>One change during the past year relates to the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. This has for many years been arranged by the Royal British Legion but as the Kincardine O’Neil branch was in the process of winding up - sadly – TCC agreed to take on responsibility for this event. We were also represented as usual at the Torphins Gala in August, an event we are delighted to be able to support.</p> <p>Otherwise, the year has seen the normal mixture of frustrations and successes. We have spent a good deal of time on questions such as the access to the medical practice, parking outside the ScotMid, drainage in the park and, inevitably, pot holes. Happily, the Action Log is getting shorter, although of course some of these matters have been there for a number of years.</p> <p>Stephen Salter resigned as a member of TCC this year, to our regret, and I would like to record our thanks to Stephen for the work he has done for the community over the years.</p> <p>Our thanks are also due to Cllr Sarah Brown for her regular attendance at our meetings and to both her and Cllr Anouk Kloppert for the efforts they have made to tackle the issues we have raised with them.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank all members of TCC for the work you have all done over the year. Your collective attendance at meetings is outstanding and the support you have given me is greatly appreciated. A more dedicated, friendly and focused team would be hard to imagine. On your behalf I would like to offer particular thanks to Eric, who after twenty-three years as a member is really starting to get into the way of things and to Will, whose work as secretary is tireless and comes on top of everything he does for the Paths Group.</p> <p>Thank you all. As always it has been a great pleasure to have worked with you for the past twelve months.</p> <p><b>Annual Report of TORCH sub committee:</b>  Thank you Chairman,  Another busy year of preparations for TORCH and thankfully no requirement to call upon our services and mobilise for a community emergency.  During the year we successfully extended our temporary planning permission for our generator container from two-years to 10-years, which allows us to keep it at Mid-Deeside Church until at least April 2033.</p>	RD
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	<p>Not only does that give us peace of mind, but it also gives us enough time to work with Mid-Deeside Church on developing a permanent solution for housing the generator.</p> <p>Our committee’s ability to source funding succeeded again with a £2,500 grant from Aberdeenshire Council for communications equipment.</p> <p>This will purchase a Starlink satellite internet system which will be used as a back-up to the current broadband system in the church (which Colin Guy at Mid Deeside Church always tells me is the fastest broadband in the village).</p> <p>If during a community emergency the land-based internet services in the area are knocked out of action, the Starlink system will be able to provide internet access for up to 100-people at the hall with the ability to increase that number if required. The Aberdeenshire Council grant covers purchase of the equipment and the initial running costs.</p> <p>TORCH again attended the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Conference last October where we manned a joint stand with the Red Cross to demonstrate how we would set up if mobilised.</p> <p>We also continued to support others in their efforts to set up community resilience groups, most notably Tarves Community Council with whom we shared our plans, experiences and best practices.</p> <p>And that extended to the newly formed Cromar Area Resilience Group in Tarland with support and advice, including inviting their members to inspect our set-up at Mid Deeside Church and see our generator in operation last November.</p> <p>A lot of our efforts have concentrated on ‘Warn and Inform’ messaging to ensure the community was prepared in advance of potential bad weather episodes. That</p> <p>appears to have been a success with more than 500-people now following the TORCH Facebook page.</p> <p>An example of that was during the last major snow event when you will remember some roads blocked for several days. A concerned relative of someone with a medical condition living just outside the village got in touch to say they were trapped by their blocked access road and requiring assistance. We put out an appeal on the Facebook page and within 30-minutes a neighbouring farmer had responded and cleared the road.</p> <p>Looking ahead, we are currently planning to hold a TORCH briefing event at the Church either in September or early October. This would be aimed at our current cohort of volunteers and potential new volunteers to basically show how we would operate if mobilised and what kind of tasks the volunteers would do.</p> <p>It would also be a chance to remind residents the simple steps they can take to be prepared for winter and potential long-term power cuts or other community emergencies.</p> <p>I would like to thanks those who supported us during the past year including the Torphins Community Council members who have always provided advice when we needed it and the members of the Aberdeenshire Council resilience team, with who we have an excellent working relationship.</p> <p>TORCH was formed in December 2021 in the wake of Storm Arwen and first mobilised to deal with the aftermath of Storm Malik and Storm Corrie in January/February 2022. In the four years since then we have steadily built up a strong community resilience and will continue to do so.</p> <p>We may not have had to mobilise again in that time, but we remain in a steady state and ready to respond. We will be vigilant and not complacent.</p> <p>Thank you and I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Consideration and Approval of Independently Verified Statement of Accounts for the year 2025-2026:</b> See financial report below.</p>	ED

TORPHINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS		1ST APRIL 2025 - 31ST MARCH 2026	
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Balance F/wd.	£8,968.68		
<b>TCC</b>		<b>TCC</b>	
Profits from Whisky Board at Gala	£165.00	A. Brazier - Web Site	£43.20
Aberdeenshire Council Grant for LPP Production	£220.24	Torphins Gala Hire of Stand	£25.00
Aberdeenshire Council Admin Grant	£847.00	A. Brazier - Web Site	£29.81
Collection from Carols Round the Tree		TCC Meeting Hire of Chuch Hall	£34.00
£258.83 Collected £158.83 Banked £100 Petty Cash	£158.83	Data Protection - Direct Debit	£47.00
		C.Rouse - LPP Flyer	£38.94
		W. Maclean - LPP Booklet	£80.24
		J. Lucas - Poppy Wreath	£24.49
		E. Flather - LPP Art Work	£140.00
		J. Clarke -Boquet for Retiring Pharmacist	£67.50
		E.Day -Mince Pies etc for Carols Round the Tree	£42.47
		Zurich Insurance 50% of total	£154.59
		A. Brazier - Web Site	£43.20
		Donation to Hofwig from Common Good Fund	£200.00
			£970.44
		Occasional License (CAT) Donated by E.Day	£10
<p><i>I certify that the above Summary is a true reflection of the Accounts for 2025/26 available for inspection Clean Day 4th June 2026</i></p>		<p><i>Prepared</i></p>	
		<p><i>Seconded</i></p>	
<b>TORPHINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>1ST APRIL 2025 - 31ST MARCH 2026</b>	
		<b>XMAS Lights</b>	
		A&R Survey of Lamp Posts	£810.00
		S.Fraser PAT Testing Lights	£50.00
		Blachere - Repair of Light	£47.47
		A&R Lamp Post Repairs	£450.00
			£1,357.47
		<b>TORCH</b>	
		R. Dow - Container Planning Application	£346.00
		Power Washer Services - Generator Service	£252.00
		Zurich Insurance (50% of Total)	£154.59
		N.Punchard - Tarpaulin	£26.75
			£779.34
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£14,294.75</b>
		<b>Less Expenditure</b>	<b>£3,107.25</b>
		<b>Balance C/Fwd.</b>	<b>£11,187.50</b>
<b>TORPHINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>1ST APRIL 2025 -31ST MARCH 2026</b>	
<b>TCC</b>	Bank Balance ar 31/3/25	£674.27	<b>TORCH</b>
	Income	£1,391.07	Bank Balance C/Fwd.
		£2,065.34	Income
	Less Expenses	£970.44	
	Balance C/Fwd.	£1,094.90	Less Expenses
	{£100 held as Petty Cash}		Balance C/Fwd.
			£7,406.62
<b>XMAS Lights</b>	Bank Balance C/Fwd.	£108.45	<b>Village Flower Tubs</b>
	Income	£1,260.00	Bank Balance C/Fwd.
		£1,368.45	Income
	Less Expenses	£1,357.47	Less Expenses
	Balance C/Fwd.	£10.98	Balance C/Fwd.
			£675.00
<b>Robertson Trust</b>	Bank Balance C/Fwd.	NIL	
	Income	£2,000.00	
	Less Expenses	NIL	
	Balance C/Fwd.	£2,000.00	
5.	<b>Election/Re-election of Office Bearers, only if any retire before completion of three year term ending in 2027:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chair</li> <li>● Vice-Chair</li> <li>● Treasurer</li> </ul>		
	TCC		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Secretary</b></li> </ul> <p>No changes to membership, all office holders continue in post.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Approval of the Community Council's Annual Budget:</b> Approved.</p>	Chair
7.	<p><b>Review of TCC Constitution and Vote on Any Proposals for Amendment:</b> No changes to the constitution.</p>	Chair
8.	<p><b>Next ordinary meeting:</b> Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026, 7:30 pm, Learney Hall</p>	
9.	<p><b>Meeting closed at 7:25 pm</b></p>	