Torphins Community Council

Serving the Electoral Districts of Torphins, Campfield and Tornaveen

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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Thursday 5th November 2026 at 7:30 pm Learney Hall, Torphins		
Item No.	**Description**	**Owner**
1.	**Present:** Peter Argyle (PA) (Chair); Andrew Brazier (AB); Eric Day (ED); Raj Fernandez (RF); Iain Firth (IF); Will Maclean (WM); Colin Rouse (CR) **In Attendance:** Cllr. Sarah Brown (SB); Robbie Dow (RD) (TORCH); Hamish Booth (HB) **Apologies:** John Lucas (JL); Cllr. Geva Blackett (GB); Cllr. Anouk Kloppert (AK)	
2.	**Intimation of noted interests:** None	
3.	**Confirm adoption of minutes of meeting 1st October 2026:** Adopted as proposed: Proposed: Colin Rouse Seconded: Eric Day	TCC
4.	**Finance Report:** The bank balance at 30 October 2026 is £11,257.25, plus £90.00 in cash float. The TCC Admin Fund is £760.86 after expenditure £27.50 for the Remembrance Sunday wreath. Christmas Lights balance is £10.98; Robertson Trust Hardship Fund is £1,545,15; TORCH funds £8,64.75; there being no activity on these three funds.	ED
5.	**Planning:** The following applications awaiting decision: • APP/2026/0880 New house at Sundayswells has been referred to Area Committee. • APP/2026/1222 Pitmurchie House Change of Use from Care Home (Class 8) to Dwellinghouse (Class 9) • APP/2026/1458 Footpath and bridge at north of Woodside Road – SEPA have approved regarding flood risk. • APP/2026/1613 Extensions and alterations to dwelling house at Upper Broomhill has been referred for archeology and photographic survey Application approved: • APP/2026/1224 Station Garage erection of Class 5 (General Industrial) Paint Shop and Workshop and Relocation of Shipping Containers	ED
6.	**New and Focus Items:** • **TORCH Update** Robbie Dow, Chair of TORCH was welcomed to the meeting and invited to proceed. We have already experience Storms Austin and Boelo, showing the importance of being prepared. There were isolated power cuts and the benefit of the powerbanks owned by TORCH was demonstrated by aiding an elderly resident at Craigmyle with power when his power was cut for some time. Two powerbanks were donated to TORCH by Aberdeenshire and two have been purchased. There were some complaints about the isolated short term cuts and SSEN will be contacted on this	RD

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6.	**New and Focus Items (Continued):** • **TORCH Update (Continued)** matter, however it was also noted residents registered for updates did receive some notifications about these events. Trees damaged at Woodside Crescent were quickly dealt with by Learney Estate. The Get Ready for Winter event on 31 October was well attended and twelve new volunteers were recruited, bringing the total of TORCH volunteers to 40, which is much appreciated and valuable in the event of an incident. Aberdeenshire Council has been very supportive of TORCH efforts. The Starlink equipment recently acquired will provide wifi in the event of power failures at masts and is very versatile, being a mobile system supporting up to 100 devices. It will only be activated in times of need. In the case of incidents requiring the opening of the refuge at Mid Deeside Church, and loss of power, the community will be informed by A Boards erected in the village, loudhailer, and house to house as necessary. Cllr SB mentioned the use of the church bell in Tarland and it was agreed this is an avenue to pursue. Upcoming publicity will include posters in the hall at Carols around the Christmas Tree, and a refresh of the TORCH guide, which will be updated on the website. The key message is "Be Prepared and Be a Good Neighbour". PA thanked Robbie and all the TORCH team for the excellent key work they are doing for the whole community. • **Report on Local Government Reform Dialogue – Community Councillor Events 4th and 5th November 2026** The Scottish Government launched two online sessions of two hours each to consult with all 1200 approximately active community councils in Scotland. The purpose was to discuss the Scottish Government's proposals on reforms to local governance published on 21 September 2026. Details can be found at: https://www.gov.scot/news/local-governance-reform/ PA attended for TCC and WM for part he was available to attend. The first session had 136 attendees and the second had 150 registered to attend. The government community empowerment team leader opened with explanation these are initial proposals and there will be engagement as the proposals are developed. An officer then explained the proposals, reading a series of Powerpoint slides. Basically some councils are too big and some too small and should be realigned to 6 to 10 regional authorities and 120 to 160 smaller community authorities. The actual potential authorities have not been proposed yet. Following the presentation there were white board breakout sessions to enable feedback from smaller groups. In general all feedback was negative to the change with high skepticism. There is a lack of clarity on the pressing need for change; there are many more important things the government should be doing right now; seems to be driven by money rather than improvement or need, and would there be any savings? There is no information how CC fit in. This change is a massive risk at same time as huge health authority reorganization is proposed. The process so far does not demonstrate the rigour of analysis and change management needed to safely deliver. Much needed Council Tax reform was promised on 2007, yet has never been addressed. Regarding Aberdeenshire PA highlighted it is already organized with six areas to be closer to the community, and in the event of the change Aberdeenshire would likely become grouped with Aberdeen city again. Cllr SB advised Aberdeenshire Council has little information but is evaluating the proposals with across the Chamber review and consultation. It is difficult to respond when so little detail is known of proposals. Noted CoSLA is involved.	RD PA

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7.	**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
8.	**Correspondence:** • 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. Items specifically mentioned are: ○ 16 October - Community Council Let's Talk Aberdeenshire survey open until **20 November 2026.** Chair and Secretary to review and propose response ○ 5 October - Rural Affairs Committee call for views focuses on the following key issues and closes on **23 November 2026** o the Scottish Outdoor Access Code o the statutory agencies (NatureScot and access authorities) that publicise and promote the Code and uphold access rights o the planning, provision and management of core paths o the management of land for access Secretary to review and propose response. ○ 30 October - Hill of Fare etc. Update from HoFIG Noted Reporter now expected to present report to Ministers Oct/Nov 2026.	TCC PA, WM WM
9.	**AOCB:** • The Remembrance Service is on Sunday 8th November 2026 at 3:00 pm at the War Memorial, Torphins. In attendance will be Rev Holly Smith, the Chair and members of TCC, Councillor Sarah Brown for Aberdeenshire Council, and Major (retd) Toby Rider on behalf of the Aberdeenshire Lord Lieutenancy • We and Cllr SB received a report of a recent accident at "Three Bridges" on the C25M road. The reporter advised there used to be a chevron sign but there is not now and it needs replaced. Transpires this was to be fitted after previous Safety Report so will add to action list and report back to driver who reported. • ED advised the Learney Coat of Arms (formally above door of Learney Arms bar) has now been refurbished and is ready to mount in Learney Hall as previously discussed. Many thanks to Tom Robertson for great work. • WM raised the matter of overgrown hedges, which JL (apology for this meeting) had reported regarding a resident being asked to cut further when there was over 8ft pavement clear. Overgrown hedges have been noted at certain pavement areas, and reported but not always actioned. It is noted the obscured pavement on Kincardine Road has been resolved. A consistent approach is needed. No further action at this time. • Hamish Booth intimated he is interested in joining TCC, of which he was a member for several years in the past. This was welcomed and TCC proceeded to co-opt Hamish with immediate effect. Proposed by ED and seconded by CR. We are pleased to have Hamish with his deep local knowledge back on TCC.	PA WM, Cllr SB ED WM HB
10.	**Next Ordinary Meeting:** Thursday 3rd December 2026	
11.	**Meeting closed at 9:00 pm**	
	Adoption of Minutes: These minutes were circulated by email to all TCC members on 6 November 2026 and adopted by email as an accurate record of the meeting. Adoption will be confirmed at the meeting on 3rd December 2026. Proposed: Eric Day Seconded: Andrew Brazier	