

Minutes of Meeting January 6th, 2025, Online

**Present online TONCC, AB, RB, DG, TJ (sorry late) PM, JS, TS, SS,
Cllr Goodhall, Cllr Petrie**

Apologies - James Grant, Peter Johnson.

Minutes of last meeting - Approved. Proposed PM seconded AB

Matters Arising

Kennethmont footpath update: Nothing to add as offices closed for holidays Cllr G will chase up. Additional information should be available by next meeting.

Energy Consenting Consultation: TS. nothing to report. TS will update as and when anything comes up.

Coreen Hills Windfarm meeting update: RB, AB and representatives Mark Worsley - Bennachie and Mary Watson - Donside CCs had an informal meeting to discuss a combined CC approach to the issues surrounding the Correen Hills Windfarm Development. Informal minutes were taken. RB to circulate minutes and combined survey results by e-mail.

It was felt at this meeting that since the planning application will be submitted in March and since the survey canvassing the three council areas had given a clear indication that the respondents were largely opposed to this development, a strategy for working together would be of benefit. It was also agreed at this meeting that the results of the combined survey should be disseminated to the wider public in a social media announcement issued by the three united councils. Mary Watson to put together this release.

Next steps - TONCC, along with the other two CC's, need to make a statement as to its stance as the application for the development will be submitted in March. DG indicated the survey seems a resounding result and we should go with this as our stance on the issue. JS-agreed with the action regarding the survey but proposed we wait until the application is submitted to oppose further/make our objections known as the application could be different than what we currently know it to be. PM agreed. TS suggested that we publish with qualifications stating, 'this is in regard to what we know thus far about the proposed development'. Survey results and stance to be disseminated with qualifications.

Cllr G indicated that the application would go directly to the Scottish Govt in Edinburgh and that time was of the essence regarding advising local planners as to our objections. He advised not to wait- but to act now. We should let Planning Officer Paul Macari know our thoughts asap as the local officers will be submitting a report on the issue which we can input into. Agreed.

A second meeting of the combined CC reps will be held end of January. All invited. Date to be confirmed.

Log Bank: 123 bags available. TJ took 47 bags to Rhynie for distribution. 12 to SS to distribute. 16 also to RB for Clatt and Kennethmont area.

Defibrillators: PM confirmed there were no issues, and all were working as he had checked. No reports of use by communities.

Mains of Rhynie: TJ nothing to report.

Collithie/Ness Bogie development: TS has been in touch with Ben from Scottish Forestry. Ben did not welcome the idea of a public meeting as he felt it was not justified. He would want prior notification of any issues. Action: TS will follow up on any local complaints and ask that PJ does the same. Suggests that the developer reveals what how they propose to address the complaints. TS noted that Forestry Scotland has not had a formal application from EJD submitted, but they expect the application.

Bedding Plants: TJ, there is no money from the Aberdeenshire CC due to problems with suppliers, and issues with Council funding. PM asked if TONCC would reimburse for plants. JS suggested micro grant application. TJ will apply for £500 to be split equally among the four villages. It was noted that this amount would not cover the full amount needed for plants, but a request to the Seed Bank which gives out free seeds and had previously had a grant of £500 - may help. The next meeting of the Seed Bank is in March. JS agreed to speak with the facilitator of the Seed Bank, Rose Anniston. TJ and JG to contact the local primary schools to see how they could help growing plants for the project. Notices for people to consider donations will be posted as well.

Community Land Scotland visit report: RB - Well worth the time and effort to go. A member from Clatt Village Hall Committee also attended with RB. This organisation is affiliated with Community Asset Transfer. Nick Mardall - Community Asset Transfer Specialist at Aberdeenshire Council has offered to speak regarding Clatt School and the process of CAT. This will be facilitated at a free brunch event being planned for February in Clatt.

Police report: Nothing.

Planning Applications: Various sent out but only one for TONCC area. Glenfiddoch/Cabrach for solar panels. The closing date was today. No objection raised but Cllr G said comments by public could still be registered though the date was imminent or passed.

Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors: Cllrs Goodhall and Petrie - budgetary restraints discussed but not much else due to holidays.

Correspondence: weekly updates from Marr and Planning etc. SS discussed a private email received by herself regarding a video that had been requested shown at the council meeting. The email was circulated to all Cllrs before the meeting. It was decided that it was not appropriate to show the video at the meeting but that the link to the video should be noted in the minutes.

The link for the video is <http://youtu.be/rHkWMQMECZ0>. The video shows the construction of wind turbines.

Tall Ships Correspondence-TS suggested that the information asking if people ages 15 to 25, might be interested in Tall Ships volunteering could be circulated to web sites, secondary schools, social media sites. SS will do this and forward to youth groups.

JS reported her concern that emails were not being distributed to all at TONCC in a timely manner. She noted delays. JS made suggestions as to how to avoid this. SS explained that the email regarding the video was directed to her personally. She had responded to the local person who sent the email and then distributed it after consideration. SS and TS will look at how emails are shared.

Treasurers report: £9213.94 in funds with 2 cheques of £500 to be cashed. RB to Liaise with JS regarding Foundation Scotland report and funds. An email with final figures for Foundation Scotland - micro grants will be emailed to council members.

Area Reports: **Gartly** - nothing. **Kennethmont** - nothing.

Clatt - Mention of the community brunch to discuss CAT and Clatt school. Date to be confirmed but an invitation to all to attend.

Rhynie - SS Micro grant update for Kennethmont School- The applicant was contacted by SS, as agreed at last meeting, asking for additional information. The response received from the applicant was that she was away in Australia and would come back with the requested information upon her return. SS indicated that she had had no further contact since. PM reported complaints about overgrown state of Tap O'Noth footpath from car park to bottom of forestry fence. This requires pruning and is not accessible by tractor. The rest of the path had been cleared in past by an independent contractor. JS -There are limited funds to pay for this. We funded this in the past out of cc funds but will not be funded by the CC again. Cllr G- It is not the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council either. Funds will need to be raised elsewhere. AB offered to top the main path but would need permission of landowner- John Mackie. PM will walk up and investigate the situation. Broken telegraph pole by Bogieside. Both TJ and PM have spoken to Openreach and were told "no chance" that Openreach have laid off thousands and subcontracted repairs to some other company who have no idea when it will be done!

Questions/comments from the Public:

Question about the Application for solar panels in Cabrach and the date for comments. Date and information confirmed. Cllr G mentioned that public comments would be considered though not made public even though the date for public comment had expired.

Mieke- The video she sent via email has been posted on local community FB pages. She felt the impact of the windfarm being proposed will have great impact on the local communities and the video would help with this perspective.

Date and time of next meeting: Feb 3rd 7.30pm Clatt.