

Tap O’Noth Community Council Minutes

Monday 8th December 2025, Fourteen, Rhynie

Present	SS. TJ. RB. JS. DG. JG. PM. Cllr G. Later T Stephens, Marr Area Manager Public present 9. Online 3 New co-opted members- Carol Bristow (CB) and Chris Thornley (CT) No apologies	
Welcome	Welcome and introductions. JS objected to recording of the meeting.	
Declaration	Declaration of interests. SS - Rhynie Youth Club. DG and JS - Rannes Hall. JS - Men’s Shed	
Minutes	Approval of Minutes of last meeting. Proposed PM, second SS	
Treasurers Report.	Bank Balance- £10,036.41 Wetland Legacy Fund- £1083.47 (no change) Defibrillator Fund- £1618.83 Microgrant Fund- £3267.13 (£500 awarded to Clatt on 18 th Nov) Unrestricted Funds- £4066.98 (£24 West Gordon Parish -rental of No.14 for LPP, £4.25 Nov. bank svc charge)	
Talk	Allister Longwell, Beam Suntory- Ardmore Distillery, gave a talk/slide show re: Peatland restoration project on Knockany Hill. Alistair asked for feedback as to how CC could encourage community/schools use of the Gartly Hill forest area and contacts of those in the area who may have interest.	TJ/RB to respond via email

Matters arising	1.Co-option new members- Two of the proposed new members present. John Humphry absent due to illness. JS expressed concern about prospective new members being advised about the complaints and not being involved in settling outstanding complaints. TS advised- new members should know details of complaints but not be involved in resolution, though this is advice and technically a decision for the CC. TS advised that commonly complaints are ongoing within CC's, but they must remain separate from the normal business of the CC in as much as possible. Vote taken (6/7) three Co-opted members Carol Bristow, John Humphry and Chris Thornley voted on. New members joined the CC table.	
	2.Vattenfall nominations- JS appointed representative of TONCC as from 8/12/2025. JS expressed concern and suggested DG be allowed to stand. DG not permitted to stand again as 4-year term is over and other applicants for the spot. TS, Marr, advised 4-year terms are in place to ensure there are new ideas and is good practice where funds are involved. Rotation of people is positive. Second seat on VCCFP- JG or SS. Case made by both JG and SS. Vote taken. JG elected to serve from 8/12/25.	
	3.Rhynie Primary School Kitchen- Letter sent by TONCC to Catering Services for a costed explanation. No further update from Rhynie PTC.	

	4.Rhynie Post Office- JS spoke with Steph after last CC meeting when it was reported that PO was closing. New person has been recruited, and PO will not be closing. PM added that PO will not be open if the recruit is off. JS/SS this has always been the case and is reported on FB if there is a temporary closure. Letter to Morrisons re this issue	PM
Kennethmont Footpath Con't.	5.Kennethmont Footpath- Cllr G stated nothing will happen before February 2026. At the planning stage and looking at land purchase. Cllr G happy that the funding for the footpath is in place. PM requested information on resolution of speed limits. Cllr G noted that the speed limits will be looked at when plans are fully in place.	

	6. Correen and Suie Hill Windfarm- Application has still not been submitted. Last date for submission was September. This was missed. Chris Hamlett, CASHWIG, reported that he cannot get any response from anyone on the telephone. He has sent e-mails regarding the Uranium deposits on the hill. The Collection point for the power generated on the hill, Craig Watch, has been objected to by Moray Council. This may still go ahead if overruled by Holyrood. If this does not go ahead this presents additional issues Hill of Fare on going. Response to public inquiry still not available. Due in January. Currently 1.4Bn pounds paid out by consumers in Constraint payments. 64 turbines 250m proposed near Dufftown on edge of National Park.	
	7. Defibrillators- PM- all working, no additional update	PM
	8. Log Bank- Tony Smith, 123 bags left. It is unlikely to continue after this. Question from CB about how the log bank works. JS responded with short explanation re: trusted referrers. This will be final year as funds and wood have run out.	
	9. Local Place Plan-No update.	
	10. TONCC Website-No update	
Police report	No report despite contacting several departments - Chase up	SS
Planning applications	Little Tring on Wheedlemont to replace dwelling.	

Update from Aberdeenshire Cllrs	None	
Correspondence	Rhynie Man/Alex Dingwall Suggestion made by JS to refer correspondent on to RCT. Cllr G- Rumour that Rhynie Man is to move to Mintlaw. Cllr G trying to establish if this is temporary or permanent move. Removal is complicated and expensive, therefore, unlikely to happen soon. He remains at Woodhill House. Glass surround increases deterioration. More info when Cllr G knows more. Wait to hear from Cllr G before referring on to RCT. Is there room at the church to house Rhynie Man? School not appropriate. Email forwarded to Cllr G. There is to be a WhatsApp channel for Aberdeenshire Council. E-mail from Meike - Chair noted that Mieke contacted her before the meeting, wanted to be present, but was unable. Advice was taken by Chair from Marr as to appropriate way to handle email and respond to it. Chair replied to email sender asking if her correspondence was a complaint or a comment. Chair directed Mieke to the complaint procedure. JS- commented that she was disturbed by email. She will itemise things she has done so it can be minuted. PM- CC's serve all communities, not just the village in which you live. Chair suggested a better way to do individual area reports is to ask if anyone has anything for the area- not address individual members.	

Area Reports.	Gartly- JS- been in touch with Peter Johnston. There may be two people interested in joining TONCC from Gartly, but they will have to wait six months. Clatt- Food initiatives - Pheasant and Partridge pouches delivered to Clatt for Christmas hampers. Community Food Initiative through Marr Area Partnership available to local communities. Contact JS if interested. C-Fine Charity mentioned. Homes in Rhynie can take advantage of this. Van comes fortnightly. Food Share project items available. Rhynie- Public Toilets out of service. PM tried to remedy but the Council have now been informed. Toilets closed until sorted. Alan Clark- Aberdeenshire Council. Barflat Road is being blocked with sheep handling equipment making a problem if fire access required. (Mark Cockburn) leaving muck on the road which is a public access road. Email to be sent to Roads Dept' and Tim Stephens. ricomms@aberdeenshire.gov.uk PM to email. Cllr G suggested there might be an ancient right to use the road in this manner, but this too could be accessed by the Roads Dept. AOCB Emergency Planning- TJ attended online. This does not really apply to us, more for Fire brigade.	
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Next Meeting	5 th January 2026, Clatt Village Hall	
Micro Grants	Approved- Men's Shed at Leslie. Kennethmont School Laptops Rhynie Youth Club- expenses Rannes Hall Resilience equipment Rejected- Mia Cammeron, and suggest they approach Rhynie Gala, RCT	