

TORRANCE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2008

TORRANCE COMMUNITY CENTRE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Mohrag Fischer, Hazel Fergie, Aileen Mackenzie, Claire Smart, Morven Quinn, Brian Quinn, Shari Murray, Linda Lister, PC Steve McInnes and six members of the public.

Apologies: Laura McGoldrick, Ruth Kent and, Councillor Anne McNair

Resigned: Rena McGarvie (13th December 2007)

1) Welcome and apologies

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were proposed by Mohrag and seconded by Claire.

November's minutes were discussed. The TCC PA system is now being stored in Torrance Primary School. It works fine indoors and can be used for individual speakers, as there are two microphones. It is no use for a choir as specialist equipment would be required which is too costly and complicated to set up. Brian is going to look into getting an insurance quote for the PA. This cost *may* be shared with the school/PTA as they could use it for assemblies or public meetings (as can other local groups).

Steve McInnes commented that the Christmas Light switch on had a great atmosphere, despite the appalling weather, and was very much a Community Event. He did phone EDC (Broomhill Depot) about our barriers and despite phoning again a few times on the night, they still didn't turn up as promised.

The list and contact numbers of the local crafters/fundraising groups was lost. Hazel requested that anyone knowing their details be passed onto her for this year's event.

3) Chairperson's Report

Mohrag received an invite to the next meeting of the Community Council Liaison, which will be held in Tom Johnston house on Wednesday 12th March. After discussion Aileen and Morven will represent TCC. Hazel will inform EDC and try and get an Agenda or previous minutes of last meeting.

EDC sent an example of their proposed new logo for approval. This has two figures and a coat of arms, which looks better than their present one. This dept was also responsible for the no-show of our safety barriers at Christmas. Hazel to send a letter to say we have no objection to the logo and enquire about the barrier problem.

Mohrag received information about the Evening Visitor Transport Service that is operating to all the surrounding hospitals. This seems a great service and will be helpful to those without their own transport. The poster will be put in the noticeboard.

Kilsyth Community Council sent leaflet advertising their 'Snowdrop Festival' at Colzium. This will also be put in the noticeboard.

At this point Mohrag asked the members of the public if they would leave the room, while the Community Council discussed a sensitive matter.

The legal dept of East Dunbartonshire Council had received four letters from the public criticising Torrance Community Council- one of which was from our treasurer Brian Quinn. Mohrag felt that these letters were defamatory and offensive and expressed her disappointment in Brian. In addition to this Mohrag said she was also disappointed in Morven. Morven replied that she had no part in any such letters and had no knowledge of their content. To this Mohrag apologised and retracted her comment These letters covered various issues including the right of co-opted members to vote in the election of office-bearers, the constitution and the election of co-opted members. Mohrag replied that

she had approached various village groups (Brownies, Scouts, PTA etc) and invited them to apply to the Secretary if they were interested. Four applications were received, although two were from the Residents Association. Mohrag then confirmed that she checks all Constitutional issues with EDC Legal Dept before proceeding on any matter, and that the Legal Department had themselves replied to the authors of the letters clearly stating that there had been nothing incorrect about the elections. If a member of the Community Council has *any* issue with proceedings/voting or any other matter this must be discussed on the night, either at the time or at the end under Any Other Competent Business (AOCB). In reply Brian said that he was so stunned on the night, that he did not say anything. Brian also raised the matter of Cathy McInnes giving a short speech on the night of the Christmas lights, which he objected to, as she is a member of a political party. Mohrag replied that while Cathy may be a member of a political party, she was no longer representing Torrance as a Councillor and her speech was not political and only of a general nature. Cathy had in the past done a lot for the village, including saving the Demonstration Garden from closure at least twice. Mohrag also mentioned that she herself was a member of a political party, as are a number of other people in the village. Also mentioned was that Torrance Community Council had to be politically neutral in all matters and could never ask a current Councillor to give a speech.

After this discussion everyone said that they did not want to see the dissolution of the Community Council, which would be the result if all parties were not prepared to work with each other. Everyone agreed that they wanted what was best for the village, and were prepared to continue to contribute their time and effort.

To this end the matter is to be considered resolved and all matters will be discussed at the table and not be allowed to fester.

Aileen brought the matter of TCI/TAG to the table. The Community Council must remain neutral in this, but had previously allowed a TCI update to be included (TAG had never requested one). It was decided to invite a spokesperson from each group, to address this issue and give an update on any progress. Mohrag stated that neither herself nor Brian should speak on behalf of TCI/TAG. Morven will contact both groups inviting them to the April Community Council meeting and each will be given a set time to talk.

4) Treasurer's Report

£795.67 in the account. Most bills up to date although Mohrag still to be paid for the PA hire and sweets, once she gets the receipts together. Hazel passed on an 'outstanding invoice' for the Poppy Fund. This has already been paid and a letter of thanks received! Brian will chase this up. There *may* be a bit extra money left this year.

Greenspace would like a donation towards new flower barrels. Aileen will look into the cost of some of these and it will be discussed later. Mohrag mentioned that last year we minuted that the Gala Queen would definitely need a new crown and that there will be other Gala expenses as the 'throne' was a dining chair and the trailer was very poor looking in the Kirky herald photos.

5) Secretary's Report

Resignation

Received letter of resignation from Rena McGarvie

Planning Applications

Application received from Shawburn Farm, West Balgrogan Road to demolish existing building and build new one and half storey house

Licensing Board

Agendas for Wed 23rd and 30th January received

Langshot Farm

Langshot Farm (north of Acre valley) are proposing to introduce woodland planting, via a landscape agent. This will consist of broadleaved natives along with Scot's pines and juniper. These proposals will be in consultation with the forestry commission, EDC and Scottish Natural heritage, and includes

an informal mown pathway to provide public access for pedestrian and equestrian use. Plans in Noticeboard

Scottish Landscape Forum

Received a booklet from them outlining their principles.

Dare to Care

Appeal letter received looking for volunteers to help children

Renewable energy talk

I cancelled this month's talk due to pressure of time on agenda

Roads Manager

David Devine of Roads and Infrastructure has agreed to come to next months meeting on 13th March @ 8pm

6) Police Report

- Theft on 26/10/07. Ornamental Colt 45 Revolver stolen from display case in West Carlston Garden Centre, Campsie Road.
- Theft overnight on 29/10/07. Ford Transit vehicle stolen from Campbell Place.
- Vandalism 2/12/07. Car window smashed in School Road.
- Theft by housebreaking, between 0845hrs –1545hrs on 4/12/07. Forth Road.
- Breach of the Peace/ Misuse of Drugs on 14/12/07. One male arrested in Kelvindale.
- Threats/ Breach of the Peace on 22/12/07. One male arrested in Main Street.
- Breach of the Peace, 22/12/07, Campsie Road One male reported
- Breach of the Peace, 24/12/07. One female arrested in Main Street.
- Vandalism overnight on 27/12/07. Vehicle damaged in Dalriada Drive.
- Misuse of Drugs on 29/12/07. One male arrested in Rosehill Road.
- Attempt to defeat the course of Justice, 08/01/08. One male arrested in Dalriada Drive.
- Driving whilst disqualified/ no insurance, 15/01/08. One male arrested in Main Street.

7) Councillors Report

Anne McNair was unable to attend due to a full council Meeting

8) Constitution

This had been emailed to everyone again. The old constitution is still in place (paper copies only) and is similar to the new one but updated by EDC. A few points were highlighted as different but as many did not have a chance to read through it all, it was decided to email any points for discussion next meeting to Mohrag, who will check with EDC legal dept.

9) AOCB

Brian was asked to mention a proposed running club for Torrance. A notice will go in the noticeboard. Also received was a programme of events by the Scottish Wildlife Trust- also to go in noticeboard.

Curves (ladies gym in Bishopbriggs) had rammed business cards into the noticeboard, between the outer frame and glass. Hazel will write to them for an explanation, as the Noticeboard specifically stated that it is not for commercial purposes.

11) Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting Thursday 13th March 2008 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Community Centre