

Torrance Community Council

AGM Meeting - 10th December 2024 at 07:30 pm

Present, Neil Wilson, Kay Sheridan, Joe Rankin, Alan Brown, Irene McGill, Brian Mackenzie, Caroline Zaccaport, Kate McKee, Denis Bell and Councillor L Williamson

Apologies from Constable Iain Leeson, David Boyle and Stuart Irvin.

Minutes of last AGM

One correction to 2023 minutes, was that the Christmas Lights were switched on by Torrance primary School Champion (not the Gala Queen as we did not have a Gala Queen)
Minutes proposed by Irene McGill and seconded by Joe Rankin.

Chairs Report *(from a supplied document)*

This year has been an eventful year for Torrance community council, with lots of new initiatives happening.

We started the year with a clean up around the village, which was very successful, with a lot of inclusion from around the village.

We had hoped for enough interest, to start a “men’s shed” in Torrance, and held a very responsive meeting in the bowling club, unfortunately the forming of a committee to drive this enterprise forward did not happen this time, so we have had to put this on a back burner for the present time.

We also hope to start a farmers’ market in Torrance, this is ongoing at present, and we hope it comes to fruition in the new year.

Our main concern at committee level has been the refurbishment of the community centre, we as a community council have petitioned East Dunbarton council on a number of occasions, for a start date for this work to start, and were reassured that the money had been ringfenced for this project to go ahead, but unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control the local authority knocked it back on 4 separate occasions. Needless to say, we have fought a long and sometimes very frustrating campaign to get this work started, and the latest date we have been given is March 2025, so we wait and see if this will happen.

On a lighter note, we held a very successful event at the Campsie show in the summer with our Gala Queen being crowned and leading the parade from the village square up to the show itself.

This led us on to our remembrance service in the village run in conjunction with the church, and the youth organisations. Another very well attended event, and a big thank you to the police for helping the whole event to go off without a hitch.

We had some confusion over the switching on of the Christmas lights this year, with a breakdown in communication from East Dunbarton Council on the dates we wanted this to go ahead on, the eventual date was Friday 29th November. With the other Christmas event of the tractor run taking place on Friday 6th December.

Both events I am glad to say were well attended and went off without any major hitches.

As an organisation of local community councils we have met with Milton of Campsie Community Council and Lennoxton CC this we believe will give us a much more united front to move forward local issues, this hopefully will be ongoing in the new year.

I will stand down as chair at this AGM and say it has been a privilege to have led Community Council here in Torrance, and with a younger element coming in we will be in good hands going forward.

Torrance Community Council, Secretary's Report *(from a supplied document)*

All in all, a very busy year, with our participation in some new events which, I think went very well. I have endeavoured to produce minutes of our meetings promptly and distributing them to interested

parties. We should have had a web site with all the minutes available there, but it's in delay. I have started sending copies of our minutes to Torrance Parish Church Office and also to the Minister, Stuart Irvin.

If you have any other groups or individuals, you wish added to the mailing list, please let me know. I have a list of email addresses of people we have had dealings with.

We have had 560 emails into our inbox in the last 12 months. I have answered most of them. I did not count spam or product advertising.

I have assisted some people with a lack of action by EDC on complaints they made, Blocked gullies, street lighting etc.

Some of these interventions were more successful than others. But really EDC need to deal with complaints and not ignore them or inform the complainant to contact the Local Government Ombudsman. When a complaint is raised, the person who raises it should get feedback.

There are three outstanding items promoted by the CC which have been promised by EDC, but works have not been started.

Community Centre refurbishment, long overdue by a number of years, promised March 2025.

Continuation of footpath on Campsie Road, at Balgrochan House, to allow children to walk to school on a paved surface, avoiding the mud.

Repositioning of "Torrance" sign to the edge of the village, so that the new houses in MacGillivray Avenue are within the boundary.

We have had two new members in the last 12 months, taking our current membership to seven full members and three supporters.

We normally have attendance at our monthly meetings from PC Iain Leeson also he shows face at the church café, duties permitting.

We also have attendance from Councillor Williamson and Councillor McDiarmid

Points for future decisions.

We must decide how we will record user accesses to the various systems which we use, email, Facebook, web sites etc. This will allow us to access these systems regardless of the availability of the main user.

We have had a few events over the last year for which we do not have accurate records of our contacts or involvement with some individuals. We need to set up a method of capturing this information.

We also need to have joint meetings with other local Community Councils, and meetings with organisations in our village to coordinate with and assist them.

As I intimated a couple of months ago, I will step down as secretary after I complete the minutes for December's meeting and perform a handover of all papers, to my successor.

Treasurers Report

Based upon our annual income, which is wholly made up of our annual grant from East Dunbartonshire Council, this is based on a population count, and for Torrance amounts to £875.00. Communication outlay for Torrance community council, has exceeded our income this year.

This breaks down as follows.

£134.55 advertising posters, flyers, pull up posters.

£201.66 to secure WIX domain and email address with ongoing commitment of some £145.70 annually

Survey monkey costs of £96.99, for data, that MAY be useful and a pending commitment of £300.00 for a website

Total costs £878.84, which as you can see, exceeds our annual grant of £875 by a total of £3.84.

Considering that we have to support various other events in the village, and this grant is public money, I now urge Community council to consider VERY carefully in future, how we use this grant which is taxpayers' money.

And the question has to be asked is this investment going to give value for money, and in my opinion (which is purely a personal one) it will not.

Please remember we are a small community council supporting Torrance village, and NOT a corporate body.

Other outlay during the year amounts to some £300.00 – to £400.00 to support the Campsie show and the Gala Queen event.

Christmas lights switch on Approx. £100.00

Supporting various other village events, sometimes up to £ 400.00

**Torrance Community Council
Income and Expenditure Account**

INCOME

2023

Nov.16	E.D.C.	£ 875.17	
	Interest	2.15	
			£ 877.32

EXPENDITURE

2023

July 5	Gift	£ 25.00	
Oct,4	Rental	8.66	
	Wreath	36.20	
Nov.24	Ad. Mrs C S	134.55	
	Lights ImcG	31.72	
Dec 1	Gift	35.50	
7	Rental	8.66	
2024			
Jan 2	Web Exps	201.60	
Feb/May	Rentals	16.99	
May 30	Gala Exps	75.00	
June 4	Band Fee	250.00	
			£ 823.88

Excess of Income	
Over Expenditure	53.44

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS TO JUNE 2024

June 16 2023	Opening Bank Balance	£ 1800.72
June 4 2024	Excess Income over	
	Expenditure	53.44
	Closing Bank Balance	£ 1854.16

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have examined the records, vouchers, and explanations given,
And have found them to be in order.

Signed.....*T.W.R. McLean*.....

T.W.R. McLean, FFA (Retd.)

Elections and resignations

The Chairman, Brian McKenzie resigned with the following statement but agreed to remain as Treasurer.

I have decided that the time has now come for me to call it a day as Torrance Community Council Chair.

There are three main reasons for my decision, which I note as follows:

Band Width The TCC takes up a fair chunk of my time, The truth is I want to spend more time relaxing and enjoying the simpler things of life. so maybe my horizons are contracting as I get older, but, either way, I just don't think that I can devote the time needed for TCC going forward in quite the same way that I have over the past few years.

New Blood I have seen TCC starting to thrive over the past few years and I take great pride in all that has been achieved, but the truth is that none of us has a monopoly on the ideas and it is always good to let others 'have a go'. I refuse to believe that I am the only person to have any leadership role in TCC and I am sure there is someone out there who can take things forward. There has come a point where I feel I am past my best'. I think that getting some 'new blood' in now would make sense as he, or she, could then take the role of Torrance Community Council way beyond where I could take it, and that has to be good for all concerned.

Right Time The key to success is not so much knowing what you can do, but rather it is knowing what you can't do. I do very well for my age, and I certainly have no intention of slowing down, but I will be 74 years old next year, and I have reached the stage in life where I think it is reasonable to only be involved in pursuits where I get more out of them than I put into them. I have enjoyed, and still enjoy, all that I do for the TCC, but the truth is that I don't feel that I am getting the same fulfilment now as TCC chair as I did a couple of years ago, the reward must equal or exceed the input and, for me at this time, that is now, sadly, no longer the case. The fear I have is that because the balance has shifted then I run the risk of not being as committed or effective as I should be, and that is not good for the TCC nor for me. The bottom line is that the time just feels right to move on. I have very much enjoyed being chair indeed it has been a privilege, but it is now time for someone else to take on the role.

Alan Brown also stood down as secretary but will complete December minutes and document all procedures before handing over.

New member Caroline Zac-Duport was voted on to the committee proposed by Alan Brown and seconded by Irene McGill.

Kay Sheridan was voted to be our new Chair; Joe Rankin was voted to take over as Secretary and Caroline Zac-Duport agreed to take over the Communications brief.

No Other Business raised, so meeting closed at 8.15pm

Next meeting will be 9th December 2025