



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Tarland Development Group 20th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 22nd August 2017 at 7.30pm

The MacRobert Trust Village Shop, Tarland Square

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Trustees: Kate Redpath (Chair), Jan Healey, Chris Redmond, Yvonne Davidson, David Hirst, Annie McKee, Lizzy Shepherd, Denise Hansford, Kathy Dale (Minutes).

Present: Members: Peter Craig, Aileen Longino.

Present: Others: Gillian Needham (from 7.50pm).

Apologies: Trustees: Simon Power, Lindsay Stewart.

2. Chairperson's report – see Appendix 1.

3. Report of accounts – see Appendix 2.

4. Election of officials

All Trustees resigned.

Kathy Dale thanked Jan Healey, who resigned as a Trustee but who remains as a Member, and presented her with a small gift from the resigning Trustees.

Elected Trustees are as follows: Kate Redpath, Chris Redmond, Yvonne Davidson, David Hirst, Annie McKee, Lizzy Shepherd, Lindsay Stewart, Kathy Dale, Simon Power, Denise Hansford.

Proposed: Jan Healey. Seconded: Denise Hansford. There were no other nominations.

The Trustees appointed the following office-bearers:

Chair: Kate Redpath.

Vice Chair: Lizzy Shepherd.

Secretary: Kathy Dale.

Treasurer: David Hirst.

There are two Trustee vacancies.

5. Resolution to amend the Constitution:

Members of Tarland Development Group (SCIO) resolve that the following amendments be made to the Constitution:

Clause 4: Purposes: inclusion of additional purposes as follows: "the support of honeybees and beekeepers, improvement in the standard of beekeeping and promotion of honeybee products".

Proposed: Kathy Dale. Seconded: Yvonne Davidson.

Vote (Members only): For 11; against 0.

The Resolution was passed.

6. AOCB

Kathy Dale asked for volunteers to help with the Tarland Food and Music Festival weekend being held on 22 – 24 September 2017. There is a volunteers' meeting scheduled for Monday 18 September at 7.00pm in the MacRobert Trust Shop.

Chris Redmond called a meeting to update the Trustees on TT#2, answer any questions and get approval to work towards a planning application submission. Funding will need to be sought first before one is submitted. The meeting is proposed for Tuesday 5th September at 7.30pm in Cromar Court (Trustees only).

Annie McKee proposed that Tarland Community Housing (TCH) becomes a sub-group of Tarland Development Group (TDG) for the initial stages of community consultation/feasibility studies. There is grant funding available for constituted community groups to undertake feasibility studies for community housing in rural areas. If TCH was a sub-group of TDG it would be possible to apply for (and hopefully access) this funding quickly and easily. Denise Hansford asked for more information, therefore it was proposed that a discussion be held after the TT#2 meeting on Tuesday 5th September at 7.30pm in Cromar Court (Trustees only).

Peter Craig said that many people had told him recently what an amazingly active place Tarland is, but how complicated all the groups are! This news was received with pleasure by the Trustees and Members and it was agreed that TDG's profile is much better than it ever has been, due to more community engagement.

APPENDIX 1

Chairperson's Report

Trustees

Kate Redpath (Chairperson)

Lizzy Shepherd (Vice Chairperson)

Kathy Dale (Secretary)

David Hirst (Treasurer)

Jan Healey - retiring

Chris Redmond

Yvonne Davidson

Denise Hansford

Annie McKee

Lindsay Stewart

Simon Power

Introduction

Tarland Development Group (TDG) operates as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The organisation's purpose is the advancement of community development and in particular, promotion of the arts, culture, heritage, environmental enhancement and protection, and the provision of recreational activities: all within the Parish of Tarland and the Howe of Cromar in the Marr area of Aberdeenshire. It has a two tier structure, with a board of trustees and a group of ordinary members. Anyone interested in becoming a member and supporting the work of TDG should speak to one of the trustees.

TDG is 20 this year, and has carried on its work to maintain and develop several projects in Tarland and the Howe of Cromar. The group works in partnership with, and is supported by The MacRobert Trust, Cromar Community Council, Tarland Welfare Trust, Aberdeenshire Council, the Marr Area Partnership, plus individual members of the community. Earlier this year the trustees had their first governance day, held at Douneside House. We intend repeating this event every few years to make sure we are fulfilling TDG's aims.

Apple Press

Last year we sold £762.50 of apple juice compared to £329 in the first year. There is still a deficit of £200.67 but we have about 200 bottles in stock so long as there is a reasonable apple harvest we fully expect to go into surplus this year. We lost quite a big part of our apple supply when the Alastrean trees were cut down but we're hopeful that there are other trees out there that we

haven't used yet. We hope to use the shop for the pressing this year - it will be much more visible and should attract more volunteers (hopefully including some with apple trees!). Last year we had about 20 people helping with the pressing, with a maximum of 12 one evening. The juice was sold at the Tarland market and at Cushnie and Tullynessle markets and to helpers at a reduced rate.

Bee Group

Tarland Development Group will amend its constitution to include a reference to promoting beekeeping in the Tarland area. This will enable us to apply to the Scottish Beekeepers' Association for associate group membership, giving us access to advice and potential speakers for future talks.

At present the group has 28 members who are allocated either to mentor groups or peer support groups, with a wider e-mail listing for other interested individuals or groups (e.g. Strathdon, Kemnay).

The MacRobert Trust has offered a new site for our apiary and there are current plans to develop a replacement community apiary within the walled garden at Oldtown Farm. Construction of a roofed open-sided bee shelter for hives and nucs, and a large shed with a 'living roof' is proposed, which will be shared with two other TDG projects, the apple pressing group and the seed swap group. A closed off end of the shed will have two internal hives and an observation hive, which can be used for teaching purposes in all weathers. The larger part of the shed can be used for workshops, equipment storage, educational activities for schoolchildren and public open days. The MacRobert Trust, who own the garden, are developing the rest of the garden as a wildflower meadow, and they are very enthusiastic and supportive of the apiary/apple and seed swap development. When quotes have been received for the construction work we will be making applications for grant funding for the project.

A small group of experienced members volunteered to be involved in a new project, learning to rear queens. It has been a steep learning curve for all involved. Queens from two excellent stocks, Mrs Zappert and Mrs McGregor, were used and we have successfully produced enough nucs to sell to members. A successful application to Tesco's 'Bags of Help' scheme earlier this year provided a grant of £4,740 for the necessary equipment to extend the project.

Yvonne Davidson and Martin Leahy both were awarded their Basic Beekeeper's certificate this year, with distinction. Martin was the youngest ever to achieve this at the age of 12.

Ronnie Greenlaw continues to stock a range of bee equipment and is now offering a honey extraction and jarring service to anyone wishing to use it. Six members attended an extremely interesting and informative day of lectures and demonstrations on all aspects of bee health and disease diagnosis and treatment, organized and run by SASA (Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture). This is an annual event and may be held in Tarland at some point. Due to an outbreak

of American Foul Brood in the Tarland area last year, Tarland Bee Group had a visit from the Bee Inspectors. The team of four was here for two days and inspected most of the hives within range of the outbreak. Happily, all our members got a clean bill of health.

There will be talks again this winter, but topics and dates have yet to be arranged.

Community Garden

The garden continues to be well used and well maintained. It has had successful plant sales in the spring, and was open last September during the Tarland Food and Music Festival as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme. Members supported the horticultural society by submitting entries to the show. A pizza oven has been purchased, but has yet to be christened.

The garden has been visited by the James Hutton Institute, as part of a food security project.

Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) development workers visited the garden on a fact finding mission with a view to setting up therapeutic gardens in Aberdeenshire.

Community Composting

Now in its eighth season the garden waste collection continues to be a popular project offering an invaluable service to village households. Over 50 households are members in the 2017 season with two large green bags each, although some members have paid for extra bags giving a potential collection of nearly 140 bags. Collections are every two weeks. A tractor is hired from the MacRobert Trust and used with our trailer. The tractor is driven by a volunteer with two more volunteers loading the bags into the trailer. We are rather short of volunteers at present and would welcome anyone, member or not, willing to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning to help keep this much appreciated service going. The garden waste is then composted in a whin row and when ready, made available to members. This year the compost making has been slowed due to necessary track repairs preventing access to the whin row. However this is in hand and we hope to start turning the heaps again shortly. Thanks to all volunteers and to the MacRobert Trust.

Film Club

The club meets on the first Thursday of each month from September to June in the Upper MacRobert Hall at 7.30 for refreshments, and the film, previously chosen by members, follows at 8pm. In 2016/17 there were 46 members with an average of 25 at each meeting. John Dempster has stepped down from doing the film choice survey and we thank him for his efforts. Rona Mitchell has taken on this role for which we are very grateful.

Food and Music Festival / Markets

The third Tarland Food and Music Festival was held at venues throughout the village from Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th September 2016, and was a great success, with a huge volunteer effort by members of the Tarland Development Group and others. Highlights included a local market attended by at least 300 people, plus the 'Tasty Tarland Tent' in the village square, featuring Rhynie Woman, Buchanan's Bistro and the debut of Spider on a Bicycle. A collaboration with the Dee and Don Ceilidh Collective provided a plethora of music workshops and entertainment. The festival sub-group have since applied for funding from The MacRobert Trust to support the future financial sustainability of the festival. The sub-group was delighted to be awarded £18,425, to support the festival over the next 5 years and would like to thank the Trustees of the MacRobert Trust for their generosity. The next Tarland Food and Music Festival will be held from Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th September 2017.

Tarland Trails, Drummy Woods

The trails continue to be well used. The trails and in particular the pump track have become popular with balance bikes with boys and girls as young as two years old. We had our first visit from an air ambulance in two years of operating. The boy in question made a full recovery. We had a record number of volunteers for our Take Care of The Trails day in April - 16 volunteers allowed us to build two necessary shortcuts. Duke of Edinburgh volunteers and Community Payback continue to support ongoing maintenance. On a not so positive note damage to crossing warning signs and damaged/leaflet holders brings unwanted expense in repairing and replacing these. Aberdeenshire Council kindly supplied another litter bin to help reduce litter in the car park area. Tarmac was finally laid to the trails car park with thanks to The MacRobert Trust and Foundation Scotland Flood Recovery Fund. Tarland Facilities Noticeboard was also installed with the Foundation Scotland money. This past year the trails were ranked 11th in the UK in the ibikeride.com 'Trails of the Year' and Shortlisted in the Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland 'Community Project of the Year'.

Tarland Trails#2

This year funding was secured for a feasibility study. This was completed and then a Cromar Consultation followed. Following the consultation revisions were required to the original study. A visit was made by some trustees to Glenlivet trails to get a feel for what a trail centre is about. Final details are being sorted before putting it to TDG trustees and agreeing progress onto a planning application.

Footpath Network/Tarland Way

We got a grant of £1,500 from Paths for All and another £1,000 from the MacRobert Trust to produce new noticeboards for the square, Tomnaverie and Knappieround (the first two to replace the existing out of date boards, the third is a new location), and to produce walking leaflets. The leaflets have been distributed around local shops and other outlets (including Douneside House, which is why the Trust was interested) and have been very popular. We will probably need to print some more this year. We went for A4 which might have been a bit small, so we might print them on A3 next time.

Tapestry

We launched the tapestry concept at the Tarland Market, and recruited volunteers. Interested stitchers attended a great workshop in Tarland, with Dorie Wilkie, who organised a thousand stitchers for the Great Tapestry of Scotland. We have practised a great deal and are now stitching on the linen. We have a long way to go but in less than two years, and when the Great Tapestry has a permanent home, we have been invited to hang ours with the Great Tapestry.

Seed Swap/Potato Day

Gone to Seed is a joint project between Tarland Community Garden, Cromar and District Horticultural Society and Aboyne Garden Club. The aim is to encourage local gardeners to conserve, grow and swap the seed of heritage varieties of vegetables and flowers and also to encourage them to grow a wider variety of potatoes, especially heritage varieties. Talks and a workshop were held in late 2016 to provide skills to enable people to start saving seed. The Seed Swap and Potato Day was held on 25th February 2017 in the MacRobert Hall.

We had many volunteers to help on the day and 200 people came and exchanged locally grown seeds and bought the 25 different varieties of unusual heritage and/or organic potatoes for sale. There were also refreshments, talks on how to save seed and grow potatoes successfully, workshops for children, Slow Food Aberdeen City & Shire did a cooking demo and we had folk music. Funding for the project came from Foundation Scotland. The remaining unsold potatoes were given to schools and other community groups and a potato demo plot has been planted at Glen Tanar to look at the success of different varieties and planting techniques. The 2018 Seed Swap and Potato Day is being planned.

New Project/collaboration - Tarland Community Housing

Tarland Community Housing is a small group of local residents affected by the lack of variety in low cost housing available in Tarland and the surrounding area.

A community meeting was held on the 26th June by The MacRobert Trust and attended by Rural Housing Scotland's Chief Executive Derek Logie. This was an opportunity to begin to look at our community's housing needs and how those needs might be met at the Village Farm development site at the top of Melgum Road. The Trust employed the help of Rural Housing Scotland to carry out a housing needs survey and to assist and advise in finding solutions. Following that initial meeting Tarland Community Housing was set up to assist Rural Housing Scotland carry out the Housing Needs survey and our primary role at this stage is community engagement and to act as an information point. We have engaged through social media and a very successful Facebook page and have used the old Hairdressers in the square as an information point.

The survey has been running for six weeks and has had a good take up with 54 questionnaires returned through Survey Monkey, plus paper copies distributed in various village locations. An initial analysis of the survey has highlighted a definite need for low cost housing with 25 respondents stating that their household was in housing need. Those affected varied from emerging households of young adults looking to become independent and rent their first home, families and couples wishing to buy and homeowners who wish to move into larger properties or older couples wishing to downsize.

The MRT and RHS are currently working together to carry out a feasibility study on the Village Farm site to look at whether a low cost development of sorts could be built and it remain economical and beneficial to all concerned. Rural Housing Scotland is in talks with Grampian Housing Association to see in what capacity they could be involved in any future development. Funding that might be available for us includes the Scottish Land Fund, Rural Housing Fund and The Big Lottery Fund.

We will continue to engage with the community by providing social media updates, drop-in sessions at the old Hairdressers which will run from this Saturday 19th until further notice 10am-11am and talking to those residents who would like to be involved and asking them to register an interest in any future development.

APPENDIX 2

Report of Accounts

TDG £2,029.31

Market+F+M £7,923.70

Bee Group £6,585.92

Film Club £583.34

Composting £1,303.40

Community Garden £5,206.20

MTB £1,182.89

Apples -£200.67

Seeds £1,665.10

Paths £514.15

Tapestry -£411.90

Overall balance £26,381.44

Start of year balance £26,254.63