



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Annual General Meeting Commercial Inn, Tarland on Tuesday 11th September 2018

1. Attendees and apologies

Present:

Members (16): K Redpath (Chair), P Craig, K Dale, J Fraser, M Hare, D Hirst, D Hansford, J Healey, A McKee, G Needham, S Power, C Redmond, S Roberts, E Shepherd and L Stewart.

Non Members (9): C Bond, M Craig, D Currie, G Eunson, C Fraser, L Gray, K Mitchell, J Thomas, T Ventil and Guy Haslam (minutes).

Apologies (4): A Addy, Y Davidson, A Longino and S Pearson

2. Welcome:

Kate Redpath welcomed everyone to the 20th AGM of the Development Group and introduced the office bearers of the Group.

She explained that the Group was a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and that the Group had a two tier structure with a board of Trustees and ordinary members. Anyone could become a member of the Group by filling in a membership form.

The Group aims to advance community development and supports a wide range of activities in the Parish of Tarland and the Howe of Cromar as outlined in the Annual Report. The Group works in partnership with a wide variety of organisations including the MacRobert Trust, Cromar Community Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Marr Area Partnership and Development Trust Association Scotland.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on the Group's current activities. The detailed report is attached at Annex A.

4. TDG Annual Accounts

Dave Hirst (TDG's Treasurer), gave a summary of the financial situation of the Group. The Group's expenditure in the last financial year had exceeded its income by £2,780, but this was mainly due to the timing of grants within the financial year. The Group had £23,474 at the end of the financial year, split between the various projects.

5. Election of Trustees

Kathy Dale, as TDG's Secretary, explained the election process. Each year all the Trustees resign and put their names forward for election (unless they want to step down), along with any new members who want to become Trustees.





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Lindsay Stewart had decided to step down as a Trustee and Kathy thanked her for her work as a Trustee and previous Chair of the Group.

As there were only 10 nominees for 12 Trustee positions, there was no requirement for an election. Lindsay Stewart proposed and Peter Craig seconded the following members becoming Trustees:

K Dale	Y Davidson
J Fraser	D Hansford
D Hirst	A McKee
S Power	C Redmond
K Redpath	E Shepherd

Kathy explained that two Trustee vacancies remain and that the Trustee could co-opt up to two additional Trustees over the year to fill these vacancies.

She then explained that the current office bearers had all agreed to stand again and so they were re-elected by a show of hands:

- Chair Kate Redpath
- Vice Chair Lizzy Shephard
- Secretary Kathy Dale
- Treasurer Dave Hirst

7. Any Other Business

Three funding sources for TDG were explained to the meeting:

- a. Johnston Oil donates 1p for every litre delivered to Tarland Oil Group members, which brings in around £600 per year. Anyone wishing to join the Group should contact Johnston Oil direct.
- b. The Group had set up an account with Amazon Smile through which Amazon donate 0.5% of any purchase to the Group. This can be set up on the Amazon Smile website.
- c. A second hand book stall had been set up in Angie's café which had raised over £40 for the Group in its first three months.

J Thomas stated that she had heard several people saying that "things were happening" in Tarland and thanks the Group for playing their part in this.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in 2019 – date TBC.



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Tarland Development Group Chair's Report - Annual General Meeting 11th Sept 2018

Current Trustees

Kate Redpath (chair)
Lizzy Shepherd (vice chair)
Kathy Dale (secretary)
David Hirst (treasurer)
Chris Redmond
Yvonne Davidson
Denise Hansford
Annie McKee
Lindsay Stewart (retired Sept 2018)
Simon Power
Joanna Fraser

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.

TDG was founded in 1997, 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.

TDG is now a provisional member of DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) and as such can access helpful advice, plus the opportunity to apply for funding to support the aims of the group. Last December, TDG applied for, and was awarded Scottish Government Money as part of the Strengthening Communities Program. This opportunity has created 3 part time local jobs. TDG has now appointed a Development Worker, a Housing Project Officer, and a Food and Music Festival Co-ordinator.

Summary of Current Projects

Apple pressing:

There are a huge number of apples this year and the amount of juice we can make is limited only by time and volunteers. We have already made over 150 litres of juice and there are over 40 people on the email list. Most of these people have some apples of their own, so supply is unlikely to be a problem in the future. Each year we sell the majority of the juice to volunteers but a significant amount has been sold at the Tarland market and at various other events. This year there will be much more at the market because the apples are about a month earlier than usual, and we will also sell it at the cafe. The income has now paid for the equipment and there is enough in reserve to pay for any repairs that might be necessary. Project Leader: David Hirst

Bee Group.

The bee group continues to be one of our most dynamic projects, and will be selling honey and other bee products at the September Market. The beekeepers are dedicated to lifelong learning, and have been passing Scottish Bee Association exams with flying colours. Martin Leahy was chosen to represent Scotland at a young beekeepers event in France – their group came fourth. The group has started planning for a new community apiary and teaching facility, which will be situated



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in the walled garden at Old Town. The group has their own Facebook page for more information and updates. This year again, the bee keepers contributed entries to the show. Project Leader: Yvonne Davidson.

Community Composting

Now in its 9th season, the garden waste collection service continues to be a much appreciated village project with 59 member households. Entirely manned by volunteers, who now get free refreshments at Angie's cafe during the round, the service allows garden waste to be composted locally instead of going to landfill. Collections are every two weeks. The Community tractor is hired from the MacRobert Trust and tows TDG's trailer. The tractor is driven by a volunteer with two more volunteers loading the bags into the trailer. The project is 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 service going. The garden waste is then composted in a whin row and when ready, made available to members. Project Leader: Denise Hansford

Community Garden

The Garden continues to be well used and well maintained. It was open last September at the Tarland Food and Music Day, as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme. Visitors were entertained by the Aberdeen Gaelic Choir, plus the spoon/spatula whittling workshops. Members supported the Horticultural Society by submitting entries to the flower and produce show, and by taking a table at the spring plant sale. The garden has been running for 5 years now, and as per the initial plan, there is now sufficient money to re-cover the tunnel if the polythene becomes damaged. New member Lucy Taylor has been busy painting raised beds, making the garden attractive, as well as prolonging the life of the scaffold board. Visitors this year have included the Strathdon Silver Circle and the manager from Allachburn House who is looking to set up a garden in Aboyne. Project Leader: Kate Redpath

Tarland Community Housing (TCH) Project

This project was established in June 2017 year to assist in a housing survey to look at options to resolve the need for local low cost housing. Some community engagement was carried out over this period to raise awareness and support for the local housing need.

A steering group was formed to explore how low cost housing might be built on the Village Farm site, currently owned by The MacRobert Trust. Our aspiration is to build a number of quality, low energy homes that would have community as its focus, with shared green spaces, more opportunities for social interaction and reduced use of cars. Over the following months we explored how a partnership including a community group, The MacRobert Trust and a local Housing Association might deliver a development including a mix of tenures and house size with some self-build and market plots for sale. The Village Farm site has been up for sale for a number of years and has approved planning in place for a development of 36 houses.

TDG began to support the group last autumn, with the aim of providing assistance while we applied for Scottish Government funding to carry out a feasibility study on the Village Farm site. TCH secured a £10,000 grant from the Scottish Government's Rural and Islands Housing Fund and The MacRobert Trust and the 3 month study began in June this year. A housing officer was appointed to help progress the project. Following a tendering process we appointed Inverness based Architect firm MAKAR to carry out the study.

The aims of the feasibility study was to take the master plans currently in place and explore whether it would be economical to build affordable housing on the site, and if not what changes could be made to the plans including a new site design and the financial implications of both. The study has also explored how such a development would be funded.

The study is drawing to a close and if it proves favourable, a community consultation will be held to get local opinion on how the project should move forward. The group hopes to its own legally structured group, to take the development forward, but would remain in close contact with TDG. The project has been awarded grant funding from Marr Area Partnership to cover set





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up costs and from Scottish Community Alliance to visit a community housing project in Findhorn. Other fundraising has raised almost £600 from a jumble sale and stall at the spring market that will be used to help with administration costs, hall hire and research. Project Leader: Joanna Fraser.

Film Club

The Film Club had another successful year in in 2017/18 with 49 members and 20 further guests. The films shown on the 1st Thursday of every month are chosen from a selection by the members. Project Leader: Denise Hansford

Food and Music Festival

The fourth Food and Music Festival was held between 22nd- 24th Sept 2017, organised by members of TDG in conjunction with other community groups. For the first time we welcomed a Festival Administrator, who was funded by a grant from the MacRobert Trust.

This was the biggest festival yet, with around 40 separate events, including the regular Local Producers' Market, spoon whittling, a cookery demonstration, game preparation, a herbal foraging walk and campfire fun for children. The music programme included concerts featuring Mairearad & Anna, Iona Fyfe & Luc McNally, and Dallahan with The Rowies, with music workshops on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For foodies there was street food in the square, Caroldson's Coffee in the hall foyer, and India on the Green and Omar Afif in the Festival Café. The Tarland Community Garden was open and received over 100 visitors, who also enjoyed the Aberdeen Gaelic Choir on Saturday afternoon and a bee keeping talk on Sunday morning. A popular closing recital of stories and songs was given by Hector Riddell on Sunday afternoon. Project steering group: Annie McKee, Kathy Dale and Dave Hirst

Footpath Network/Tarland Way

The footpath network and Tarland Way walking/cycle route continue to be well used by locals and visitors. The Tarland Way now has an attractive off-road option for walkers from Tarland to Coull along the banks of the Tarland Burn. The Tarland walking routes are now all graded for difficulty and maps are available on the Tarland website. The possibility of further development of walking routes in the area is under consideration. Thanks to the MacRobert Trust for mowing the paths. Project Leaders: Dave Hirst and Kathy Dale.

Seed Swap/Potato Day

The 2018 Seeds Swap and Potato Day, held in late February, was a well-attended event with over 200 people coming to buy different varieties of heritage and organic seed potatoes. We were lucky to have John Marshall at the event; an expert on the Scottish potato industry, he gave fascinating talks and workshops. The seed swap was also really popular, with many people bringing seed to share and taking seeds away to try. In May, a seed saving workshop was held. Gill Butler Orli, the former Head Gardener at Glen Tanar, came and demonstrated the principals and practice of saving vegetable and flower seed. Another potato trial was run at Glen Tanar with different varieties being grown to compare yield and disease resistance. These were harvested by volunteers last week in the autumn sunshine. Project Leader: Lizzy Shepherd

Tapestry

The Tarland Tapestry Project is progressing well with an enthusiastic band of 12 stitchers, but there is still much to be done. During the last 12 months Jan and Jess have given talks to the 'Rurals' of Logie Coldstone and Tarland. Jan and Marjory gave a talk to the Aboyne Ladies Breakfast Group. Talks are also booked for the Ladies Probus in December and the Embroiderers' Guild in March 2019. The Tapestry will be on display at Balmuir during NEOS and visitors will be invited to 'put in a stitch'.





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Jan and Lindsay travelled to New Lanark to take part in an event with Andrew Crummy, Andrew Moffat and Dorie Wilkie to explore the possibility of creating a 'Tapestry Trail for Scotland'. At the same time they were able to engage with other 'spin off' projects from the Great Tapestry of Scotland. They came away quite proud as they appeared to be the only group who were not from the Central Belt, and even better, had designed their own tapestry.

Since last October, the stitchers have worked in the MacRobert Hall and recently held a very successful Coffee Morning, raising £600, for their much needed funds. The sale of tea towels and bags, organised by Marjory, continue to sell well.

Tarland Trails

The Trails in Drummy Woods continues to be well used, well maintained and popular. The noticeboard directing visitors to services in the village has been updated by our Development Officer and crossing signs have been repaired. Additionally money from the donation post will be used to make improvements to the car park by way of marking out bays to help make better use of the space on busy days. Tarland Trails has a Facebook page for further information and updates. Project Leader: Chris Redmond

Tarland Trails#2

Tarland Trails 2 has been through the planning application process and was approved at the Marr Area committee meeting on 11th September. The project can now progress to the next stage of grant applications to fund the trails. TDG are aware there was some opposition to the trails and would like to move forward with the project with as much community engagement and openness as possible. Project Leader: Chris Redmond

Finance:

The current accounts are:

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
Mountain Bike Trails	£1,182.89
Apples	-£ 200.67
Seeds	£1,665.10
Paths	£ 514.15
Tapestry	-£ 411.90

The overall balance is £26,381.44 against a start of year balance of £26,254.63