



TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Charity No.SCO41598. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

Monday 19th June 2017 at 7.30pm
Cromar Court, Tarland

MINUTES

1. Present: Kate Redpath (KR) (Chair), Lindsay Stewart (LSt), Lizzy Shepherd (LSh) (Minutes), Simon Power (SP), Chris Redmond (CR), Annie McKee (AMcK), Yvonne Davidson (YD) (came in later).

Apologies: Denise Hansford (DHa), Jan Healey (JH), Kathy Dale (KD), David Hirst (DHi).

2. Matters arising: None.

3. Decisions made between meetings: On 29th May CR asked for approval to instruct Paul Masson to carry out the necessary redesign of Tarland Trails 2 to the new proposed car park location. This was approved by a majority.

4. Charity good practice: KD has received some sample documents from Aileen Longino, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA), but has not had a chance to do another draft of the Code of Conduct or the Conflict of Interest forms yet. Aileen has spoken to several of her colleagues about the issue of paying Trustees for non-Trustee related work. They all agree this is a complex issue. She has asked if TDG uses a solicitor's practice for legal advice? AVA are in the process of establishing additional professional services for AVA members where they are unable to advise professionally e.g. financial and legal services with preferred rates. TDG should consider whether to utilise this service.

5. Membership: New applications for membership have been received from Steve Kenyon-Roberts, Tarland; Claire Bruce, Glen Tanar; and William Moir, Ballater; all of which were approved. Martin Leahy, Tarland, also applied but membership is only open to individuals over the age of 16, so he currently too young to become a member.

6. Cromar Community Council: Nothing to report.

7. Seed Swap Group: Gill Butler-Orli, one of project team, will be leaving the area. KR and LSh plan to run the seed saving workshop instead of Gill. A potato experimental plot (15 varieties using different planting techniques) was planted in Glen Tanar walled garden in May and the potatoes will be dug up in September; the plan is to cook the

potatoes on site afterwards. **ACTION: SP to ask to Clare Bruce if it will be OK to continue with this event in the walled garden.** Other people have offered to get involved in the committee and LSh will organise a meeting in August.

8. Tapestry: The project is going well, with group sewing in the shop every Monday and Thursday (1.30-4pm) and many people dropping in to visit. The tapestry has been started! **ACTION: CR to put photos and times on Facebook.**

9. Food and Music Festival: All is progressing well but we still need food for Saturday evening. DHi has asked if the shop can be altered (making the kitchen area bigger) as there are some concerns from caterers about not having a large enough area for food preparation. Ventilation also needs to be addressed. **ACTION: SP is assessing if this can be done.**

10. Path network and Tarland Way: The caravan site managers reported waymark signs in a ditch and a gate chained and padlocked up by the Petts. DHi investigated this but couldn't find the location referred to. **ACTION: SP will follow up directly with caravan site managers.**

11. Bee Group: The Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) boys made it to the final 9 out of 28 teams. They made a great presentation but were pipped at the post by Braemar Mountain Rescue. LSh, LSt and YD attended the presentation. YD has sent a note of thanks to the boys and to the school for their hospitality.

We were awarded £4,704 by Tesco. We had many more blue tokens than the other groups. Thanks to all who supported us.

The Bee Group has been offered Old Town Walled Garden as a possible new site for their apiary which could be a very exciting project. The bees would require shelter if they were to be moved to this site and we have applied to Marr Area Large Project Grants for £10,000 match funding. The Seed Swap Group and the apple pressing would be able to share the new facility and there has been much discussion about the potential of the project. A core group has been involved in drawing up sketch plans and getting quotes for the funding application, which will go for consideration on 20th June 2017. We should hear quite quickly about the money. If this is not successful, we will sit down and look at the whole project and perhaps apply for larger grants to encompass everything we have discussed with all the groups involved. Neighbours surrounding the walled garden have been consulted and are all happy if not enthusiastic about the project. Simon Welfare, a neighbour, is very keen and has assured us that the Cromar Community Council (CCC) would apply for planning on our behalf, which would save us £200.

Queen rearing on a shoe string is going well and we have had amazing success so far for complete beginners in this art.

Swarm season is in full swing, and we are all pretty pushed with the amount of bee keepers we now have in the area. We have a stock of Nuc's at the apiary, and as soon as we know they all have laying queens, we will work our way through the waiting list and sell them to members first then non-members.

The issue of using TDG project group emails for messages not directly related to that specific project was discussed. It was agreed that we need to ask permission from the members to allow us to do this. **ACTION: LSh to send around suggested text.**

ACTION: LSt to nominate TDG Bee Group for the Co-op Community Fund in June as soon as it is open. CR noted that Tesco's Bags of Help are happy for more than one project from TDG to be nominated.

12. Composting: All going OK and SP confirmed that the requested work on the track has been started. **ACTION: DHa to thank Monica for being the longest serving composting volunteer.**

13. Community Garden: The pizza oven was damaged during delivery and is awaiting replacement. There is an Alford Gardening Club visit this week and all are welcome to attend.

14. Website: Nothing to report.

15. Film Club: John Dempster will no longer be able to select films and a replacement volunteer will need to be sought.

16. Tarland Trails:

TT1: There was an accident on Sunday and the air ambulance was called. Thankfully the young person is now back at home and OK other than cuts and bruises. **ACTION: CR to find out more details to confirm if any action is required.** The cost for clearing the path at the top received funding (£300) but there are no plans to carry out the work at the moment. CR has requested Cycle Highlands sponsorship. **ACTION: DHi to confirm if the money has been received.** CR has had discussions with a person interested in setting up a cycle club for young people which might use TT1. This would not necessarily be a TDG project and there are no firm plans as yet. CR attended an Aberdeenshire wide cluster meeting on 17th May to encourage the development of Aberdeenshire as a tourism destination for mountain biking.

TT2: The revised feasibility study for the new car park has been completed and the updated report has been made available. The overall cost of the project will be marginally less. SP has had discussions with the tenant farmer directly affected by the new location of the car park and he has indicated that there are no major problems, although further details will need to be agreed. Other residents adjacent to the new proposed car park need to be contacted about the plans asap. **ACTION: SP will do most of these but LSt will speak to the resident of Smallburn.** SP pointed out that prior to applying for planning permission TT2 need to have a meeting with The MacRobert Trust (MRT) (**ACTION: CR**). **ACTION: CR to provide SP with an estimate of the area of woodland lost to the trails. ACTION: CR to contact Mr Dalgarno again to try and obtain a better idea of the annual fee for the lease of the land from the shooting tenant.** CR will attend CCC next week to update them on the amended plans.

17. Accounts, grants, awards and funding: The large TDG reserves were noted. **ACTION: DHi to look into the reserves being put into an interest bearing account.** CR also noted that TDG should have a reserves policy as recommended by the OSCR fact sheet.

ACTION: DH to look into this. There was a discussion about the benefits of registering for Gift Aid with HMRC and CR asked if DHi had done this. **ACTION: DHi to provide an update.** All membership forms for TDG projects could be amended to include that next year.

18. AOCB:

SP wants to formally consult TDG and Tarland Welfare Trust (TWT) about the village shop and will organise a joint meeting to do this.

Derek Logie from Rural Housing Scotland (RHS) will be in the area on 26th June. SP will arrange a meeting at 7.30pm in the MacRobert Hall to discuss options for Village Farm and will invite interested parties. CR and YD will advertise on Facebook.

The next meeting will be our AGM at 7.30pm on 22nd August. The meeting will be held at the MRT Village Shop and wine and nibbles will be provided to encourage all members to attend. JH will be standing down as a Trustee and so new Trustees will need to be encouraged to come forward. **ACTION: Everyone to submit project updates to KR for the Annual Report.**

Changes to the Constitution were discussed. LSh has amended the text ready to allow affiliation to the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA) and will include this in a Resolution to be put to members at the AGM. If approved, TDG can then apply to OSCR to change the Constitution. This had been delayed due to other possible changes to the Constitution discussed with Aileen Longino but it was decided that it was best to proceed to allow the benefits of SBA membership to be obtained asap.