

Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm
The MacRobert Trust Office, Tarland

1. Attendees and apologies

Present (7): K Redpath (KR) (Chair), K Dale (KD), L Shepherd (LS), Y Davidson (YD), A McKee (AMK), C Redmond (CR), D Hirst (DH), Megan Albon (MA)

Apologies (2): S Power (SP), Ana Pena del Vale (APV)

2. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

3. Decisions Between Meetings

There were two decisions between meetings. It was decided that TDG will continue to pay MA out of its reserves until the second round of funding arrives from the Scottish Government. It was also decided that the Trustees are in favour of accepting the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) grant funding but that this is subject to a number of conditions/reservations (see item 6 below).

4. Membership

There were no new membership applications.

5. Cromar Community Council

There was nothing particular to note from the Cromar Community Council minutes.

6. Tarland Community Housing Project

KR reported on an office bearers' meeting held on Sunday 12th January with AMK and MA. The meeting was called to address the Trustee concerns over acceptance of the CARES grant funding (see item 3 above). The office bearers identified the ideal scenario to be if TDG could postpone the CARES project for six months to allow it to be taken over by the new housing organisation. If the funding can't be postponed, they recommended that it would be better to forego it than to press ahead with the project. TDG Trustees were in favour of this recommendation.

Also discussed at the office bearers' meeting was the Housing Development Officer position. It was felt that the post could not be advertised until the funding for the salary was formally awarded. The wording of the advertisement was honed, with an emphasis on the task of setting



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up a new housing organisation. It was felt that an individual should be sought with experience and skills in the field of community-led housing. The post will be advertised nationally, as much of the work can be done remotely.

7. Electric Carshare Scheme

A steering group meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd January. LS received an email from Sally Davis at Aberdeenshire Council suggesting that it may be possible for an EV charging point to be funded by the council in the new financial year.

8. Tarland Bee Group

The third talk in the winter talk series will be held tomorrow night (15th January) focusing on the Varroa mite.

William Latimer arranged the lending of sublimation equipment to TBG members allowing them to treat their bees for Varroa. The Community hives were treated by Sarah and Yvonne.

Crocus bulbs have been planted on the market stance, and daffodils at the new apiary.

MA reported on the decision to change the design of the new Education Facility to remove the green roof, thus reducing the cost of the project. Various permissions are being sought from funders and Aberdeenshire Council Planning. A quote has been requested from KNC Groundworks to edge the paths to prevent clover encroachment.

9. Wetlands

The wetlands sub-group meeting was postponed, as it has not yet been possible to set a date for the community awareness-raising event. The group is waiting to find out when Cromar Future Group will be presenting their related talk.

KD and KR attended the Cromar Community Council meeting on the November/December flooding in Tarland. KD was able to let attendees know about the wetlands project and the upcoming event. Minutes of the meeting are awaited from the Community Council.

Susan Cooksley of the Dee Catchment Partnership has said that she is happy to help with the community awareness-raising event. William Latimer has been researching case studies, and MA and Ian Francis are doing the publicity.

10. Paths and Access

DH reported that the new roundels for the signposts have arrived, and will be fitted when the days lengthen and the weather improves.



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DH will attend a meeting with Aberdeenshire Council and Outdoor Access Trust Scotland (OATS) on 12 February to discuss the management of the Tarland Way, after the current management contract ends at the end of March. The vandalised sign has been repaired, but a decision is yet to be made on how to fix the barriers.

KR reminded the meeting that Marr Area Partnership will be holding a Paths Spring Gathering on the 21st March, at which the TDG Paths and Access group could have a table. KD will attend.

11. **Seed Swap**

LS reported that all tasks have been allocated for the 2020 Seed Swap and Potato Day on 22 February, and that thus far everything is on track, although a few more volunteers are needed.

12. **Food and Music Festival**

Shona Donaldson has accepted the post of Administrator for the Tarland Food and Music Festival. The first steering group meeting will be Monday 20th January.

13. **Spring Market**

The date for the Spring Market is provisionally set as Saturday 25 April.

15. **Accounts, grants and awards**

There were no other funding issues arising.

16. **Governance**

There were no governance issues arising.

16. **AOB**

KR presented a potential collaboration to the meeting involving the Cromar History Group. They would like to apply for funding to replace the bellcote. As they are not registered as a charity they are not able to apply for funds, and so propose working in partnership with TDG. The Trustees approved the plan.

CR is to use bolt cutters to open the Tarland Trails car park money box, the lock of which has been damaged.

LS reported on a conversation with Ed Garrett of Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development, which works in partnership with Fair Share. They are looking for locations to



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distribute non-perishable food items that would otherwise go to waste – with the dual aim of reducing food sent to landfill, and mitigating food poverty. The Trustees agreed that Ed Garrett should be invited to a future meeting to explain more about the initiative.

Jan Healey of the Tapestry Group provided the following update:

Nothing to report except that it is officially finished and we are having a meal at the Commercial to celebrate. Lindsay and I will take it to the Belvidere Gallery very soon, in the next week or two, to be framed.

19. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday 24th February.