



## **Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7.30pm  
Video-conference**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Present: Lizzy Shepherd (LS) (Chair), Chris Redmond (CR), Annie McKee (AMcK), Julian Davies (JD), Liz Cooper (LzC), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Ana Pena del Vale (APV), Linda Cunningham (LnC), Dave Hirst (DH), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes).

Apologies: Kate Redpath (KR), Simon Power (SP).

#### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Decisions made between meetings**

There were no decisions between meetings.

#### **4. Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

#### **5. Cromar Community Council and Cromar Community Helpline**

The query about the drainage works next to the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) wetland noted in the minutes of the last Cromar Community Council (CCC) meeting has been answered by SP.

The Cromar Community Helpline is stopping on 26 April due to lock-down relaxations and increased vaccination, meaning that people are more confident going out. There will be a questionnaire for volunteers to complete indicating whether they are happy to be involved in the future, should the need arise. Thanks was expressed to all the volunteers who have taken part in the Helpline so far.

#### **6. Cromar Food Waste Project**

The Community Pantry has unfortunately had to be stopped due to petty vandalism. The food bag deliveries are also stopping and the Project is returning to monthly events. A discussion has been held with the Council about access to the Pavilion – there will be a key kept in Tarland so food can be stored there. The new cooker for the MacRobert Hall is coming in August. The group is hoping to find funding for a double sink, jointly with Tarland Welfare Trust (TWT). All grant monies have now been spent.

#### **7. Tarland Community Housing**

The Project's SCIO application is being processed by OSCR. Funding applications to Nationwide and Bank of Scotland Foundation have been unsuccessful. Frustratingly neither are willing to offer feedback 'due to the number of applications received'. Funding applications are currently being processed by the Tudor Trust

and the People's Postcode Trust. The Trustees are currently in the process of opening a bank account. Once this and the OSCR registration are complete all subsequent funding applications will be made in the name of Tarland Community Housing (TCH), rather than through TDG.

The TCH Trustees have prepared a draft proposal to the MacRobert Trust (MRT) setting out the case for community-led affordable homes being an integral and essential part of the mix for a first phase of 8 – 10 homes on the Village Farm site. Details of the proposal will be shared with the TCH Advisory Group for their input once the MRT has had a chance to provide an initial response.

## **8. Tarland Wetlands**

Mark Wilkinson of the James Hutton Institute (JHI) attended the last group meeting on 5 March. Mark agreed that additional interpretation at the Viewfield wetland would be useful. Mark will liaise with SP and make a site visit when possible to discuss the locations and designs of additional flood storage bunds.

Thanks to the MRT for replacing the roof of the WWTW wetland hide and to William Latimer for strimming the rushes. DH and KD repainted the walls of the hide. The fly tipping in the car park has been cleared. The drainage works in the field adjacent to the wetland have been completed. The grazing plan has yet to be agreed and so the fencing won't be erected until next year. DH and KD have put a camera trap out on the wetland and obtained some good footage. A roadside sign to the wetland would be useful.

A funding application to NatureScot is being prepared by KD for both the Viewfield wetland sign and the WWTW wetland sign.

Megan Woods has kindly agreed to continue as the 'outreach worker' for the group to keep social media up to date and upload videos to the TDG YouTube channel.

## **9. Tarland Trails**

Damage to a memorial bench at the top of the hill close to the start of Tarland Trails 1 is to be investigated by CR and SP. A wooden bike rack and a sign in this location may be useful to discourage use of the bench. £455k has been applied for to Sport Scotland for Tarland Trails 2. A letter of intent is required from the MRT. The outcome of the application is expected in three to four months' time. If successful, this award would be the catalyst for the rest of the funding.

## **10. Paths and Access**

The Risk Assessment (RA) and the volunteer forms have been finalised, along with a briefing checklist. The group is waiting for things to open up a bit to do path maintenance. The Facebook page is very popular, providing feedback on work required and some ideas for new paths. These need to be discussed with SP and prioritised in terms of feasibility. Other suggestions are for benches along the Tarland Burn and bulbs along some of the paths (these can be obtained from the Council free of charge).

The Old Drove Road black route requires some work and LzC made a visit with SP to discuss what is needed to make it more accessible. The Jubilee Wood also needs some attention. Funding opportunities are being investigated.

The Smallburn track flooding is an estate maintenance job.

It has already been agreed that the group will hand out Tarland Way booklets (incl. childrens' ones) to schools free of charge. It was also suggested that they could be displayed in leaflet holders with a request for donations.

JD will liaise with DH and KD over trimming the beech trees on the approach to the village.

## **11. Tarland Bee Group**

A generous donation has been received. Those leasing hives will be able to do so for a third year. Queen rearing is now homework.

The calligrams are done and there is a winner and five runners up. This project was well received by pupils. The idea will now travel the world! Thanks to Dave Woods of Aboyne Academy for his excellent brief and enthusiasm.

The group has received Covid resilience fund money which will purchase a new laptop to cope with all the media files.

Thanks to JB for donating and delivering bark chippings and to William Latimer for cutting the wildflower meadow at the walled garden. There will be a work party this weekend to spread the bark. The ground works for the education facility are due to start on 17 May.

## **12. Food and Music Festival**

Shona Donaldson is doing well re-booking from last year and arranging the music. The group is keeping its options open with regard to whether the festival will be in person, online and / or streamed.

## **13. Community Garden**

Some new members have joined and renewals are due.

## **14. Composting**

The compost rounds will start again on 24 April.

## **15. Accounts, grants, awards and funding**

DH's action from the last meeting minutes is to be done by the next meeting. This is to determine the exact annual running costs of the organisation to form the basis of a reserves target.

CR to circulate the link to the grants spreadsheet to the Trustees.

## **16. Governance – amendment to Constitution, archiving and back-up of files, Development Officer handover, new Chairperson**

A change to the constitution is required to allow for remote meetings. This will be by a Resolution at the next AGM.

DH is to investigate GoogleDrive for archiving and back-up of files. If necessary this could be done per project.

The Development Officer handover update will be from KR at the next meeting. DH to check that emails to [tarlanddevelopmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:tarlanddevelopmentgroup@gmail.com) are forwarded to KD.

A discussion was had about the future chair of TDG.

## **17. AOB**

KD called for all outstanding Project Plans to be completed as soon as possible.

The Seed Swap potatoes have now all been distributed and good feedback was received.

## **18. Date of next meeting**

This will be on 26 May.

