



## **Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm  
MRT Offices**

### **MINUTES**

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Lizzy Shepherd (LS), Simon Power (SP), Dave Hirst (DH), Julian Davies (JD), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Ana Pena del Valle (AP), Chris Redmond (CR), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Liz Cooper (LzC).

Apologies: Kate Redpath (KR), Linda Cunningham (LaC).

2. Matters arising

CR is willing to be Vice Chair. We are still looking for a Secretary.

There is nothing to report on the Pavilion Asset Transfer.

JD still intends to check the beech trees on the approach to Tarland from the south.

3. Decisions made between meetings

None.

4. Membership

One new membership application was approved.

5. Governance

It was agreed that we would try and hold a Development Day in Summer 2022. All to think of a suitable Facilitator.

6. Tarland Trails

There are 18 trees down on the trails after Storm Arwen. Warning signs have been put up to say that the trails are closed until further notice. Some clearance work has been done by hand but more needs to be done with machinery by a professional using national MTB Trail funds. There is no damage to the trails themselves.

The residents have responded to the short and long term actions proposed to limit disturbance from the trails. A long term options plan will now be put together by the Steering Group, brought back to Trustees for approval, and then sent on to the residents in the New Year. This plan may include wider community consultation on the options.

## 7. Cromar Food Waste Project

The MacRobert Hall is poised to become a registered food premises. We are just waiting for the installation of the double sink, funded by The MacRobert Trust (MRT).

The food pop-ups went ahead on 29th/30th November despite power outages, with some very grateful recipients in both Tarland and Logie Coldstone.

We are expecting venison from Invercauld Estate the week before Christmas, which we will cook and freeze to serve at a lunch event in the New Year.

## 8. Tarland Wetlands

A water control structure has been inserted in the new drain in the field next to the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) wetland, which will allow control of the retention of water in the western end of the field close to the WWTW, so creating suitable conditions for wetland birds at any time of year. The Management Plan for the wetland and the adjacent field is still being progressed with MRT and the farm tenant but, in the meantime, the field was flooded in October as a test and the system is working well. The water control structure has now been reverted to the 'drain' position. An A3 interpretive poster about the flooding regime has been put up inside the hide. Many thanks to Ian Francis for producing this poster. The main visitors to the flooded field have been greylag geese.

The ponds at the Viewfield wetland have been de-silted and thanks go to MRT for carrying out this work. Signs for the two wetlands have not been designed yet.

Ranna Farm is now let. Flood storage areas are being explored with advice from the James Hutton Institute (JHI).

William Latimer recently met with a resident of Coull for a discussion about flooding.

KD and William will be attending a meeting with Susan Cooksley from the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) and Oli Hands from Coull Woodlands about riparian natural flood management in Coull on Monday 13 December.

## 9. Paths and Access

A dog issue on one of the paths is being dealt with.

An issue regarding fencing on the Tarland Way is being dealt with. There are 19 trees down on the southern section of the Tarland Way, which is the landowner's responsibility.

Graeme Anderson from Paths for All has made some plans for new routes. The next step is to engage the community as the farm tenants already know about them.

We are looking into funding for work on the black path.

## 10. Tarland Bee Group

We continue with the build at Oldtown Apiary. The indoor plumbing, electricity and kitchen have still to be installed. We are seeking the advice of an architect regarding the disabled access and have provided plans for them to examine. MRT may be able to help with materials for the disabled access.

We received a grant from The Peoples Postcode Trust to purchase a resource library. Colin at the Bee Cabin has sourced the books for us and they arrived last week. Lizzy Bacon has kindly agreed to take charge of the new resource and Hayley Lockerby, a librarian in Aboyne, will help to set up a suitable system for borrowing. This will get underway once the Bee Bothy (the final agreed name for the Education Facility) has light and power.

We were unsuccessful in our funding application to IKEA for internal furnishings.

The bees have been fed and put to bed for the winter. They will be treated for disease again soon and stores monitored on a regular basis.

Both apiaries were checked after Storm Arwen and no damage was sustained.

The Woodland Trust have delivered the stakes and tubes for our hedge - the plants are to follow soon.

Our neighbours at Oldtown have received their annual jar of honey, along with a bottle of apple juice this year.

On 5 November the partners of the MRT Trustees visited Oldtown, arranged by Chris Hockley. Lindsay Stewart and YD showed them round the whole site and the new building with artworks. We then took them to the hall to see the Tarland Tapestry which they loved. They each left with a gift of honey and a bottle of apple juice.

#### 11. Seed Swap

Due to ongoing Covid concerns the Steering Group has decided that the 2022 Seed Swap and Potato Day will be done in a similar way as last year, involving asking people to pre-order. The email letting people know about this will be sent out later this week and orders will have to be put in by the end of December. The orders will be picked up from the MacRobert Hall on 27 February 2022 (rather than being delivered as was done last year) and all necessary Covid restrictions will be put in place e.g. limiting numbers coming into the hall. Volunteers will be needed on 26 February to set up.

#### 12. Resilience Plan

Cromar Community Council (CCC) and Tarland Welfare Trust (TWT) are working on a plan to use the hall in emergency situations but this would require a generator to provide power. MRT may be able to help with funding. We need to go with what other communities have already done with support from Aberdeenshire Council. TDG will offer a representative to the group and JD has volunteered. CCC are taking the lead, therefore KD will write to Simon Welfare.

#### 13. Cromar Community Council

Nothing to report.

#### 14. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

It was agreed that TDG will hold grant funds for Tarland Community Housing (TCH) in our bank account until they have their own. DH to liaise with Annie McKee on the use of these funds.

The recent funding opportunity for climate resilience was too short notice therefore we didn't apply. It was not necessary for the application to come from a constituted body therefore the Tarland Climate Crisis Group could have applied. However, it was agreed that we would be happy to collaborate with them on a project specific basis for climate resilience and adaptation and put in for funds when the next opportunity arises.

The next Investing in Communities Funding round opens at the end of March/early April 2022. We have to meet all four criteria on each project. Partnership working is very important. The most likely candidates for funding would be community growing and food waste. Core costs and some capital costs up to £150,000/yr would be provided if we were successful. The decision would be in November 2022 for an award in March 2023. It was agreed that a sub-group will be required to put together an application.

15. AOB

The electric vehicle charging points have been installed in the recycling car park in Tarland.

It was agreed that First Aid training should be arranged and offered to those interested so that we have sufficient First Aiders at TDG events. KD to put together the email text and collate names by the end of January (Trustees, Members and project members). JD to engage a trainer for a one day or two day course. LS is to approach someone locally that has a film background to take on the Film Club. The club needs a Lead TDG Trustee otherwise it will have to pass on to TWT.

Compost – meet with Doctor Compost! There is a Community Compost Network on Facebook.

16. Date of next meeting

19 January MRT office 7.30.