



Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm
Upper Hall**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Dave Hirst (DH), Linda Cunningham (LiC), Lizzy Shepherd (LS), Yvonne Davidson (YD).

Apologies: Liz Cooper (LzC), Ana Pena del Valle (AP), Julian Davies (JD), Simon Power (SP).

2. Election of Chairperson

Due to the resignation of LS as Chair, CR will be Acting Chair until the Annual General Meeting (AGM). There was a discussion about the appropriateness of a project lead having a casting vote, and it was decided that this would be discussed on an individual basis prior to any vote.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Decisions made between meetings

None.

5. Membership

Two applications were approved.

6. Governance – KR resignation, potential new Trustees, Away Day, Trustee Indemnity Insurance, Sharepoint

KR has resigned as a Trustee. Thanks were expressed to her for her hard work previously as Secretary and more recently as Chair, and for her continued support of TDG as a Member.

Both new Members are interested in coming along to the next Trustees meeting to see what is involved. KD to invite them along and send out guidance beforehand.

The 28 August was agreed for the Away Day. KD to book the venue. KD to collate responses from the governance survey she suggested in advance of the day. KD to invite Shona Donaldson as she is currently working for TDG as Food and Music Festival Co-ordinator. KD to remind all to submit ideas.

Lena Hutton from Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) advised LS that we get free advice from a specialist insurance company with regard to Trustee Indemnity Insurance. LS to contact the specialist and make the arrangements for a meeting.

Further help on Sharepoint can be provided by one of the new Members.

7. Tarland Trails

TT1 – CR to chase SP to send the options document to the residents. A poster has been put up about TT2 plans. Trees have all been cleared by JD, paid for by Aberdeenshire Council.

TT2 – CR is responding to Sport Scotland queries and the planning conditions are being discharged. The awareness raising has generated responses from Tarland and further afield. These are being collated and

will be sent to SP after the deadline of Monday 7 March. Scottish Enterprise are progressing their funding offer internally and are waiting to see what the outcome of the tendering process is. The tenders are due back on Friday 4 March. CR is meeting SP on 4 March to go over some details. The last date for the funding is 31 March.

8. Cromar Food Waste Project

Food Pop-ups

The pop-ups in January were pretty quiet as they coincided with school closures due to Storm Corrie. However, the February ones were busier than usual and we expect this to continue as the cost of living continues to rise. The selection of food from the Fareshare depot is contracting for unknown reasons, so much of what we pick up at the moment is funded by donations. The next pop-ups will be 28th/29th March.

Aboyne Co-op

At the end of January we had our first pickup of non-ambient food from Aboyne Co-op. We cooked and froze most of it, intending to have a community lunch, however, with the power outage during the January storms, most of it had to be thrown out. Fortunately the baked goods were sent to the food pop-ups so all was not lost. It was a good learning experience, and highlighted items missing from the MacRobert Hall kitchen which Tarland Welfare Trust (TWT) are looking into. We have purchased a label printer and packaging for ready meals which will be our next step in the food pick up/cooking/freezing/handing out process.

Future Events

There will be a Fun Day at the pavilion on Saturday 9th April with some hot food available, plus a pop-up and other entertainment as per last year. There will also be a Community Kitchen at the Tarland Food and Music Festival in September.

Growth

In the medium term we would like to be able to offer more regular pop-ups and take more food pick-ups, both of which require more volunteers and time commitments.

9. Tarland Wetlands

The pipe mechanism at the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) needs improving to provide the right water level at the right time of year, so this will now be handled by the MacRobert Trust (MRT) estate.

We are eligible for funding from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund for the proposed re-meandering of the Tarland Burn. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will likely lead the funding bid later in the year, with MRT and the Wetlands Group as partners (yet to be agreed).

KD and William Latimer had a useful meeting with Oli Hands from Coull Woodlands and Susan Cooksley from the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP), providing wetlands advice to the estate.

The interpretive sign for Viewfield wetland is in hand. Lindsay Stewart has agreed to do the artwork, with help from aerial photos provided by Nigel Healey.

MRT have agreed to implement Ian Francis's suggested management enhancements at the Ordie wetland before April (wader scrapes and scrub control). Supervision of the contractor is required on site by a member of the group.

The group is participating in Cromar Future Group's Ecohunt on 20 March, as part of Climate Week. Ian Francis is also speaking at the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP) Seminar on 27 March.

10. Paths and Access - Tarland Way people & bike counters

Drop-in 21st/22nd February Tarland Tearoom

Over the two sessions, we chatted with a dozen folk about our plans for a new path from Tillychardoch to Stoneyford/Lochmanse and got some very useful feedback and suggestions which will be discussed with SP. SP has spoken with the tenant farmers and LzC has spoken with various nearby property owners to inform them of our initial ideas.

NESCAN Grants

We were successful in obtaining two grants from the North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN) towards two projects. The first is improving the Black Drove Road and the second will be towards planning costs and a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for the proposed new path from Tillychardoch to Stoneyford/Lochmanse.

Condition of Paths

Our Tuesday group has walked (and continues to walk) the paths to check on their condition and to do some minor maintenance tasks. The Brown Path (Tomnaverie) has a serious issue with fallen trees, and the Skyline Walk through Davoch Wood has several trees over the path. The MRT estate have been asked to clear them. We aim to start our monthly maintenance sessions on the second Saturday of April; these will be held on the second Saturday of each month until the autumn.

Dogs and Livestock

The concerns of a local farmer about dogs on paths near to parks of sheep have again been raised. LzC has given him details of how to seek advice and will post some information on the Tarland Paths Facebook page to remind walkers of their responsibilities when in the countryside.

Correction to Previous Minutes

Unfortunately, it turns out that it was not the Tarland Way that the Men's Shed was offering to help with maintenance but some of the Aboyne Paths which lead off the Tarland Way.

11. Tarland Bee Group

Oldtown

The build is progressing. We have had numerous workshops where members have volunteered to do lots of labour and have done some really heavy jobs, shifting aggregate, sand, purlins, slabs and painting woodwork. Shelves were put up in the observation hive room. The outdoor sink has been set in place using slabs donated by KD and DH. We have received other donations of slabs from Marie's neighbour and SP at MRT.

We had a visit from the building standards officer who was extremely helpful and offered advice on items we need to complete to obtain the building warrant. We are hoping to get everything finished in time to avoid the requirement for an extension.

We have a solution for the disabled access issue after KNC's work. We have engaged a builder and he is working on the ramp at the moment. All was going well until he contracted Covid, so we have a hold up with that work now.

The electrician is well along with the work and we now have one socket and one light and a lot of cabling in place.

The first fix has been done by the plumber. The base units for the kitchen will be fitted this afternoon.

Thereafter the plumber will return to complete all the plumbing.

The guttering has been ordered and when it arrives a work party will be organised to fit it.

Smallburn

Teaching continues in the form of feeding and some classroom homework for the lease hive folk.

We have identified a temporary site for the bees should they need to be moved to make way for TT2.

Our hunt for a permanent site for these bees continues with the generous help of SP from MRT.

Beginners

We have a full class of beginners starting in April and the whole course will be practical and held outside so we can hopefully mitigate against any future Covid restrictions.

Members' Classes

With Oldtown almost complete, we hope to move the bees back when the weather allows, and we can start regular 'open hive' sessions for our members.

YD has been awarded distinction in her Advanced Aparian exams. She has two more exams to pass to be a Master Beekeeper. Many congratulations were expressed to her for her outstanding achievement.

12. Seed Swap

The Seed Swap and Potato Day was held on Sunday 27 February 10-4pm. Pre-orders were collected and paid for and free seeds were also collected. A number of volunteers helped with packing up the pre-orders on Saturday afternoon and with the collection on Sunday. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a successful event and to keep it Covid safe. We had approximately 80 orders. Most of the potatoes were sold and the remainder will be sold to a local market garden at cost price. Hopefully next year we can go back to a large public event as there were less than half the usual numbers. There was very good feedback.

13. NESCAN

It was agreed that we will join NESCAN. KD to progress.

14. Cromar Community Council

The resilience group has had a meeting.

15. Accounts, grants, awards and funding – financial procedure, ICF

DH to consider a financial procedure for TDG. The Investing in Communities Fund (ICF) grant application sub-group has met twice and there is a plan for an application around food and growing. This will be a joint application between the Food Waste and the Community Garden projects. The draft application will be circulated and approved via email.

16. AOB – Tarland Community Housing Intern Interviews, First Aid Training, Film Club, community event

CR to start a dialogue with the organisers of the Tarland Show to see if we can help keep it going.

KD to meet the Tarland Community Housing (TCH) interns on Friday. LS has already met them.

The First Aid course will take place at Aboyne Academy on 7/8 May and has seven people booked on it. CR to ask Alexander Fyfe to email KD about attending.

LS has not heard back from the contact for the Film Club so it was agreed that it would be sent back to the hall.

LS spoke to Lindsay Stewart about a community event, which we could think of organizing at some point.

17. Date of next meeting

13 April at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.