



Minutes of the Tarland Development Group Annual General Meeting Tarland Tearooms 14th September 2022

1. Attendees and apologies

Present (15): L Shepherd, K Dale, D Hirst, Y Davidson, A McKee, C Redmond, G Needham, D Currie, P Craig, J Davies, H Lockerbie, A Pena del Valle, C Stuart, S van Heusden, D Muirhead,

Apologies (6): L Cooper, L Cunningham, D Hansford, C Bond, F Bond, K McHarg

2. Welcome

Chris Redmond (TDG Vice Chair) welcomed everyone to the 24th AGM.

3. Chair's Report

Chris spoke about how TDG has continued to navigate its way out following the continuing effects and disruption of the pandemic over the past year. The full Chair's report is included in Appendix

4. TDG Annual Accounts

Dave Hirst (TDG Treasurer) gave a summary of the financial situation of the Group. The full OSCR accounts are being audited at the moment. Please see Appendix 2 for the full treasurer's report. There was some additional discussion around a levy for each project for TDG core funds pot and making us of amazon smile.

5. Election of Trustees

No nominations were received for new trustees. Nine existing Trustees decided to remain as Trustees. Two trustees - Kathy Dale and Lizzy Shepherd are stepping down. Thanks were expressed to Lizzy for her 12 years and Kathy for 10 years of involvement with TDG. Thanks was also given to Simon Power who stepped down earlier in the year.

Nine Trustees were **proposed for election by Lizzy Shepherd and seconded by Kathy Dale**. They were approved and duly elected. The full list of current Trustees now stands as follows:

Y Davidson
C Redmond
J Davies

D Hirst
A Pena del Vale
D Muirhead

L Cooper
L Cunningham
H Lockerbie

Three Trustee vacancies remain and the Trustees could co-opt an additional Trustees over the year to fill these vacancies. At the next TDG meeting office bearer roles will be decided.





6. Questions

A question was asked about TDG and NESCAN. TDG as a member of NESCAN each project can apply. Ensure our community is engaged in climate action. Also a good opportunity for funding - Just Transition Fund. A question was asked about fundraising options. TDG Calendars were previously very popular. J Davies expressed an interest to restart this. TDG bags will be ready for the food and music festival this year. A subsequent question was asked about how TDG was paying for these initially and it was decided to pay with core funds for now.

7. Any Other Business

Opportunities of participatory budgeting was discussed.

Chris expressed that TDG should start/consider taking a lead on a community action plan.

Cromar Community Council's next meeting is on Wed 21st and it was noted that resilience plan on the agenda.

Film club - There was discussion around restarting the film club. Hayley is willing to support. It may be possible to move it downstairs to make it accessible. Further exploration needed.

Discussion was had around running things in the hall this winter as a warm space for community to help support with the cost-of-living crisis.

8. Date of next Trustees meeting

The date of the next Trustees meeting will be TBC.



Appendix 1

Chair's Report 2021 - 2022

Introduction

Tarland Development Group has continued to navigate our way following the continuing effects of the pandemic over the last year. TDG trustees resumed face to face meeting this year. Since our last AGM we said goodbye officially to Kate Redpath as a trustee as well as Simon Power but we continue to work closely with him with his 'MacRobert Trust hat on'. More recently David Muirhead and Hayley Lockerbie have been co-opted as trustees. Midway through the year Lizzy stepped down as chair and so I have filled the role until today. Shona Donaldson continues to be employed by TDG to support the Food and Music Festival which was hugely successful again in 2021. We are grateful for all her hard work. Throughout the past year we have secured a significant amount of funds from a range of sources. We are very grateful to all trustees and steering group members for their work on completing these applications to support the wide range of TDG projects. Also we are very grateful to all the volunteers who support our projects.

Chris Redmond, (Acting) Chair, 12th September 2022

Project Updates:

- Tarland Bee Group (Lead Trustee: Yvonne Davidson)

2022 has seen the completion of Phase 2 at the Apiary with an official Opening on 3rd July, after 4 years of planning and construction.

In 2019 we started grant applications for phase two, the Education Facility (Bee Bothy). This wooden building incorporate a compost toilet, a living roof, a small kitchen, a small room to house an observation hive and a low window to allow a good view of the teaching hives from inside the building. Funding was slow and difficult due to Covid and Brexit but we finally reached our target and work began in spring 2021. We completed the building at the beginning of this year and have been 'window dressing' ever since. We received a grant to purchase a resource library and local artists have gifted beautiful artwork, including botanical tapestries, stained glass work and wooden sculptures.

Teaching started on site in May with a 6-week beginners' class and we have continued with open hive sessions every Sunday for members during the active season, encouraging them to handle different bees, learn new techniques and manipulations. We plan to have a series of winter talks in the new building for our members.

We have a phase three underway with a funding application for extraction equipment, IT equipment, extra external seating, heaters for the Education Facility, cupboards for the Library





and a lean-to shelter to provide additional storage. We will share the facility with other TDG projects – the Seed Swap Group and the Apple Pressing Group. The community orchard is very close by so the apple pressers do not have too far to go!.

Our official opening was a thank you to all our funders, supporters, members and neighbours. This project has taken 4 years and a lot of volunteer work - from funding applications, construction management, gardening, painting, kitchen installation, moving aggregate, moving sand, laying slabs, putting up gutters, planting a wildflower meadow, more painting, planting a hedge, constructing a fence and a gate, more painting, moving hives, more painting, weeding the carpark, edging the carpark, repurposing hives to make raised beds, making information panels, hemming and putting up curtains, putting up blinds.....the list goes on. We have been so fortunate with the amount of volunteer work that has been so forthcoming from our willing members. Perhaps all the home-made cake helped?

Rear Admiral Chris Hockley CBE DL and John Woods our youngest member (1 year old) cut the ribbon jointly during the opening ceremony on the 3rd of June 2021. Chris is the CEO of The MacRobert Trust and a perfect choice for the opening. The Trust has been extremely supportive by providing us with a site, a long lease, grants and even aggregate and timber, not to mention advice and encouragement and we were delighted Chris could do the honours. We were also delighted to have a very well represented bee community with Phil McAnespie and Andy Watson from the SBA and Mitchell Barron representing the Bee Inspectorate.

This has been a long road and a lot of volunteer time, but the result is just what we had envisaged, a purpose-built Educational Facility and we intend to use it to its full potential. We have got off to a flying start this year with 8 candidates for their Basic Beekeeper! One candidate has had to use the covered bee shelter for their exam already due to the very wet day.

Our grateful thanks to all our funders, supporters, neighbours and members, without you all this project would never have been realised.

List of funders.

Phase 1:

- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Aberdeenshire Council, Marr Area Committee
- National Lottery, Awards for All
- David and June Gordon Memorial Trust
- MacRobert Trust
- Tesco, Bags of Help
- Woodland Trust – donation of hedging plants

Phase 2:

- Vattenfall - Unlock Our Future Fund 2019
- Vattenfall - Unlock Our Future Fund 2020
- Crerar Trust
- Scottish Hydro and Electric Community Trust
- Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation





- David and June Gordon Memorial Trust
- Marr Area Partnership Initiative Grant Scheme
- FCC Scottish Action Fund
- Bruce Wake Charitable Trust
- Peoples Postcode Trust

- **Tarland Tapestry Group (Lead Trustee: Kathy Dale)**

The Tapestry, together with the photograph of the Tapestry Group, taken after the official unveiling, plus a painting of the Group by David Curry, now hangs in the foyer of the MacRobert Hall. It makes an interesting display with an information plaque giving relevant dates and acknowledgements.

We are very grateful to the Tarland Welfare Trust who arranged and funded improved lighting for the Tapestry. We are also grateful to Michael Cameron whose accurate measurements and expertise were needed to mount the display.

We are still hoping to be part of a proposed 'Tapestry Trail for Scotland' when plans are finalised in the future.

The Group enjoyed an 'End of Project' lunch at Douneside in May. This project is now officially complete.

- **Tarland Paths Group (Lead Trustee: Liz Cooper)**

Firstly, thanks to everyone who supports our paths' network around Tarland.

Maintenance

Our Tuesday Tramping group has undertaken maintenance this year on most paths and we have a few more regular volunteers helping. It is a huge help to have MRT looking after the wide grass tracks and although, after Arwen etc, there were several problems these have now (mostly) been resolved. There are some winter maintenance tasks to be completed, such as repairing gates etc.

We are part of the Marr Paths' Forum and take part in quarterly meetings to discuss issues and share advice. A stall was arranged at Aboyne Games which raised the profile of the local network of paths.

Projects

Our two main projects are still moving on, albeit slowly:

Creating a new footpath towards Craiglich: a PEA has been completed and we are now taking it forward for planning.

Petts / Black path: We are discussing options of a joint project with CHG.

Funding

We have some limited, but much appreciated, funding for the initial stages from MAP and NESCAN; major funding will be required for the projects to go ahead.





- **Tarland Wetlands Group (Lead Trustee: Kathy Dale)**

The group's vision is to develop a set of natural wetlands fitting within the farming system, for the benefit of wildlife, the environment and local people.

We have surveyed the Gellan wetland this summer and made some interesting botanical finds. A report will be produced in due course, including previous records from other organisations, to see how the wetland may have changed since the 1980s and whether any management should be considered, in conjunction with the landowners and tenants.

The group has undertaken upkeep and management of the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) hide and wetland. This includes signage, vegetation management, and water level management for birds in the adjoining field.

The Viewfield Wetland in the village is also being managed by the group. The ponds were de-silted in the autumn and some of the pipes this summer. An interpretative sign to explain the functioning of the wetland is in progress.

A scrape has been created on the Ordie wetland (Green Moss). Work on an additional scrape will be taking place this autumn. A small dam is also in place to create more open water and hold back its release to the drain.

The MacRobert Trust (MRT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB Scotland), the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) and the Wetlands Group have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) for the re-meandering project on the Tarland Burn. This is for the development phase of the work, which includes surveys and design. If the EOI is successful then NatureScot will invite the partnership to submit a full application for funding.

- **Community Composting (Lead Trustee: Dave Hirst)**

The garden waste collection service is running well in our 13th season with over 50 household members (gradually increasing every year) and a good band of committed volunteers. Donations were invited and received from most members at the end of the season last year, often of more than the usual fee, demonstrating the high perceived value of the service. Compost is available at the community garden for use.

- **Cromar Food Waste Project (Lead Trustee: Linda Cunningham)**

Since the last AGM in 2021 we have continued with our regular food pop ups in Tarland and Logie Coldstone, free to all, and have had several other events, including a Community kitchen at the Tarland Food and Music Festival with free soup and bread, all of which was donated and some was made from waste veg. Other events included a 'Save the Pumpkin' carve and cook session in the MacRobert Hall for families (in collaboration with Public Health), a cook up of surplus food from Aboyne coop which was frozen for a later date, a festive Christmas pop up with virgin mulled wine and Christmas treats and a fun day at the pavilion as part of Aberdeenshire Health and Wellbeing week. We acknowledge the support of Aboyne Fareshare,





Banchory No. 1 and Aboyne Coop for providing food of all sorts, and the many local folk who donate bits and pieces throughout the year.

Within the year the MacRobert Hall has become our registered premises for our cooking activities, and Tarland Welfare Trust have installed a brand new cooker with funding from Aberdeenshire Food fund. And we are also most grateful to the MacRobert Trust for supplying funding for a new double sink in the kitchen. As a registered charity, were able to sign up with Aboyne Coop to pick up surplus ambient food before each pop up. We take baked goods, produce and meat/fish/vegetarian/vegan packs, all of which would be thrown out, and freeze or chill to give out at our pop ups. Aberdeenshire Council continues to allow us to use the pavilion in Tarland for the pop ups and as a store, and we appreciate their support.

With the addition of surplus items from Aboyne Coop in 2022, we are now giving out many more items at our pop ups and our attendee numbers are creeping up as word spreads by word of mouth. In May/June, due to the rise in cost of living, we trialled increasing our pop ups to fortnightly rather than monthly. This was popular, and from Sept 22 we have scheduled fortnightly pop ups right up to Christmas.

Our costs are low, and we have a small amount of donations at each pop up which keeps us ticking over. However, thanks to funding from Aberdeenshire South Food Bank, we will be purchasing supplementary food for our pop ups, when necessary, as the amount of food we are receiving from our Coop pickups goes down, and the cost of living continues to rise.

With the future in mind, we have applied to the Investing in Communities Fund, to run a three year, joint growing and food share project which would aim to improve our community's food security and resilience and which would allow the Food Waste Project to deliver regular cooking and general food education workshops, alongside a similar push to educate and encourage folk in the community to grow their own food, and/or use local produce where possible. We will know the outcome in November 2022.

A huge thank you to all our helpers who are all volunteers. Anyone wishing to help out by picking up food, admin, manning the pop ups, doing deliveries or whatever comes along, should please contact us at CromarFood@gmail.com

- **Food and Music Festival (Lead Trustee: Kathy Dale)**

After the 2020 online festival, the 2021 festival was held in person and was very well supported. The weather was wonderful, and everyone was very helpful and patient with the outdoor queuing and the restrictions. Our administrator Shona Donaldson did a magnificent job as organiser and the festival was very successful. The events included the usual mix of concerts, music and food workshops, and the concerts were also live streamed for anyone who either didn't want to attend a live event or couldn't get a ticket. The highlights were the unveiling of the Tarland Tapestry and the first World Oatcake Championship!



- **Tarland Trails 1 (Lead Trustee: Chris Redmond)**

Tarland Trails 1 is well used by locals and visitors however numbers have reduced after the post covid biking bubble has deflated somewhat. The trails were significantly affected by Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie with a total of 40 trees falling over the trails. Luckily no major damage was caused to the trail surface. With the help from The MacRobert Trust, Aberdeenshire Trail Association and some chainsaws the trails were reopened quickly.

- **Tarland Trails 2 (Lead Trustee: Chris Redmond)**

What a difference a year makes! Significant funding was secured from The Scottish Government and sportScotland at very short notice in Jan/Feb/March 2022 and the build commenced on 30th March 2022. More funding is being sought to complete the project fully with a very successful crowdfunding campaign raising £27,000. The completed trails, car park and composting toilets will open to the public in Spring 2023.

- **Apple Group (Lead Trustee: Dave Hirst)**

After two years with hardly any juice because of covid (2020) or lack of apples (2021) this year looks like being a bumper year. We have already made 176 bottles and the season has just begun. We have moved up to the apiary to do the pressing which is working well, and we have bought a new electric mill which removes the need to cut and crush the apples by hand. This hugely reduces the time and effort. As usual most of the juice will be sold to the people who help, but there will be plenty left over for the market and other outlets.

- **Gone to Seed (Lead Trustee: Lizzy Shepherd)**

It was still not possible to do the Annual Seed Swap and Potato Day in the normal way due to Covid, but this year things were a bit more straightforward. Gardeners pre-ordered their potatoes, onions sets and shallots etc. Their orders were packaged up and the gardeners could pick them up from the hall on 27th February. We had about 80 orders, which was quite a challenge, and it could not have been done without volunteer support, so thanks to everyone who helped. Lots of saved seed was also picked up in the hall. It was not possible to run the seed saving workshops but we hope to run these again next year.

- **Tarland Community Garden (Lead Trustee: Ana Pena del Valle)**

The community garden is in a phase of transition on multiple fronts that will require the support from all TCG members in order to make this challenging transition a success. A recent, extraordinary, TCG members' meeting in July identified various issues that need to be addressed in the short term. These include:





- Recruiting new committee members and corresponding “responsibility holders” to replace departing ones.
- Improving communications and collaboration through more regular committee meetings, as well as more regular communication with members
- Updating agreed rules for bed allocation, member responsibilities, members’ behaviour, complaints procedure, among others.
- Developing a plan for regular maintenance work parties, the first one of which is this weekend, September the 17th.
- Providing more bed cultivation and management support for those members who require it.



Appendix 2

Treasurer's Report 2021-22

At the end of the financial year on 1st July 2021 TDG had a bank balance of £238,883, up from £81,700 in the previous year. This is the result of a very large increase in grant funding, mostly for Tarland Trails 2. Total income was £599,103 and expenditure £441,920. All the individual groups have a positive balance, the summaries for them are as follows:

Tarland Trails had grant income of £512,265 mostly from Scottish Enterprise and Sport Scotland and donations of £33,193. This will be spent on the new trails. A consequence of this is that TDG has exceeded the income limit of £500,000 and according to OSCR rules must be audited rather than the accounts merely being inspected. This will cost £4080 which will come from the TT2 budget.

The festival has increased its reserves from £12,168 to £17,286. However, £5000 of this is early income for this year's festival so there is no real change. From this year the Macrobert Trust grant comes to an end as does the Strengthening Communities grant. We have only found £1,000 to replace these so far, from the William Syson Foundation although the Tarland Welfare Trust has agreed to sponsor the festival by not charging for the hall which saves around £400. It is likely that this year the festival will lose money and more funding will need to be found for next year.

The Bee Group has increased its reserves from £1,900 to £3,486 excluding funding for the apiary. The apiary has been funded by grants totalling about £20,000 this year, all of which will be spent on the building and equipment.

The composting scheme has increased its reserves from £2,170 to £2,473, a small increase funded by subscriptions. The community garden has increased reserves from £6,708 to £7,112, also because of subscriptions. There was very little activity for the apple pressing group because of a very poor apple crop (reserves up from £1,419 to £1,465). The seed swap group increased from £1,606 to £1,962 thanks to sales.

The paths group started the year with a negative balance of £76 and finished with a positive one of £1,723 thanks to grants of £2,100 from NESCAN and Paths For All and fund raising of £851. The Food Waste Group increased its balance from £4 to £1,235 thanks to a grant from the Macrobert Trust of £855 and donations of £1,085.

The unallocated reserves decreased from £970 to £476. The grant from Johnston Oils was lower than usual at £313 although we did receive £236 from the cafe book sales.



In conclusion, the TDG is in a healthy financial position although as usual there is very little unallocated income. This could cause a problem in the future. TDG continues to be very successful in applying for funding from a wide variety of sources, something that will be necessary for the foreseeable future.