

# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



## DRAFT MINUTES

### 1. Attendees and apologies

- a. **Attendees: (6)** Chris Redmond (Chair); David Hirst (Treasurer); Sandra Van Heusden (Secretary); Karen McHarg; Linda Cunningham; Yvonne Davidson;
- b. **Apologies: (5)** Liz Cooper; Ana Pena del Valle; Dave Muirhead; Julian Barclay; Hayley Lockerbie;
- c. **Guest (1)** Aileen Longino, Development Officer Aberdeen Voluntary Action

### 2. Matters Arising

- a. Aileen Longino, from AVA presented a proposal to set up a Tarland Community Fund. Aileen became aware of hardship issues in the village. In response, she is looking to set up a fund to help individuals in need. Applicants will be within the Cromar Community Council boundaries. In the short term, the plan is to provide funds to help with hardship and educate applicants on services/funding available. Longer term, the plan would be to help develop capabilities in young people. Applicants will be made primarily via phone requests. For confidentiality, requests will be processed by Aileen Longino and Lucy Taylor. Aileen is looking to The MacRobert Trust to provide an initial donation and will use grants, donations and fund raising to sustain. Payments will cover essentials like food & fuel. The fund will be promoted via leaflets, posters and social media. Chris has a contact to distribute leaflets to every household in Cromar. Applications will be awarded on trust, but will be issued in increments, with check-ins to ensure money is spent wisely. The majority of donations will be given in cash. The operating protocol will be based on Ballater Funding model. Aileen is requesting TDG to hold the funds.

#### Follow up Actions:-

- **Aileen to find out how many people The Ballater Fund supports and determine how much money The MacRobert's Trust are willing to donate.**
- **Dave Hirst to find out criteria to manage the fund from the Auditors and what documentation would be required.**
- **Dave to investigate the possibility of issuing a bank card to Aileen**
- **TDG Trustees to agree if they will adopt the Tarland Community Fund following answers from Aileen.**

# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



- **Aileen would need to become a Trustee and Lucy would need to become TDG member, if TDG decide to support.**
  - **TDG website would need to signpost a newly formed Tarland Community Fund Facebook and Website Page**
- b. Philippa Delamere-Wright from Knockiehill Woodland Centre (KWC) requested help with a funding application from Woodward Charitable Trust - Children's Summer Playscheme. The Trust only funds registered UK charities. AS KWC are a company, they hoped the Tarland Development Group would act as their nominated charity. Following careful consideration, the Trustees decided they could not support this initiative as it is a business and key questions regarding the managing of the finance were unclear.  
**Action:- Chris to inform KWC of the decision**
3. **Decisions made between meetings.**
- a. Approved purchase of new Feather Banners. Trustees reviewed photos and agreed they look great.
  - b. Approved work order for Damaged Notice board
  - c. Posted Maintenance Contractor Job Vacancy for Tarland Trails. 18 applications received. Michael Law from Muir of Fowlis was the successful candidate. He also volunteered to do Tree Surgeon work on the Trails.
  - d. Posted work on Path from Tarland Village to TT2 on social media.
4. **Membership** – Danel MacWhyte joined as new member. Approved by Trustees.  
**Sandra/ Dave Hirst to add Daniel to e-mail distribution**
5. **Governance – nothing to report**
6. **Cromar Community Council (CCC)  
Resilience Plan update**
- a. Draft Resilience plan shared with Simon Welfare Chair (CCC)
  - b. Halls contacted re. use as emergency hubs
  - c. SVH completed Resilience training
  - d. Feedback received from CCC re. siting of picnic benches at the top of Square. Still awaiting response on cycle parking from Aberdeenshire Council.

# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



## 7. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

- a. No questions arising from Treasurer's Report
- b. 2022 Annual Accounts and Audit completed by Dave Hirst and Grant Considine and submitted to OSCR, .
- c. Tesco grant awarded for butterfly, bee and bird habitat project. Awaiting outcome of other Application from Marr Area Partnership

**Action – TDG to encourage donation of tokens to the project when shopping at Tesco**

## 8. Tarland Trails – Update by Chris Redmond.

*The build continues. Trails are very nearly connected to the car park and just need rain to help them settle before opening. Completing some sections of higher trail and storm repairs as well.*

*Path to Tarland had some last minute revisions following estate/farmer concerns. These have been resolved and in doing so has reduced the cost to TDG. Work started on Monday on this for 3 weeks.*

*TTMO appointed - Michael Law. 18 applications received.  
Cleaning position offered to Carol who cleans the hall.*

*Parking season passes - 70 sold  
In first evening so far!*

*Still hoping for Monday 3rd April opening with official opening June. Various tours happening on weekends in March ahead of opening.*

*Many things to get in place for opening but it's all coming together nicely.*

### **Meeting discussion**

- 88 passes sold already. Ideally would like to reach 100. Gold passes to shut down next week.

# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



**TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
Charity No. SCO41598 Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

- Parking costs confirmed as £5 all day. £3 for 3 hours.
- TT2 opening delayed due to the adverse weather.
- Cows broke through new fencing. There was a recommendation to apply to Woodland Trust for Spikey hedging to discourage the cows.
- Brown tourist Signs advertising TT2 agreed. Steven Allardyce agreed to host one on his land.
- The MacRobert Estate has agreed to 3 TT events.

## 9. Cromar Food Waste Project - Update by Linda Cunningham

### Pop ups



*The average number of customers at our pop ups has gone up from 50 in Oct/Nov/Dec 2022, to 60 in Jan/Feb 2023 (a 20% rise) and our last pop up had 71 customers.*

*To make the distribution of food fair, we will be putting a limit on the number of freezer items per person (based on how much we have), and we are changing the time in Tarland from April to 3.00pm – 4.00pm to allow school parents to come before everything has been taken, and to cater for older children coming off the school bus who may be able to pick up food for their families. In Logie Coldstone, we will change the time to 2.45 – 3.30pm for similar reasons.*

### Other Events

- *We will be having a Family Fun day and pop up at the Pavilion in Tarland on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June.*
- *We will once again be offering the Community Kitchen and pop up at the Tarland Food & Music Festival on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September*

### Funding

- *We finally heard that ICF would not be funding our (TDGs) ambitious community food initiative project.*
- *The MacRobert Trust has given us an allowance of £400 up to the end of March to use as we feel fit. It is going towards buying in higher value items like cooking oil, peanut butter, tinned fish & meat, and clearance meats/fish/cheese/veg(an) proteins from the coop which*

## Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



*go into the freezer. At the end of March MRT will decide how they will continue to support us.*

- *We have applied to Marr Area IGS fund for £750 to help us maintain our buying capability for the next 12 months.*

### Young Philanthropy Initiative



*Ruth Crawford represented the Cromar Food Waste Project at the YPI charities fair on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb showing the S2 students what we do. Most of the teams had already chosen their charity for this year's competition (the winners of which win £3000 for their chosen charity), however, it was good publicity for what we do.*

*And just as important, it allowed for the first outing of the TDG feather flag banner!!*

### Meeting Discussion/Actions

**Linda Cunningham to follow up with Ana Pena del Valle regarding attracting more school parents**

**Linda Cunningham to investigate funding from The MacRobert Trust in the next financial year.**

## **10. Tarland Wetlands – Update Karen McHarg**

### Tarland Burn

*In December the MacRobert Trust (MRT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB Scotland), the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP) and Tarland Development Group (TDG) (through the Wetlands Group) were successful in securing funding from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) for the Development Phase of the restoration of the Tarland Burn between Tarland and Coull.*

*Consultants cbec eco-engineering were appointed in January and the first meeting with them was held in early February. Through survey work, modelling and consultation the*

# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



*consultants will be producing a number of options for the restoration of the Burn and these will be shortlisted for discussion with stakeholders and the community. A community engagement event will be held on 30 March with further details becoming available in due course. A progress meeting was held with cbec on 2 March and the contract is currently on track.*

## Viewfield Wetland

*A drawing for a new interpretive sign showing how the wetland functions as flood storage has been designed. Text will be added and the sign will be constructed in due course.*

## Ordie Wetland

*The MacRobert Trust was planning to construct another scrape on this wetland in February.*

*The next meeting of the Wetland Group is scheduled for Monday 13th March.*

## **Meeting Discussion**

The NRF funding is public knowledge. Two meetings with appointed Consultants cbec eco-engineering have already been held. (The Consultants previously completed work on the Beltie Burn).

TDG to help promote the Community Engagement Event at the MacRobert Hall through Social Media and use of Feather Banners.

Other Action. Karen to remind Simon from The MacRobert Trust Scrape to complete the Ordie scrape.

### **11. Paths and Access**

Police contacted re. damage to path and have responded. Trustees reminded to submit photos of offenders where possible. Chris and Linda both reported further incidents.

### **12. Tarland Bee Group - Update\_Yvonne Davidson**

# **Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



*We have had good attendance for our winter series of talks to members and the IT equipment is working out well. Members have enjoyed the social aspect of the talks too, along with the cake.*

*The new lean to shelter behind the Bee Bothy is complete and the slabs have been laid. Sandra, Dave Hirst and Yvonne moved all the chuckies to make way for the slabs. The shelter is ideal and Patrick has done an excellent job.*

*We have taken delivery of all the new extraction equipment, which has all been sorted and stamped/engraved with TBG logo and dates. It is ready for use. An extraction day is planned for the first spring crop.*

*The pond sprung a leak, so a new liner has been ordered.*

*We have had a number of work parties to complete some tasks.*

*The library is catalogued, and placed in the new bookcases. We have started to lend the books to members. Members will be asked to write reviews which will be shared with the group.*

*The posters have been framed and fixed to the wall.*

*The wood chip, kindly donated by Julian Barclay, has been used to freshen the mulch round the heather mound and under the hedge.*

*The old kitchen wall cupboards have been put up over the outside sink. Shelves have been made for the cupboards.*

*The water barrels have been drained, moved and levelled into new positions (due to the shelter being built)*

*The outside furniture has been assembled and treated with wood preservative.*

*Lots of stones have been delivered to use around the pond.*

*We will arrange another work party to make up flat pack hives purchased in the winter sales.*

*The beginners' classes will start at the end of April and will be a mix of theory and practical.*



# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



*The competition run by Dave Woods at Aboyne Academy to create book plates for the resource library is complete and the winners chosen. Each winning student was presented with a prize of Apple Juice, Honey and Seeds along with a thank you card.*

*Tesco have accepted TDG for in store 'blue tokens' in April. The project is for Butterfly, bird and bumblebee habitats to be placed on the existing Tarland Path Network with information signs at appropriate places. We have also applied to Marr Area Partnership for the Small Grant Initiative £750. Tesco will be suitable match funding.*

## **Meeting Discussion**

Yvonne to visit Kraftwork to collect boxes.

Jenny Lewis has taken over ownership of the Bee Cabins. New units to be sited in Aboyne Castle where Firetrails used to be located.

### **13. Lego Club Update from Hayley Lockerbie**

*The February Lego club had 66 attendees, a further increase on the first two sessions. Attendees enjoyed building sets available and participating in timed building challenges. There are three senior pupils from the academy who are volunteering at the club, helping with sorting sets and tidying up. The club will need to recruit more adult volunteers to help with set up/running/tidy up with the current levels of attendees. More sets have been purchased this month to meet the demand.*

*A representative from Lego club attended the Seed Swap and Potato day with a Lego play table and a small fundraising activity.*

## **Meeting discussion/Action**

**Hayley to invite Alison from MRT to a Lego Club evening to celebrate the success and discuss further funding.**

### **14. Community Gardens Update from Ana Pena del Valle**

*The Community Garden celebrated its AGM 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2023. After a period of transition, the CG is starting this year with renovated spirits. The CG committee has three new members (see list below) and that is bringing stability to the decision-making process.*



# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



**TARLAND DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Charity No. SC041598 Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

- *Ana Pena del Valle – Chair and Tarland Development Group Trustee Representative*
- *Paul Middlemiss*
- *Frank Yule*
- *Anne Servantes*
- *Sheila Williams*
- *Denise Hansford*
- *Lizzy Shepherd – Secretary*
- *Dan MacWhyte*

**Rules:** *these have been updated so that they are in line with Tarland Development Group policies and procedures, reflect the rules for other TDG projects and are streamlined in relation to decision-making based on how the garden has actually been run for the last 9 years*

**Maintenance:** *Regular maintenance and repairs are done every Monday from 9-12 by Chris (a new member), supported by Frank and Paul. A grant was obtained from Marr Area Partnership for 50% materials cost to rebuild 5 outdoor beds.*

**Training:** *Gardening workshops – a local market gardener is going to do a series of regular free to members workshops on growing vegetables (probably 2 hrs every month at weekend during growing season, approx. 6 sessions). The starting date is early April.*

**Work party:** *a work party with all members will take place on April the 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a bowl of soup and tea.*

## **Action - Trustees approved Sub-Group Rules**

### **The seed swap and potato day – Update by Lizzy Shepherd**

*The Seed swap and Potato day was held on Saturday 25th February, from 10-2pm in the MacRobert Hall. Attendance was higher than ever and we estimate that over 300 people came. The project was asked to appear on BBC Radio Scotland's Mornings with Stephen Jardine Programme on Friday and this was done by Tammie Sabire, one of the steering group members. People came from far and wide and feedback was very positive. Most of the potatoes and all of the onions sets etc were sold. The free seed was cleared out as well. We had a couple of children's activities which were very popular (including Hayley*

# Tarland Development Group Minutes from Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



*who did lego). The TDG fabric bags were handed out for free (150) and these were very popular.*

*We had done a couple of workshops at Oldtown with volunteers over the winter for sorting and bagging up seed and had a good response. We also had lots of volunteers on the day. I would like to thank everyone who came to help. The event raised just over £2k and costs will be approx. £900. I plan to use these funds to purchase seed processing equipment and to run the event next year. I will also be running seed saving workshops this year and will need funds to produce written materials (printing costs etc).*

*Next year, it would be sensible to have car parking arranged. The plan is to hold it for a shorter time next year (from 10-12).*

## 15. Apple Juice

Yvonne shared photos of new shelter and slabbed area for Apple Pressing. An Apple Pressing Event will be organized in September for the MRT Trustees/Partners

## 16. Food and Music Festival.

- Work in progress to source Bands.
- There will be a TT bike race on the Sunday.
- This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Food and Music Festival. The Anniversary provides a good opportunity to look for additional funding e.g. from The MRT.

## 17. AOB

- a. Tarland Show Request for Volunteers – Still awaiting reply regarding what support is required.
- b. Aberdeenshire Council Waste Department want to feature our composting scheme on their website. **Denise and David to respond.**
- c. Dave discussed how to make the compost more easily available to the community. One idea is to bag and sell the compost. This will require either volunteers or a couple of paid workers to sieve and bag. The compost would be moved to the Community Garden by tractor for the work to take place. Electric Sieve available **Dave Hirst to further investigate the bagging and selling of compost.**
- d. Map board files have been lost. Jonathan Musgraves has agreed to produce a new set for £200. Trustees agreed this was excellent value for money and work should proceed. Additional incentives like honey, juice also discussed.

**Tarland Development Group  
Minutes from Trustees Meeting**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm  
Linda Cunningham's House



e. New insurance taken out to cover TT2.

**Action. All Project Groups to submit an inventory of their assets/equipment to Dave Hirst for insurance cover.**

**Date of next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7.30pm. Balmuir House.**