

Minutes for Tarland Development Group Trustee Meeting

12th June 2023



1. Attendees and apologies

Present: Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair); Dave Hirst (DH) (Treasurer); Sandra Van Heusden (Secretary); Yvonne Davidson (YD); Linda Cunningham (LiC); Dave Muirhead (DM); Hayley Lockerbie (HL) Ana Pena del Valle (APV).

Apologies: Liz Cooper (LzC); Karen McHarg (KMCH); Julian Davies (JD);

2. Matters Arising

Trustee Resignation. Interim cover arranged. See Point11 for details.

Action- Request for new Trustee to be posted on Path's What's App Group (LIC) and Path's Facebook Page (CR)

3. Decisions made between meetings

Support Tarland School Fair with donations – **HL to drop off at donated goods at school.**

Provide First Aiders for Tarland Show – SVH, Kathy Dale and Frank Paterson have volunteered. SVH chasing one more volunteer.

4. Membership

New applications from Jonquil Nicholl & Simon Langan– Wester Davoch approved.

Expressed interest in Tarland Bee Group. **Action SVH to send contact information to DM.**

5. Governance

Tarland Community Fund on hold. Work on GDPR can continue without extra Hierarchy. Governance issues discussed at last meeting to be carried over to a future meeting.

6. Cromar Community Council

Robust discussion regarding Bike Racks in Tarland. Further discussion with CCC and AC/Roads and consultation with community required.

7. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

Accounts circulated pre-meeting.

£500 received from Foundation Scotland for Tarland Bee Group

Paths Grant available from Participatory budget

8. Tarland Trails

Opening Events on Friday and Saturday were very successful. It was seen as a unifying event by the biking community. £200 given to farmer for use of Field for additional Car Parking. £500 to be donated to Mountain Rescue.

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Electric charging point being investigated (8 points for cars and 2 for bikes). If the proposal looks viable MRT will need to agree.

Other updates

- Over 700 passes sold
- Mike (Maintenance Contractor offshore).
- Quote to improve access and create lay-by received. Waiting for S. Power to review and agree.
- New fencing to restrict farm access from Trails in situ. Still awaiting Bank Details to compensate Stuart for loss of lambs. **Action CR to e-mail reminder. DH to phone Stuart and check-in**
- CR to meet Access Ranger on 26th June
- Local Children to be offered free Mountain Bike coaching session at Drummy Wood. (details to follow)

9. Cromar Food Waste Project – Report submitted by (LiC)

A fairly quiet month for the Food Project with our usual pop ups. We are easing off a bit over the summer holidays, with just one pop up in July (17th/18th) and then a break till 14th August.

MacRobert's Trust are set to begin providing some fresh veg from July until October/November.

Come along and have some lunch and a natter on Sunday 25th at the pavilion from 12 - 2pm.

It was agreed at the meeting to trial a pop up at the Lego club. 14th July. French Guides to assist with pop between 4.30 & 5.30 pm

10. Tarland Wetlands

- I. Tarland Burn – the consultants are modelling the detailed design for full restoration; there will be further community engagement at the end of June. This will be held over multiple days at the Tarland Tearoom. (Additional funding will be required for the later phase of the project)
- II. Viewfield Wetland – the new sign on the functioning of the wetland has been produced and will be erected by MRT; the ponds will be dug out again in the autumn.
- III. Gellan Wetland – no update.
- IV. WWTW Wetland – David Currie has made a new sign; it is the estate's responsibility to plug and unplug the pipe; the topping has been done; Scottish Water are proving very difficult to get hold of!
- V. Ordie Wetland – a new scrape has been dug by MRT and there is a camera trap on it.

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- VI. Riverfly Group for Tarland – see here: The Riverfly Partnership (riverflies.org) – this is a citizen science possibility for the future. This is a great project to involve locals in invertebrate sampling
- VII. Website – this needs updating.
- VIII. Outreach – can sub-groups advertise at other TDG sub-groups’ events/locations? TBG has already volunteered to put up posters in the bothy.
- IX. AOB – engagement with Tillypronie estate is a priority; MRT intend to construct another bund in the field above the Viewfield wetland.
- X. Date of next meeting – 4 September at 4pm on Teams.

11. Paths and Access

Liz Cooper (LzC) is standing down as a Trustee but is remaining a member. The Trustees acknowledged LzC’s contribution and her continued support, specifically her offer to continue to

- distribute paths’ brochures to venues in the area
- provide admin support with Ruth Crawford, for the Tarland Paths fb page
- help with the visit from the Guides, taking them out on a maintenance walk
- volunteer (as Tarland Paths rep on Marr Paths Forum) to help man the MPF stall at Aboyne Games
- continue to do informal pruning with the “Tarland Tramps” Group

Gillian Needham has agreed to continue as a Tarland Paths rep on MPF, meeting with other paths groups by zoom every quarter, until a new trustee is found

LzC also shared a concern from the last MPF meeting, where a Lumphanan farmer refused maintenance on paths across his land, due to the incident at Petts Farm.

Action. LzC to arrange handover of admin and equipment. CR has suggested equipment could be stored on Tarland Trails.

Other. We received a request to work on the Coull stretch of the Tarland Way, as it has become very overgrown and narrow.

Action CR to obtain quote from gardener to cut back edges, but rewidening the path may need to be considered in future.

12. Tarland Bee Group – Update by YD

May and June are exceptionally busy for beekeepers and we give advice by email, text and phone call. When things are particularly complex, we have been on home visits.

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Thanks to Lizzy Shepherd who has been our Membership Secretary for many years. Dave Muirhead has taken on the role of Membership Secretary and 2023/24 membership is underway.

Findlay Taylor (age 12) continues to prepare for his trip to Slovenia as part of a team representing Scotland at IMYB. TBG have hosted a few 'learning days' with Morven, one of the other team members who lives in Stonehaven and has come over to meet Findlay and they have worked together. Harry the third candidate lives in Airshire, but they all met up in Edinburgh and are very much looking forward to their trip. Thanks to everyone who has offered help and shared their knowledge.

We had heavy losses at the lease hive apiary with a number of queens which had failed to mate well enough last year and were drone layers this spring. This loss seemed a very difficult start to the year however, it has been a great learning experience. We have managed to get back on track with all colonies now viable. This has involved a lot of team work to help each other out, making nucs and bringing on queens. Well done everyone.

Dave Croll had his SBA Basic Beekeeper exam in May and passed with flying colours. Well done to Dave.

The beginner's class is well underway with lectures and hands on teaching. When this class is finished in a couple of weeks, we will have open hive sessions for our members.

We had a tidy up and sort out at the lease hive apiary, fixing gutters, adding water barrels, adding taps to them, sorting stands, etc. It was a lovely warm evening, and much was achieved. We were rewarded for our efforts with fresh donuts. Thanks to all our volunteers.

Other - Parking issues resolved. **New car parking map to be issued by DM for Bee and Apple Juice Group.**

13. Lego Club

Lego club continues to be a success, with 61 attendees in May and a record 80 attendees in June. Families from Strathdon, Logie Coldestone, Tarland, Lumphanan and Aboyne all attend. An application to the Marr Area has been made for additional funding to purchase more Lego sets, provide snacks and drinks, all whilst ensuring the club remains free to attend. The Rotary Club in Aboyne are also considering donating to the club funds. The group will meet again in July, take a break in August, and start back up again in September.

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Action - More volunteers needed. DM nominated Lewis. Trustees asked to consider other candidates who may be suitable.

14. Community Gardens

15th July the Community Gardens are hosting an event to celebrate their 10th Anniversary. Entertainment will be provided, but attendees will be asked to bring own food.

The plant sale was successful – over £200 raised, and the event is likely to be repeated. Community Garden workshops led by Megan have also proved popular. The next workshop will be mid-July.

15. Food and Music Festival

Additional support is urgently required to help with the administration.

Action DH to contact RGU to see if this would be a suitable placement for an Events Management Student. Trustees to think of any other volunteers. DH to follow up on offer of help from Jonquill.

16. Film Club

HL and Charlie reviewed the suitability of the Hall for a Film Club. Charlie believes Film hub Scotland has a model that can work via a mobile kit. The Hall committee are happy for this to proceed. TDG will retain leadership of the project. DH would like to trial the projection kit during the Music Festival if possible

17. AOB

Singing Land App – quote for re-writing code to follow. Decision will follow receipt of cost.

Guides Visit update. Received confirmation that visit is approved. Events are planned. The Guides will be filming their work and promoting Tarland on their return.

Aberdeen University Project – request to support project on developing resilience, with regard to energy systems. HL and YD offered to help. **Action HL to make contact.**

Date of Next Meeting - August 14th Linda's House – 7.30pm.

Chris Redmond
8/10/23