

Proposed Minutes for Tarland Development Group Trustee Meeting

November 8th, 2023



MINUTES

1. Attendees and apologies

Present: Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair); Dave Hirst (DH) (Treasurer); Sandra Van Heusden (SVH); Linda Cunningham (LiC); Dave Muirhead (DM); Hayley Lockerbie (HL) Julian Davies (JD);

Apologies: Ana Pena del Valle (APV); Jonquil Nicholl (JN);

2. Matters Arising

Chris, Dave, Julien, Sanda agreed time slots to man TDG Table at Creative Christmas Pop Up. MRT Hall 2nd Dec. 10 am to 3pm

Calendars, Bags, honey and juice to go on sale. DH to check quantity of apple juice left at Apiary. Price for bundle deals to be agreed.

SVH to float between Posters for Community Action Plan and Sales. Linda offered to help when serving food had finished.

Pop Up to be used to publicize Community Action Survey

3. Decisions made between meetings

None

4. Membership

Juliet Allam has applied – specifically interested in the Bee Group and a plot in the Community Garden. Membership form issued.

5. Governance

a. Appointment of new Trustees

i. Jonquil Nicholl – Seed Swap

ii. Andrew Robertson ? - (Paths) – CR to phone to discuss

b. Election of Office Bearers

I. Chris Redmond re-elected as Chair person

II. Dave Hirst re-elected as Treasurer

III. New solution required for Secretary coverage. DH and CR to look at a paid administration role.

Each project group to identify the work that could be given to admin person, to enable permanent role to be scoped. WR to be given first refusal.

As an interim solution, Chris will monitor e-mails and Trustees to take turns in minute taking.

HL to investigate pitching a project to Robert Gordons to sort out TDG Management Information System.

AGM Minutes approved.

CR to e-mail Kathy Dale re. new folder in Google Drive.

6. Cromar Community Council

a. New Flood Group Volunteers to be formed as part of the Resilience Plan

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- b. First meeting 14th December in the Upper Hall.
- c. New tool for CAP Survey – Community Group set up. SVH to investigate setting up groups for Tarland, Logie Coldstone and other rural communities in the Howe

7. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

TDG Overall balance £118,229.56

Start of year balance £127,989.79. Full details circulated.

The accounts for the last financial year approved by TDG Trustees.

8. Tarland Trails

Usage figures - October

Nearly a full month of counter data...

Drummy Woods - Bikes - 1374 / 3 = 458 people (Start of all trails - average 3 times to the top)

Pittenderich Car Count - 1053 vehicles

Pittenderich People Count (Start of Ladders) - 2352 people (most go past once per visit)

Estimated usage to date (26/10/23):

Pass holders: 9,339 visits

Day Visits: 16,520 visits

Total: 25,859 visits from 10th April to 26th October.

Tarland Trails - Challenges, positives

Challenges

- Need to continue to mitigate impact on neighbouring land owners
- High number of visitors initially (Calmed now)
- Mountain Rescue Calls (Calmed now)
- Maintenance of trails (due to numbers)
- Storm damage

Positives

- Thousands of visitors enjoying the trails
- Two awards
- 3 successful events
- Trails held in high acclaim Scotland, Uk, Europe....
- Benefit to local businesses

Updated management Plan

Further updates worked on and discussed with MRT.

Lease Registering

A location plan is needed

Future Developments:

Trail Building

- CRC to return probably Jan - March 2024
- Pittenderich Blue Trail – Mr Dalgarno's land
- Track next to Eastown track extension as originally planned/agreed.
 - Material from quarry - YES
 - Fencing/gatesMay look to do some refresh works at Drummy Woods too.

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Overnight Parking/AiRE

- Like to set this up for next season
- Additional revenue generation
- Written agreement that we can trial this? - NO not yet.
- Mobile Catering Option (April to October 2024)
 - 8 expression of interest
 - Can we go out to someone and do this in some way?
YES - Tearooms offered first.

Power/EV

- EV company costings worked out
- Substation required
- Just Transition funding is a NO for this.
- Written agreement that we can do this? YES

Water

- Capacity in the system
- Awaiting costs / details

Bike Hire Proposal Update

- Same company asking again.
- No power solution with generators / batteries / solar
- Container kitted out - offered to purchase
YES if demand.

Building on site - Cafe / Hire / Shop ?

Suggested wording:

'Following the opening of 'TT2' there has been immense use, support and interest in the project from national and international visitors. TDG are exploring the options for installing a hub building with potential for cafe, bike shop, hire or a meeting space hub to maintain, sustain and develop Tarland Trails.'

Discussions ongoing on this.

Documentary - Completed and submitted to the Big Bike Film Night.

9. Cromar Food Waste Project

We had a successful community kitchen at the Tarland Food and Music Festival, with soup & bread and ice cream and jelly for dessert, alongside our usual pop up event. The weather was fine and we had a great turn out and received donations of £190.

We were sharing the outside space with musicians, and tardigrade hunters which helped to bring in the crowds.



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The Scottish Government is planning to implement a cash first policy for tackling food poverty. With this in mind, the Aberdeenshire Food Fund are inviting food banks and other agencies who give out food, to apply for funding to pass on cash/vouchers direct to the food recipients and cut out the in between steps (which we do – picking up food from depots/supermarkets and give out at pop up shops). This may change the way we work, but we will give our customers plenty of notice of any changes.

We have 4 more pops ups in each of Tarland and Logie Coldstone left in 2023, the last of which will have a Christmas theme and be full of cheer!

There will be a meeting next week to discuss future strategy.

10. Tarland Wetlands

No further updates following last report.

11. Paths and Access

CR trying to ascertain where access is blocked by fallen trees and pay for Tree surgeon to clear .

Tarland Way

CR to investigate reported dog issue and new path in Coull beside Lizzy Shepherd's house. Also waiting on a quote for digger to clear Tarland Way by Coull.

12. Tarland Bee Group

All the hives locked down for Winter at Oldtown and Coull.
Schedule of Winter Talks started for Members. Next members Meeting in December.
There is an urgent need to invite new, younger members to join the Steering Committee.

13. Lego Club

Remains successful. About 70 at the October session. Calum and Duncan Lockerbie's fundraising activities have been a partial success - £1190 has been donated. They both ran a very wet and cold Aviemore Half Marathon, however Duncan sustained a serious knee injury the week after and was unable to complete the illuminator run. Both will run the illuminator circuit, in the dark, once the injury is healed. Two iPads have been purchased using funding from Marr Area which were put to good use at the October meeting, both for using the 3D instruction building and for making stop motion animation. We are currently undertaking a stock check of all sets, and checking for missing pieces. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the club, help out at the club, or to help with sorting Lego. Anyone interested can get in touch with us by emailing tarlandlegoclub@gmail.com
(LiC has volunteered to be one of the "lego set checkers")

14. Community Gardens

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No report

15. Composting

Two more sessions to go

16. **Seed Swap Workshop** Date booked at the Apiary -November 26th. JN to lead.

17. Apple Juice update

2023's apple crop was significantly lower than last year. The orchard was depleted by late October.

Fortunately, one volunteer Paddy Heron donated a quarter of a ton in apples which kept the pressings going.

We completed a total of 5 pressings and produced under 500 bottles. Sales to the 8th of November equal £1,651.29.

The final total will increase as some payments are outstanding and we have bottles to sell at the Creative Fair on the 2nd December Fair.

What Worked this year.

- The new area behind the Apiary was a real bonus. The shelter meant we could press in any weather (excl Storm Bebet)
 - The provision of lighting meant we could also offer evening sessions, while the hose and slabbed area made the clean-up process much easier.
- The use of recycled bottles sterilized by Peter Craig, helped reduce cost and keep us "Green"
- The waste apple pulp continuing to go to Ranna Farm

Things to consider for next year.

- Electric Socket behind the apiary not working – DH has contacted the electrician
- Obtain confirmation that Ranna Farm will collect the waste from every pressing. (Twice the waste wasn't collected)
- Expenditure required for next year - We need to purchase new labels, new bottles, new jack
 - One of the Pasteurizers is difficult to manage – unclear temperature control and timer. Peter Craig has offered to try and come up with a working solution, to avoid buying a new one.
- More trained volunteer teams to work the pressings/pasteurising. Currently reliant on Peter, David and Sandra
- Better management of parking at the apiary (resident complaint despite sending out clear instructions and map to volunteers)

18. Food and Music Festival

No update

19. Film Club

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We have now shown three films in the hall - Restless Natives in September, Hotel Transylvania as a matinee for kids in October, and The Quiet Girl in October. Restless Natives had around 17 attendees, Hotel Transylvania 7 kids 6 grown ups, and The Quiet Girl had around 22 attendees. End of November is The Old Oak by Ken Loach. We have trialed selling cupcakes and ice cream with some success - the weather potentially put folks off buying ice cream!

20. Calendars

100 Calendars printed. Universal endorsement from the Trustees that this year's format was much better. Calendar to be advertised on TT site, with price to include Calendar Mail Out. WR to promote on Social Media
Future changes for next year's Calendar add

- advertisement of TDG activities and
- request for submission of Calendar photos on back of next's years' calendar

21. AOB

Retention of Will Redpath for Social Media agreed by Trustees.

Next meeting 10th January 7.30 at Balmuir House

Chris Redmond
14/11/24