

Agenda for Tarland Development Group Trustee Meeting

17th April 2024



Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Chris Redmond - Chair, Dave Hirst - Treasurer (DH), Dave Muirhead (DM), Sandra Van Heusden, Ken Webb(Virtual), Frank Paterson, Jonquil Nicoll, Hayley Lockerbie, Julian Barclay

2. **Apologies:** Will Redpath(Minute Sec)

3. **Matters Arising -**

Formatting and Names in the last minutes. Linda Moffat - In touch with Dave H - Regarding paths. Tarland Way - Remove Names.

4. **Decisions made between meetings**

Drummy Woods Composting Toilet - Planning Application. Has been to residents. All bar one happy. Parking Meter discussed.

5. **Membership**

One new membership - Jarvis. Accept. She would like to volunteer. If volunteers needed to invite members to come help. Encourage new members.

6. **Cromar Food Waste Project**

All funding used up. Just doing food waste now. MRT will help supply with extra veg etc. Some courses for food waste for Brownies. More kitchen tutorials (targeted to people who need, come along with kids) . Numbers remain high(46 at Tarland, less at Logie). Freezer full of frozen stuff. Discussion on referrals. and demographics of users.

7. **Tarland Wetlands**

Nothing to report. Beltie clip recently on social media. Email to MRT trying to get another date for a meeting and a response received. 117 responses to a students survey on wetlands. Report will be shared with TDG.

8. **Paths and Access**

Meeting with MRT Factor:

Ken met Angus Donaldson (MRT Factor) on Tuesday 26th April when we had a useful conversation about Paths and other matters.

- He was willing for MRT to help do some maintenance work such as repairing broken styles or gates and digging simple drainage ditches in places that get waterlogged after heavy rain. Ken agreed to inform him of anything that needs done and have indicated a couple of jobs already.

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- He was reluctant for MRT to contribute towards replacing fallen way markers and finger posts. He said this would be more in the area of their community work for which Ken would need to speak with Chris Hockley, their CEO, who is responsible for MRT's work in the community. However, he thought this would be a project that NEAT might be interested in funding with a grant. And he pointed out that the benefit to adventure tourism and to the local community of our paths network is at least as good as the TT development. If so, it would make sense to purchase bulk quantities of finger posts so we have them in stock to use whenever one needs replaced. Ken has yet to estimate how many of these we would need.
- He emphasised that any new paths or extending existing ones such as the Tilly Chardoch path proposal would need to be done with proper written and signed agreements between land owners and TDG. (He calls this a more professional approach.) These would need separate funding, but, again, it would be something that NEAT might be interested in. However, he confirmed that there was no problem in TDG updating signage for the more direct path to Pittenderrich and Pressendye that avoids crossing over the ridge to the bridleway and back again.
- He is fully in favour of setting up a consultation event in the community with CC, MRT and TDG and likes the idea of this being facilitated by an external professional external facilitator to discuss TT, paths, flood risk mitigation, wetlands etc.

Marr Paths Forum:

Ken joined Chris to attend the Marr Paths Forum meeting on 6th March.

- There was a request for sample leaflets to be used by other path groups in the area. DH has left me with a box of around 1,000, which is in the porch at Tomnaverie, Bridge St, should anyone need some.
- Ken agreed to join some from Torphins, Lumphanan, Kincardine O'Neil and (possibly) Braemar in helping set up a gazebo and man it during the Aboyne Games on 3rd August.
- There was a discussion about helping each other find the best contractors for work on paths and on maintaining bridges. The one we have to watch, in particular, is the bridge on Tarland Way.
- Other than that each group reported on work they are doing and the next meeting Wednesday the 12th June.

Finger Posts and Way Markers

Chris and Ken have been in consultation about new finger posts for the proposed diversion on the Tarland Way. Chris suggested that, initially, we obtain a quote for three each with two 'fingers' and that we might as well use the specifications required by CNPA (attached) which Aboyne Paths have used for the path to Glen Tanner. We could then see about obtain a grant for 6/7 of them from the Coull Village Hall fund.

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Ken obtained a very prompt response from Doug Edwards of Woodland Signs, in Carrbridge, who has done many of these for the CNPA and from whom Aboyne Paths obtained their posts. His quote is as follows:

Each weather topped, painted and mortised post is £110. Each single sided text finger is £120 and each doubled sided text is £150, for example 6 single sided fingers and 3 posts would be $6 \times £120 + 3 \times £110$ so £1050 in total.

If all fingers are double sided text then it would be £1230 There is no VAT.

Delivery, if required would be £120. Lead time at the moment is around 4-6 weeks from order.

Ken has yet to receive a quote for the same from Signs of Scotland, based in Campbeltown, so much further away.

The price Ken has been quoted by Earth Anchors Ltd. for a recycled plastic finger post with one way marker sign £200, more for an additional sign, however he needed more detail on the specification. So, Ken could send him the dimensions of the CNPA posts if needed.

- So we need a decision about whether we need single or double sided signage on the fingers.
- Chris did wonder if we needed fancy posts with a sloping weather top or we would get away with posts with a flat top as have been used for TT. They have sharp points at the base and can be driven into the ground. (would need to be oak, ideally).
- Ken asked Trustees to recommend how many and which company to go with and then he would set about applying for a grant from the Coull Village Hall fund.

Other matters:

- Ken has yet to receive information about the new path linking Tarland to Lumphanan and Logie Coldstone. Confirm as having been sent.
- Ken posted a request on the Tarland Paths Facebook page asking people to send photos and locations of any path maintenance work that needs done. So far no responses. Ken needs as many as are regular local walkers to help notify of any jobs that could be done by MRT or could be tackled by a few volunteers (such as cutting back overgrowth during the summer).
- Ken received the following from Gillian Needham:

Claudia Zeiske, the retired manager of Deveron Projects, is now developing a long distance walk "Mountain to Sea" with government and Local Authority funding to support.

She is attempting to engage with communities as she passes through and has already met with the Tarland Tapestry Group (in the Tea Rooms).

She's suggesting that we join her to walk from Tarland to Cushnie to Alford. Currently scheduled for Thursday 9th May, there may be slippage I suppose.

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- i. Legal obligations query?
 - ii. Paths for all funding
- b. Tarland Way Developments (Chris)
 - i. Awaiting quotes for Rock Crushing, Farmer fencing, Further widening and repairs
 - ii. Diversion around landowner with dogs - Awaiting fee proposal from architect. Still to meet with Aboyne Paths and Tracks.

9. Tarland Bee Group

Apiary maintenance. April - September (Gardener) employed again. Slabs under hives. Slabbing the main walkway...a big quote has been received. Membership all by bacs hopefully this year. No beginners class this year. Teaching and hive management rota at bee bothy every weekend. Swamp collections subgroup plan to put. Isolation area required (within 3 miles of others). Dispose of lawnmower? Booking system for Bee Bothy - create an online booking system. To find someone to make one? Steering Group vs finance knowledge. If you want to see the spreadsheet just ask Dave Hirst.

- 10. **Lego Club:** Cancelled April Lego club due to illness. Apply to Coull hall fund. We met Prince Edward. Numbers are good. PVG discussion with Volunteer Scotland to be had.
- 11. **Film Club:** All going fine.
- 12. **Community Action Plan:** Discussion from last CCC meeting. First to discuss TT and then CAP. Chris to email asking for a meeting in May.
- 13. **Calendars:** Nothing to report. FB post to start getting photos by June/July out by October.
- 14. **Gone to Seed:** Parked until next year. Check in shop to see if any remaining tatties sold.
- 15. **Composting:** Restarted with one collection. Pile moved to the community garden by MRT. Help yourself to compost. Recovery of black plastic with fun.
- 16. **Community Gardens:** Grand. Tidy up day. Lots of weeding. Classes to happen at the garden. Bund built to stop the flooding.
- 17. **Food and Music Festival**

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Shona is on the case again. Things are progressing for next year - bands are close to being organised. Will Redpath to be asked to help with the market (Paid)? Discussion on bar and alcohol.

18. Tarland Trails

- a. General Updates
 - i. One year old!
 - ii. Another employee - Mark Ritchie
 - iii. Fortan Sponsorship possibly
 - iv. Steering gp met recently
 - v. Bike Park Wales visit - Chris
- b. Water - Nearly all done.
 - i. Bike wash to come
- c. Trails work
 - i. Rump track extended, Clarkies climb repaired, stone for farmer resolved and onto Pittenderich Blue. Additional £30,000 more than funded.
- d. Future Plans Meeting Outcome
- e. Lazer bike - Dave's event idea. Debut in Tarland later this year. 5 targets.

19. Cromar Community Council: CCC TT Consultation - as discussed in CAP.

20. Governance

- a. MRT / CCC / TDG Development Day - Dave H trying to discuss with MRT to discuss with Gillian Currie on Tuesday 30th April.
- b. New Trustees - Jonquil, Frank, Ken - Charity forms (Chris still to do)
 - i. Existing Trustees Update.

21. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

- a. Figures from Dave shared
- b. Coull Hall Trust discussed

22. AOB

- a. RGU Students - Ongoing.
- b. Litter Pick Idea - Hayley will not be taking it forward. CCC were enthusiastic and on board, and helping liaise with council. Send info to Jonquil to consider.
- c. Linda - Gift...

23. Next Meeting

- a. Wed 29th May - 7.30pm
 - i. Venue... Julian's House.