



## Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

28 May 2025

### MINUTES

1. **Attendees:** Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Sandra van Heusden (SvH), Sheila Williams (SW), Hayley Lockerbie (HL), Ken Webb (KW), Dave Hirst (DH), Kathy Dale (KD) (Minutes), Alastair Scott (CCC Representative, Guest).

**Apologies:** Dave Muirhead (DM), Jonquil Nicholl (JN), Simon Langan (SL), Frank Paterson (FP).

2. **Matters Arising**

All matters have been discharged apart from two:

There have been two membership withdrawals. **SL to approach these people informally to find out their reasons.**

The paths leaflet is to be updated and reprinted. It has been suggested by some members of the community that the walks start at the TT2 car park rather than the square, as there is more parking available there. **DH to talk to the designer about changing the map.**

3. **Decisions made between meetings**

None.

4. **Membership**

No applications.

5. **Governance**

Nothing to discuss.

6. **Paths**

Waymarker update

Earth Anchors have said that they can produce the design of waymarkers that replicates the existing ones and can add specific colours to the grooves as requested. These have already been paid for. The retired colours and arrow discs have now been quantified. Earth Anchors have invoiced us for an additional £448.80 for adding the colours as specified and for 30 black on white arrow discs that we can add as appropriate to each post.

I have yet to purchase a post digging spade (£24) and rabbit ears (£60). An alternative post digging boring tool (like a screw digger) would cost £42.48 but I am not sure how that would work if we hit stones. However, I have virtually used up what was on the Paths budget.



It has been brought to my attention that the waymarker at the junction of the Coull road and the road up to Old Town of Kincraigie, which was fallen but is in good condition, has been put up (temporarily) on the wrong side of the road, as it doubles up as a waymarker for the Tarland Way (bike) route. This will not need to be replaced, only relocated and dug in. Once the items have all been delivered they will be stored in the TT2 storage container. I aim to gradually do the work of replacing each post through the rest of the year.

The Paths Group needs to raise more funds.

Nestrans Application - The Tarland Way

The application is being decided this coming Friday.

## 7. **Cromar Community Council (CCC) Small Group Meeting**

Tarland Have Your Say

This event is to be held after the summer. There have been some volunteers already.

Parking

There are three possible locations for overflow car parking.

Benefit document (see item 10 below)

There was clarity over the fact that Tarland Trails (TT) money is being used for other community benefit purposes, such as managing the Tarland Way. There was also clarity over the fact that monies raised in each TDG project remain in the project (apart from TT). TT income has been greater than anticipated so there is a cushion but costs are uncertain. The trails need to maintain interest to sustain numbers

Minutes

We are awaiting the minutes from the CCC Chair. **CR to make edits and share.**

MRT communication

A three way meeting is to be arranged in the week beginning 23 June.

Some social media messaging would be useful. Each TDG project has a rationale and a purpose. **CR to circulate the TT rationale separately; comments from Trustees welcome. DH to circulate the accounts, as these were not included in this meeting's papers.** AS asked for an accurate figure for the TT current account balance, which was provided.

## 8. **Business Meeting**

Summary

The minutes are still to be written. This was a more positive meeting than previous meetings. The campsite is doing really well. There was some discussion about the starting point for the paths. Re-routing the waymarked routes is not necessarily that easy. We need to make it clear on the map where there is alternative car parking, or call one car park a walkers car park, or include a sentence about where to park for the whole day. The TT car park has an informal link to the red walking route now. It was raised that there is chronic understaffing in hospitality and a lack of affordable accommodation. Toilets were also discussed. The group talked briefly about the pavilion.



### Where next?

The group is talking about other things now, not just TT. We need to keep the positivity. There are opportunities to link in with Aboyne Business Association.

### Date for the next meeting

There will be another meeting in November. The Golfcourse has offered to host.

## 9. **Pavilion**

There will be a meeting with The MacRobert Trust (MRT) next week. Aberdeenshire Council (AC) lawyers have contacted MRT to resolve the ownership question. The Scottish Land Fund (SLF) representative has been approached. There are two stages involved in an SLF application and we have to apply by October. The earliest we could get possession of the building is in two years' time. An Options Appraisal is being done for how the building could be used – there are currently five options that SL is preparing. The use needs to bring in revenue. The Parking is not sufficient for some uses. A bunkhouse with public toilets is an attractive option. **CR to speak to Glenlivet about their bike hire experience.**

## 10. **Tarland Trails**

### Draft Benefit Document

A very rough draft of this document was tabled, which was considered to be very helpful. The school connection is very beneficial; thanks to Aileen Longino of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) for the connection with Tyred n Cranky. Grant funding is being applied for further all inclusive activities.

### Economic Impact Assessment

A draft was tabled. A survey is required of a representative community. North East Adventure Tourism (NEAT) would support 50% of the costs. TT revenue could contribute a small amount. The study is more relevant to NEAT than to TT. We would get an estimate of the economic value of TT to the businesses in Tarland. Due to the cost, the study will not go ahead unless NEAT pay the majority/lead. The businesses want to see the methodology first (this was mentioned at the business meeting) in order to understand the aims and objectives. An independent study would be very beneficial but the process must not undermine the good relationships we have built up. A clear message about the purpose of the study has to be communicated to the businesses.

### Trails Design Quote

This aspirational document was tabled for discussion. It is for a study for additional trails, not a new trail centre. We should be mindful of anything that takes away farmland. The potential new trails could mostly be in the woods and within the existing boundary. Landowner and planning permissions etc. would be required. Hand built trails don't need planning permission but machine-built ones do. Funding is required for a feasibility study (£1,000 from the TT revenue pot) and TDG Trustees approval was given for this to go ahead.

### Defibrillator

This is in the TT car park and is available for the community.

Funding for bike maintenance / training / balance bikes for nursery etc.



We have already secured £2,000 of grant funding for bike lessons at Tarland School and with the local Guides, and plans are underway for a bike doctor session at the school and in the Square, plus balance bike training for the nursery.

Updated Rationale - 'What are the trails for?'

Comments are invited on this document (see item 7 above).

£3,000 for a bike wash has been awarded by Marr Area Committee (MAC). We must be mindful of water shortages.

Drummy Woods survey responses have been circulated. The in person survey has not been done yet and there has been no heavy rain to test the drainage bumps.

#### 11. **Any other specific project updates**

##### Food and Music Festival

The Coordinator has resigned. There is a committee meeting on Monday. Jobs will have to be divided up if no new Coordinator is found (a couple of folk have been approached). Additional help will be needed and volunteers are welcome. On the day organization is crucial.

##### Tarland Community Garden

The raised pond has been built in the garden. Round stones are being collected for habitat and when these are in place the planting will commence. Aquatic compost and baskets have been purchased using the grant funding. Plants will be sourced locally nearer the time.

#### 12. **AOB**

The project tour with CCC will be on Saturday 7 June at 9am.

The Tarland Calendar made a small profit last year but wasn't hugely popular. One idea was to involve the art group. It was agreed that we should probably bring the calendar back another year as there are maybe too many calendars around for good causes now. It would be good to celebrate the Tarland Year and/or TDG projects.

Yvonne Davidson's investiture was held on Friday 9 May and was a lovely sunny occasion.

For insurance purposes DH needs a list of assets for each project. **He will circulate the previous list as an aide memoire.**

TCG members have planted up hanging baskets and beds in the square. Volunteers for watering the hanging baskets are required on a weekly basis. **CR to send an email round to Members.**

#### 13. **Date of next meeting**

13 August.