



Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting

9 October 2025

MINUTES

1. **Attendees:** Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Dave Hirst (DH), Ken Webb (KW), Sheila Williams (SW), Frank Paterson (FP), Dan Stuart and Megan Woods (Zipline) (Guests), and Kathy Dale (Minutes).
Apologies: Sandra van Heusden (SvH), Dave Muirhead (DM), Simon Langan (SL), Jonquil Nichol (JN) and Debbie Rennie (DR) (Food and Music Festival Administrator).
2. **Matters Arising**
There was an amendment to the minutes from the last meeting, in Matters Arising. The original wording was: **DH to talk to the designer about changing the walking map to show that the walks start at the TT2 car park rather than the square.** The amended wording is: **We looked at the paths and it didn't make sense to start at the Tarland Trails car park so it will remain as is.**
3. **Decisions made between meetings**
Tarland Trails - Drummy Woods Reshaping and Reprofile Works. The majority of Trustees supported the decision and offered a steer on things to consider/mention. It will be done after the October holidays, using 2,500 euros funding from the International MTB Association.
4. **Membership**
There have been three new applications for membership and these were approved.
5. **'Making Tarland a Better Place'**
This event gives TDG a chance to share anecdotes/good news/short positive stories, such as:
 - i. Bike Education Project.
 - ii. Feedback from two Food and Music Festival attendees from far afield who come every year.
 - iii. A local resident who takes her kids to the Community Garden in a wheelbarrow through the wetland!
 - iv. Adult bike maintenance classes application going in after being encouraged by a grant funding body – details from DH.
 - v. The pavilion and food waste project video has had over 100 views on social media.

6. Zipline Project

The Trustees welcomed DS and MW to the meeting. DS offered to be the focal person to replace the zipline. MW and Dave Woods (DW) are willing to help/support. A twin zipline would be good. It needs updating and perhaps more things in the playpark. They are looking into funding opportunities. Ballater committee has been contacted. Their project started in 2018 with a £240k design and they only got 25k for a smaller spec. Aberdeenshire Council (AC) gave them £75k. Having an achievable target is more likely to raise money because expectations are not too high. Parents need to know that their kids will benefit. TT money could offer seed corn funding/leverage. The project has been mentioned at Cromar Community Council (CCC) meetings – maybe Tarland Show could get involved? Other local organisations may be willing to fund it. AC may have money to match fund in April and a MacRobert Trust (MRT) application could be made in May. Around £50,000 may be required. Both the Co-op and Tesco funds were suggested, plus landfill funds. Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) are helping out. MW suggested a meeting of key interested people to take the project forward and create a vision paragraph for funders. There could be three staging points to the zipline, one at a time? Councillor Sarah Brown has been very helpful in making contact with Landscape Services for a site visit, and has experience from Aboyne as an individual. A Sub-group will be set up. DS was co-opted as a Trustee. **CR to send DS an induction pack. DH to add DS to the Google group. DH to add in financial details to any application forms for DS.** Ask kids what they want – visit the school.

DS and MW left the meeting.

7. Food and Music Festival

Thanks were expressed to DR and the steering group for another fantastic festival. The Senior Citizens made more money than last year. The dates for next year are 18th - 20th Sep 2026. **The Trustees need to agree the Duty of Care Policy – Chris to send it round.** DR will be a TDG employee instead of having a self-employed contract.

8. Other project updates

Apple Pressing: three done and one remaining.

Cromar Food Waste Project: doing better all the time, reaching out to a wider age range of people. Now getting veg from Douneside. People are giving donations of money so we can get high protein foods as well as taking waste. Country Foods boxed meals also received and distributed, so Tarland is becoming quite a hub. It is also very sociable.

Community Garden: the polytunnel repairs are going to be just under £4k. An insurance claim has been made. The work needs to be done in early spring. Two grant applications have been submitted for new outdoor beds.

Bee Group: no update.



Lego Club: The Lead Trustee/connection with Hayley Lockerbie will be JN. The next club will be on Friday 10th October.

Film Club: The Lead Trustee/connection with Charlie Ritchie will be DH.

Composting: all going fine.

Tarland Calendar: There will be no calendar this year.

Seed Swap: JN not present to ask about dates.

9. Pavilion

SL has circulated a Project Plan. There are lots of ideas and some of them are being tried e.g. Tired and Cranky, band practice, Food and Music Festival, five a side football with Tarland Show, repair shop, crafts. There is a small business plan but DH is not satisfied as Treasurer. FP argues that repairs to the building can be managed by volunteers so there are not many costs. The fabric is pretty solid. We still need to pay for a condition survey to take it over though. What are the water and electricity costs? We are exempt from water rates but this is dependent on income. Currently we turn off the water in the winter apart from when the building is being used. Electricity costs are low as it is small. DH wants to see more business in the plan. It relies a lot on large donations. FP thinks it will run itself and not compete with the hall. DH suggested that we rent the building from the council for a few years to test out the plan and FP agreed, although the council are not keen. MRT own the ground so have a say.

10. Paths and Access

The waymarkers have arrived and they are of good quality. A team is needed to dig them in. The Tarland Tramps WhatsApp group of volunteers is already set up, plus the Tarland Paths walking group. **KW to create a new agreed group.** Postcrete to be used on any fallen wooden posts that are still of good enough quality to be reinstalled. One Risk Assessment is to be done and all work days will be started with a chat about health and safety.

CR has met with the architect with regard to the Tarland Way diversion. The Topography survey has been completed. The waymarkers have been ordered. There will be a new map for updating the boards. **'Walking and Cycling' Version 2/3 to be shared for Trustee feedback.** There will be a new map to print, as well as new leaflets. Potentially Paths 4 All funding? £1,000 all in for boards. £500 for 5-10,000 leaflets. Could also try NESTRANS.

11. Tarland Trails

The Drummy Woods decision re reprofiling and resurfacing is as above. The leaflet/map are in production – they will only be stocked in the businesses. **The TT updated Rationale going forward is awaiting comments from Trustees. CR to rearrange the MRT/CCC/Trails meeting and possibly share the Rationale with them ahead of the meeting.**



TT has won the Aberdeen City and Shire Best Outdoor Adventure Experience. CR and Mark to attend the awards in Glasgow on 20 November.

12. Governance

CR to add DS to OSCR and send him the Trustees Welcome Pack.

CR will take the lead on Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVGs). CR met with Hayley Lockerbie about this. All Trustees need PVGs (tbc), as well as the TT dig leaders and the TT staff (TT Maintenance Officers), all Lego organisers, and the Food Waste Group organisers. KW has it already for other work, and CR has it through school. A Role Description is required. There is no cost. However, it is only valid for the day you get it so updates are always required.

CR thanked the Trustees for the project reports received to date for the AGM. Only the Garden, Gone to Seed and Bee Group ones are outstanding. At 6.30pm we will set up the hall tables for each sub-group. At 7.00pm refreshments will be served and folk can look around, then at 7.30pm the business of the AGM will start.

The Trustees met with Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) re TDG evolution. They took Polly Chapman on a tour of some projects on 30 September and she was very impressed. A written summary from Polly was circulated by DH, which is relevant and useful.

Funding is being sought for a Development Officer. A Resilience and Recovery Fund application is proposed – there is a self assessment first, then we can apply for up to £100,000 for financial resilience and potentially communications. It will be all about making better use of the assets we have. It's intended for development trusts with a strategic vision; TDG is project led, which may look odd, although TDG has achieved more than many development trusts by doing things this way. A Community Action Plan (CAP) may still be produced at some point. **CR and DH to action the application and bring it to Trustees when they have a draft, probably in early November. The fund opens on 27 October.**

13. Accounts, grants, awards and funding

Current cash balance is £90,277.

KW is the Treasurer of another charity and agreed with Polly's suggestion to show general and specific funds for each group. DH will have a look at the link shared by KW for the software to do this. This means that the sub-groups do more work and the Treasurer less.

14. Cromar Community Council

There was a request for TDG to include a retraction/amendment in their next minutes. In addition, the CCC requested to see the new map, before it goes to print. The CCC was thanked for this feedback and it was discussed. The amendment has been made (see item 2 above).



The Drummy Woods toilet is on hold. There has been no significant rainfall, there is no money, and there has been no in person survey.

15. AOB

The next meeting with the businesses is on Thursday 13 November at the Golf Club. The Minutes of the last meeting have been circulated to the businesses and two have confirmed that they will attend. **Jamie Price to advertise on socials.**

JN was thanked for arranging a thank-you gift for Hayley.

MRT - 10 Goals for 10 Years

- i. Headlines - £1million funding for Cromar/panel to decide. TDG should make applications every year. Have to fit into their 10 goals and their 10 pillars.
- ii. Housing - a need.
- iii. MacRobert Centre – history of the estate, training, accommodation etc. plus new offices.
- iv. Environment Award they are going for – see website.

16. Next Meeting

The AGM is on 29th October - 6.30pm table set up, 7.00pm showcase, 7.30pm AGM.

New Trustees Meeting - 26th November at the Pavilion.