



## **Tarland Development Group Trustees Meeting**

**26 November 2025**

### **MINUTES**

1. **Attendees:** Chris Redmond (CR) (Chair), Dave Hirst (DH), Ken Webb (KW), Sandra van Heusden (SvH), Frank Paterson (FP) and Kathy Dale (Minutes).  
**Apologies:** Sheila Williams (SW), Dave Muirhead (DM), Simon Langan (SL), Jonquil Nichol (JN) and Megan Woods (Guest).
2. **Matters arising**  
There are three actions carried forward for CR:  
**The Trustees need to agree the Duty of Care Policy – CR to send it round.**  
**'Walking and Cycling' Version 2/3 to be shared by CR for Trustee feedback.**  
**CR to rearrange The MacRobert Trust (MRT)/Cromar Community Council (CCC)/Tarland Trails meeting and possibly share the Rationale with them ahead of the meeting.**
3. **Decisions made between meetings**  
The Trustees agreed to purchase six beech trees to fill the gaps in the Millennium Avenue. We were approached by a TDG Member, who has agreed this with the estate.
4. **Membership**  
There has been one application for membership and this was approved.
5. **Positive news stories**
  - The AGM went well and we should replicate this format next year.
  - CR and a colleague went to the Scottish Thistle Awards in Glasgow but unfortunately Tarland Trails didn't win the overall Best Outdoor Experience prize.
  - A grant of £15k has been received from MRT for the Pavilion project.
  - There has been very positive feedback from the Nursery about the balance bikes.
  - A positive business meeting was held on 13 November and the minutes will be available soon. CCC have agreed to organise the next meeting.
6. **Election of Office Bearers**  
The following office bearers were duly elected:  
Chair – SL proposed by KW and seconded by CR.  
Vice Chair – CR proposed by SvH and seconded by FP.



Treasurer – DH proposed by CR and seconded by KW. A shadow Treasurer is required for succession planning.

Secretary – vacant.

Going forward there is an aspiration to produce the minutes of meetings using AI.

CR continued to chair the meeting in the absence of SL.

## 7. Zipline Project

DS has stepped down as a Trustee but he expressed his support for all the work TDG is doing. He was thanked for his hard work on reinstating the zipline. The project is ready to be taken on by another Trustee, supported by Megan and Dave Woods (the Steering Group). Two funding applications have been submitted. **CR to ask SL if he is willing to take this on.**

## 8. DTAS application

DH explained the results of the DTAS survey of TDG Trustees and employees, which has been carried out in order to inform an application for a Development Officer. Text for the application has been drafted by the Trustees. **CR to edit the document and send to DH for comments, with the final draft being circulated around all the Trustees.**

## 9. Governance

Declaration of Interests forms need to be updated and completed by all Trustees. **CR to circulate the form. A Declaration of Interests section needs to be included at the start of each meeting.**

An anonymous letter has been received by the Trustees, through CCC, who sent it to CR, which criticises the governance of TDG. A discussion was held about how to respond. The letter has been sent to DTAS, who have offered comms support, which will be taken up. An acknowledgement has been sent to the Chair of CCC to say that the letter has been received.

## 10. Other project updates

### Gone to Seed

We have our date for the now famous Seed Swap and Potato Day, which is 28th February 2026. Posters are printed and will be distributed after Christmas and there will be information on social media soon. The seed processing workshop will take place on 11th of January in the upper hall. Information has gone out to the relevant groups.

### Cromar Food Waste Project

During the months of October and November as well as the regular pick ups of food from the Co-op we have gratefully received an overwhelming quantity of vegetables



and fruit from Douneside. Tillypronie has donated a large quantity of potatoes and we have been provided with food from the parish church and several individual donors. Countryfood Trust has supplied several boxes of protein rich wild game and veg pouches. All the above comes to an estimated value of £850 and the food items were received by over 150 attendees at our 'Food Pop Up' events and by individual delivery and collection. Many thanks go to our donors and volunteers for this achievement.

#### Pavilion Restoration Project

After receipt of a summary of the draft restoration project plan and our response to enquiries on the Start up Costs for initial maintenance, securing integrity (plumbing/electric), condition survey, safety equipment, furniture, and legal costs MRT Trustees have awarded a grant of £15,000.

*"... to support the next stages of the project, the Trustees were delighted to agree to set aside £15,000 of funding, which can be used towards the costs you have identified for the Pavilion, should the project and asset transfer successfully go ahead. Part of this funding could also be used towards the condition survey, to support the business case/asset transfer process. This funding has been made possible via our new "10 goals for 10 Years" strategy (Goal 6)."*

Meanwhile the pavilion stored food and equipment have been reorganised to clear the social area, allowing more space for future events. The Steering Group have met up with Ross Smith, the Community Leisure Officer, and reported electrical issues and an outstanding electrical inspection. However, Ross's follow up confirms that the pavilion has been removed from the Council maintenance contract. Electrical safety and integrity being paramount, two local electricians have been contacted for estimates for inspection work. The ownership/rental of the building needs to be clarified before any work can be carried out.

#### Tarland Paths

A new Tarland Paths Volunteers WhatsApp group has been formed. There are currently six members. Work on installing the replacement waymarker posts has started. So far we have completed the green route apart from a new post to mark the start at the beginning of the Alastrean driveway beyond the parish church, where the ground either side of the driveway is lined with hardcore and impossible to dig by hand. It might be possible to paint a green ring around the last cemetery fence post and fix a waymarker arrow on it. Prices have been obtained for new paths leaflets and replacement maps for the display boards around the village. CR tabled the path diversion plan for Tarland Way, for which planning permission needs to be obtained.

#### Tarland Community Garden

DH has spoken to the council and the supplier regarding the implementation of the funding that has been received for the new beds for the community garden. The



materials will be purchased and the money spent by the end of the year. The polytunnel can't be re-skinned until April.

**11. Accounts, grants, awards and funding**

We now have a savings account which earns interest at 4%.

Current balances are as follows:

Savings account £75,000

Current account £11,835.75

**DH to circulate the accounts.**

DH has submitted the accounts to OSCR.

**12. AOB**

None.

**13. Next meeting**

**CR will send out a poll for the date of the next meeting, which will be either 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.**