

# Tarland Development Group (TDG) – Trustee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 1 April 2026 **Time:** 7:30pm **Location:** MacRobert Hall, Upper Meeting Room

## Present

Simon, Chris, Dave H, Frank, Jonquil, Ken

## Apologies

Sheila, Dave M, Sandra

## 1. Declaration of Interests

- No declarations made.
- Agreed to formalise as a standing item and maintain a register.
- 30 Steering group members declarations of interest received. 1 more garden committee member to complete.

## 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes reviewed and approved as accurate.

## 3. Matters Arising

- None not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## 4. Project Updates

### a) Apiary

#### Report

Buzzing!

#### Discussion:

- No further discussion.

### b) Apple Pressing

#### Report

Nothing to report.

#### Discussion:

- No further discussion.

## c) Cinema Club

### Report

Tarland Film's third season opened the Food & Music Festival with *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* and has continued to screen a range of popular and independent films to a regular audience. Programme includes Scottish, American and global films, drawing audiences from across the region. Ticket price held at £5. Average audience ~30; close to break-even. Partnerships continue with other groups and successful Q&A events delivered.

### Discussion:

- Confirmed that the club does not currently break even, largely due to fixed costs.
- Noted that audience numbers are stable but need to increase for sustainability.
- Agreed importance of budget discussions with project leads.
- **Action:** Explore options including:
  - Increasing attendance
  - Fundraising or subsidy

## d) Composting

### Report

Scheme restarting 11 April with ~70 households and 21 volunteers. Fees increased to £20 (+£5 additional bags). Donations introduced (£80 received). MacRobert Trust continues to support with equipment and site. SEPA exemption requires renewal via full application before July.

### Discussion:

- Strong growth in participation noted.
- Discussion on:
  - Whether volunteers should still pay fees
  - Financial position (scheme currently healthy)
- Quality concerns raised:
  - Presence of weeds and contaminants
- Suggestions:
  - Improved compost bay system
  - Potential mechanical processing solutions
- **Action:**
  - Submit SEPA application before deadline
  - Continue review of pricing and operations

## e) Community Garden

### Report

Polytunnel installed; doors pending. Raised beds largely replaced. Charity cycle event (30 June) to launch from garden, raising funds for teenage cancer charity.

### Discussion:

- Positive progress acknowledged.

- Volunteer contributions recognised.
- Agreed to support upcoming cycle launch event as publicity opportunity.
- Suggestion to improve compost handling outside garden.
- **Action:** Formal thanks to key contributors.

## f) Food & Music Festival

### Report

All bands booked. £1,000 grant secured. Exploring alternative venue options due to Coull and Migvie Kirks being unavailable.

### Discussion:

- Programme progressing well.
- **Action:**
  - Continue exploring alternative venues (Logie Coldstone)
  - Promote event once programme finalised

## g) Lego Club

### Report

Club remains popular. No April session; next meeting in May.

### Discussion:

- Noted continued strong engagement.
- Idea raised for potential Lego Trail initiative.

## h) Paths

### Report

Bridge inspection completed. Cost request submitted for new walking boards. Tarland Way progressing (planning permission, inspections, lease)

### Discussion / Minutes

- Work progressing as planned.
- Funding required for infrastructure improvements.
- Ken to explore setting up Just Giving for paths and associated QR code print.

## i) Pavilion

### Report

Council expected to transfer ownership to MacRobert Trust, enabling lease to TDG. Business plan submitted. Closure impacting food bank and school activities.

### Discussion:

- Condition survey received just before meeting. The estimated costs for renovation and maintenance were larger than expected, going from £45k in the first 5 years to £125k over 15 years. Steering group to meet soon to discuss this.

- Concern over ongoing closure impact.
- Trustees confirmed exploring how best to take forward.
- **Action:**
  - Share condition survey to all trustees
  - Continue lobbying councillors
  - Progress discussions with Trust
  - Arrange a Pavillion only trustee meeting when all supporting evidence is available for trustees to make a decision to take on or not.

## j) Potato & Seed Swap

### Report

Events successful and well attended. Strong financial position maintained.

### Discussion:

- Positive feedback noted.
- No further actions required.

## k) Trails

### Report

Bike wash nearly complete. Drummy Woods reopened. Funding being sought for further work. Events scheduled.

### Discussion / Minutes

- Significant progress noted across projects.
- Ongoing need for:
  - Funding
  - Infrastructure investment
- **Action:**
  - Continue funding applications
  - Share funding with NEAT / shopping list suggestions to trustees.
  - Progress lease edits agreements

## l) Food Project (Cromar Food)

### Report

240 items redistributed in March (£657 value). Attendance at pop-up increasing (45 attendees). Pantry shed acquired and to be installed near school. Project expanding to address food insecurity.

### Discussion / Minutes

- Agreed name change to “Cromar Food” to reflect expanded remit.
- Strong community impact noted.
- Plans to:
  - Engage school children

- Introduce healthier food options
- **Action:**
  - Progress pantry installation
  - Continue partnership development

## 5. TDG Matters

### Governance & Structure

- Agreed direction to:
  - Separate trustee (strategic) vs project (operational) roles
- Proposal:
  - Project updates to come from project chairs going forward

### Reporting

- New reporting template considered effective.
- Centralised system (e.g. shared document platform) supported.

### Other Items (Membership, Finance, Development Officer, Events)

- Membership
  - One application for membership approved.
- Finance
  - Dave H shared finance figures via email ahead of the meeting.  
Dave H to discuss with each group regarding budgeting.
- Development Officer

Great interest in the vacancy. Discussion took place regarding the recruitment process for the Development Worker role. Trustees noted that applications had been received and that arrangements were being made to progress to the interview stage. It was agreed that a shortlist would be confirmed and that interviews would be conducted by a small panel of trustees, with a consistent format and criteria to ensure a fair and transparent process. The importance of clear communication with candidates and appropriate documentation of the process was also noted.

- TDG Calendar – It was agreed not to progress next year. Dave H to inform Julian.
- Proposal for new Trustees (for information) and Proposal for member/new member event (for information)
  - Deferred to next meeting

## 6. Any Other Business

### a) Engagement with Paul re Governance document.

Simon had a meeting with Paul Anderson. It was reported as generally constructive. Notes will be shared with the trustees.

### b) Attendance of Community Council Representative at TDG Meetings

Discussion took place regarding whether a member of the Community Council (CCC) should attend TDG meetings. Trustees considered the potential benefits of improved communication and transparency, alongside concerns about maintaining appropriate boundaries and ensuring TDG could continue to operate effectively as an independent body. No formal decision was reached at this stage. It was agreed that the matter would be kept under review, with any future involvement to be carefully considered and, if appropriate, agreed in advance by the trustees.

### **c) Tarland and Cromar Website**

Chris volunteered to take over from Sandy Cooper in the interim until the development worker gets established. Development Officer to look at solutions for updating, upgrading and replacing Sandy Cooper who maintains it.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026