

# MINUTE OF MEETING

## MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

### Board Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00 pm

Conference Call on Zoom

<b>Present:</b>	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair) mins, Peter Barker (PB), Brian Rae (BR), Dave Marshall of MDCC (DM), Geva Blackett GB (Aberdeenshire Council).
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mark Mitchell (MM) and Johnathan Kitching (JK), Richard Smout (RS), and Gail Amey (GA), Phil Lee (PL), Steve Gardyne (SG),
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</b> The approval of the Minutes of 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 were proposed by BR and seconded by AE.  Geva was welcomed, she has been assigned by Aberdeenshire Council as our ex officio Councillor who has joined the Board as a voting member.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Accounts:</b> Briefly discussed funds in account which was distributed by Gail today. Bank accounts healthy.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Project Updates:</b>  <b>Transport</b> Driver shortages ongoing, GB suggested updating adverts to include aspect of upskilling as well as the opportunity to give back to the community.  <b>Woodlands</b> Felling as a result of Storm Arwen has now been completed, wood has also been forwarded to the sides of the road and piled into huge timber stacks. Wood sales are ongoing, although slowed due to a glut in quantity available and yard shutdowns. We hope to get most of the wood out by end of August.  <b>ABPA</b> Received a £1000 Tesco grant, hope to revamp committee to kick start fundraising etc.  <b>Wheelers</b> (email update from SG) For wheelers, not much changed, we await the decision of the MacRobert trust which is due in September. We have also been in touch with Sports Scotland to update them and to hopefully petition for an early release of the conditional funds they had allocated to us. They confirmed that providing the MacRobert comes through they will meet in November and hopefully bless their grant to us. AGM planning ongoing.  <b>CPR Deeside</b> Nothing new to report.  <b>Aboyne Paths &amp; Tracks Group</b>  (email update from JK) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Work parties. We have recently done a lot of bracken and general veg management on the Mortlich path and on the river banks. Next work party on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July hopefully on the old road Belwade lane to Bellwood. The strimmer's and training are proving to be a very well worthwhile investment. We are presently</li></ol>

researching what APTG need in the way of ancillary equipment to keep the strimmer's working to their best and the comfort of the operators. This will involve a purchase list that we will then need to funded

2. We are currently bidding for £4k to pay for getting the Castle wood project through planning requirements. We have £1000. From Arnald Clark and £2,000 match funding Mar Area Small grants so are currently applying to a range of grant sources for the final £1000. We have applied to Paths for All for £1.500 towards the Boat Inn Notice Board project. A notice board over the road from the Boat Inn car park displaying the local paths, both sides of the river and some other info useful for Canoeists, walkers, bikers etc.
3. Disappointingly there is no movement on the Glen Tanar link path project to Aboyne. Disappointingly there is no movement on the clearing of trees off the Deeside line East of Aboyne
4. A group of Men from the Men's Shed have signed up as volunteers to APTG and have been appointed to path upkeep of part of the promoted walk from Aboyne to Mortlich.
5. Mar Paths Group, a forum body of all the paths groups in the glen have a Gazebo at the Aboyne Games. Please call in for a chat and a look at other paths maps in the area
6. Keep walking those paths and trampling down the bracken!!

#### **HARP**

New owners have been confirmed. AC have written to the owners to ask for a response on various items as well as intentions regarding the hotel. Awaiting a response.

#### **Station Square Renovation Project**

Planning applications outstanding have all been approved, now waiting for contractor to start. Did not want to have work ongoing during the Aboyne games so commencement postponed. AC are also planning to install benches on the green and in upper square after the games. The Highland Game Committee have approved to put a water butt on the green shed, we are in discussions on this with a contractor.

#### **Aboyne FareShare**

Received a donation from Rotary Club which will be put towards purchase of goods for the food larders.

#### **Aboyne Green Spaces**

The project name is now Aboyne Green Spaces, we have held committee meetings at the community shed to decide on way forward. Also, we have been holding regular watering sessions in the village using the new bowser including the strip at the Huntly Hotel which was planted up with annuals. We have a group of volunteers who regularly attend the weekly sessions. The village is looking much better now.

#### **H&W**

Nothing to report.

#### **Jubilee Fountain**

Nothing to report.

#### **Education**

Nothing to report.

#### **Artist in Residence**

The courses are ongoing and there has been some very positive feedback on the courses, courses will stop for the school holidays.

4.	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>(email update from SG) On the community resilience, I attended the meeting on the 4th. Main insight was that we await the SSE funding decision before we are able to go for the big items for the resilience hubs, some of the smaller items are being processed with Marr Area funds. A what to do to prepare pamphlet has been developed and this will be circulated to households in the coming weeks in advance of Autumn.</p> <p>Dave Marshall has stepped down from MDCC, he is well involved and makes significant contributions in the HARP project as well as other projects and we believe it would be beneficial if he stayed on, he is willing to stay on as an MDCT board member and we confirmed that this at the meeting.</p> <p>Discussed the Log Bank and Community Growing project, these have been proposed by Marr Area Partnership. AE, RS, PB and PL had visited the proposed site. We agreed to meet Marr personnel (Hilary English and Gillian Needham) to explore this subject further and report back to the board on the findings.</p> <p>We didn't discuss succession planning but we do need to think about possible new board members and board positions as well as potential new projects.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7pm via Zoom. Meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.</p>

**Date Approved .....****Chairman**