

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting at Community Shed and on Zoom

19th October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair) mins, Phil Lee (PL), Dave Marshall (DM), Richard Smout (RS), Gail Amey (GA), Brian Rae (BR) and Johnathan Kitching (JK).
Apologies:	Geva Blackett GB (Aberdeenshire Council), Mark Mitchell (MM), Peter Barker (PB), Steve Gardyne (SG), and Alistair Brodie.
1.	Welcome and Approval of Minutes: The approval of the Minutes of 21 st September 2022 were proposed by DS and seconded by AE.
2.	Accounts: GA updated the board on the status of the project funds.
3.	Project Updates: Transport The transport project is urgently requiring volunteer drivers to drive for community not-for-profit groups especially on a Wednesday. The coordinator's time is stretched between driving buses and the tasks in the office for the transport project and other projects. The board discussed the budgets and operational income of the Mid Deeside Ebike project. It was decided that the project is coming to the end of its initial concept which was to promote cycling in the village to reduce traffic and carbon emissions. The operational cost and time of running the project is proving to be too high to continue. It was concluded that at the end of the insured time we will go back to the funder to reallocate the eBikes as per the terms of the agreement. Woodlands The clogged wood to be used for firewood have mostly been picked up but a couple of loads are still to be collected. The birch which is stacked in a wood pile (used for Biomass) has not gone yet, we may discuss with RTS to see if it is more beneficial to cut these up and sell them for firewood, since we may get more for them like that. There are still a few piles of Douglas Fir and Larch, no one seems to want these. They may have to go for biomass. AE has chased up DWP for the payments from the wood, which is still outstanding. The board discussed ideas for the signage for the woodlands since they need to be renewed, (they still have MDL signage). It was decided that MDCT will not sell Christmas trees this year since there are few good potential trees in easy reach of the road. The squirrel preservation trust has been in touch to monitor the different species in the area since someone thought they may have seen a grey squirrel in the village. ABPA MM reported to AE that he will need to reconvene the members and decide what to do as a committee since the planning permission that was obtained for the bike park extension seems to have lapsed. Wheelers SG reported that MacRobert Trust £50k, which would have led to a matching Sports Scotland grant of £50k were unfortunately unsuccessful. In total, the team have completed applications of over £400k with limited success. A meeting was held between the committee and AE to discuss the project going forward. There were a couple of suggestions such as starting the build to ensure that the planning permission does not

lapse or contract a professional funder to take over due to the planning application expiry date and that they may have more success with major funders. It was decided at the meeting that hiring a professional funder would likely prove to be too expensive since the ones contacted were not offering no win, no fee options. The board discussed where the initial fund came from, what the purpose of the fund is and what potential projects it could be used for in the future, if it was felt by the current project team that they have taken the project as far as it can go at this time.

CPR Deeside

Nothing new to report.

Aboyne Paths & Tracks Group

(email update from JK)

1. APTG had a very successful AGM on 11th Oct. It was well attended and the committee was initiated on mass. One new person wished to join the committee.
2. The Fungle top path between the Guard and the Fungle burn has been completed with a new path. This was a multi-agency event with many placers being involved.
3. Encouraging words from the owner of the Dessmuir Estate have been received regarding progress in the sprin with their help.
4. The Glen Tanar link path project remains positive. A project spec is currently being drawn up. Both landowners remain positive.
5. The Castle Wood Project aimed at two loops of easy access paths remains on course. Planning permission is the next step after a survey. Meetings are planned for this week. The meeting agreed a £2000.00 bridging loan was in order between MDCT and APTG so matters can be progressed.
6. APTG are embarking on a recruitment drive to find more volunteers.
7. The notice board project for outside the Boat Inn is on course. The design has been agreed and the internal poster / map is being worked upon.
8. The next two work parties are on 5th Nov and 3rd Dec.
9. APTG are having discussions with The Adventure tourism people to look at possibilities of working together and funding opportunities

HARP

Nothing has changed with regards to ownership. A letter was written by AE to enquire about possible interest from a major pub/hotel chain, but they confirmed that they have no plans regarding the Huntly. A project was tabled to design and paint boards to cover the windows, via the Artist and Residence Project, which would enhance the aesthetics of the building. The board agreed to allocate £300 to the project.

Station Square Renovation Project

BR updated the board that the project major works are now complete with an excess of £3k left which will be put towards water collection projects. An outstanding task on the top square from the PBIP grant is the delivery of one 'Aboyne' planter but all beds are now planted with trees and refreshed with bedding plants. The dead tree in the lower square island has now been replaced with three trees by the volunteers. DM stated that he is still trying to locate two picnic benches, two red benches and a commemorative bench to be put in from Aberdeenshire Council, which he is chasing up.

With regards to the water tank, a quote from a local contractor for a concrete plinth was received but deemed too expensive. BR suggested cheaper options to reduce the costs such as hardcore or 2 x small water tanks as opposed to 1 x large tank. The board discussed different options and PL suggested a local contractor that he knew. Also that he could source a digger for the job via his work.

	<p>Aboyne FareShare GA held a meeting with members of the Aboyne FareShare to realign the mission statement with their objectives and aims as well as update their current procedures. It was decided that groups who receive food from the distribution point should complete a Group Membership form to ensure that their objectives and aims are aligned with the project.</p> <p>Aboyne Green Spaces The members have set up work parties that are planting around the village in the identified green spaces. The membership includes 14 members on the mailing list and an average of 6-10 people attend the Monday meetings, it was noted that additional members are required to assist with the current workload, new signs have been made. Ongoing activities are general maintenance and watering of the planters/beds. Winter colour plants are arriving soon and when the additional 'Aboyne' planter arrives that will also need to be filled. Future plan is to add more hanging baskets in the spring to include specifically pollinator plants. RS stated that he was waiting on the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' assessment of our achievements to date and to advise under which category of awards they would be eligible to apply to for future recognition for Aboyne. There are two funds coming up which would meet the project's aims. A possible additional watering point after speaking with the chairperson of the Victory Hall, was the introduction of a water tank situated on the premises which would allow another central access point for watering the plants.</p> <p>H&W Nothing to report.</p> <p>Jubilee Fountain Nothing to report.</p> <p>Education Nothing to report.</p> <p>Artist in Residence The lantern project is going well and is on schedule for bonfire night on 12th November.</p>
4.	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Resilience SG sent an update.</p> <p>Further meeting held in early September to discuss progress relating to resilience hubs and preparation for potential events requiring their mobilisation. Further session planned in the coming week to undertake a "dry-run" within the Aboyne centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress made in procuring and distributing equipment and supplies for the 3 resilience hubs. - Planning ongoing for back-up generation installation within KON and Dinnet resilience hubs. <p>Log Bank AE attended a meeting with Marr Area Partnership regarding setting up a log bank. Logs were donated by Invercauld and transported by PB and Simon Blackett to Coull, where it was split and bagged, 350 bags are now available to be distributed. Also discussed the growing project. It was brought to the Board's attention that there may be synergies with</p>

	<p>the Seed Box to support this project since they are expanding to Banchory and to Glen Tanar.</p> <p>Succession planning – the board discussed possible candidates and requirements to add new members for the near future due to 3 people who will be standing down.</p> <p>Swift Project – At the green spaces inaugural meeting RS reported that the local Architect Mike Rasmusson put forward the swift project that addresses putting up bird boxes in defined areas. The board discussed the costs to get this project off the ground and it was concluded that PL would kindly be able to resource tongue and groove ply, the cherry picker could be used to mount the boxes and that a recommended commission from Men’s Shed group would be requested to make the bird boxes. To construct the boxes the wood must be cut to a template, glued, painted and installed. A RSPB specialist visited the village in June.to assist in identifying suitable locations. Some suggestions so far are the flats by the Coop, Belfry tower (no boxes required) and people’s homes around Aboyne. A team leader is required to bring this project together.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 16th November 2022 at 7pm at Aboyne & Mid-Deeside Community Shed.</p> <p><i>Meeting schedule is 3rd Wednesday of each month.</i></p>

Date Approved

Chairman