

# MINUTE OF MEETING

## MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

### Board Meeting at Community Shed and on Zoom

16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm

<b>Present:</b>	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair) mins, Phil Lee (PL), Dave Marshall (DM), Gail Amey (GA), Brian Rae (BR), Alistair Brodie (AB) and Johnathan Kitching (JK). Attended via Zoom Geva Blackett GB (Aberdeenshire Council).
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mark Mitchell (MM), Richard Smout (RS), Peter Barker (PB), and Steve Gardyne (SG).
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</b> The approval of the Minutes of 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 were proposed by BR and seconded by DM.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Accounts:</b> GA updated the board on the status of the project funds. Due to the funds in the bank the board requested that GA look at high interest accounts for the interim.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Project Updates:</b>  <b>Transport</b> The ACTI announced at the meeting that in 2024 there would be a change to the grant application process. Aberdeenshire Council will take a more competitive approach and will look at value for money as a factor when approving grants. This will allow more flexibility in the funding process for charities to adapt to the needs of their community. The board discussed ways to support the project to attract more volunteers for car and bus requests. GA was tasked with providing a job description of volunteers required for each transport project to give to the board so that they can assist with finding extra support.  <b>Woodlands</b> PL updated the board regarding the ongoing maintenance of the walkways by Duncan Cassie and himself. JK thanked and acknowledged Duncan Cassie for the removal of a tree down on the west path on behalf of the Paths and Tracks Group. AE sent an email to RTS regarding the recent harvesting in the Bell Wood. It was noted that there was around 150 tonne left. After calculated the specific wood type and tonnage there is an estimated £48k expected income. To reduce fencing within the woodlands a new method of spraying sheep fat onto the trees will be tried in the Bell Wood. Although regeneration within the woodlands is excellent, AE will explore grants for replanting to fill in the gaps. Patrick Randall has been contracted to cut the overhanging trees onto resident's gardens on Bell Wood Drive and Old Town Road. JK mentioned that there is a bush covering the Deeside Path after the bridge and T-junction which required pruning, it was enquired if the team would be able to attend to it.  <b>ABPA</b> Nothing new to report.  <b>Wheelers</b> Sarah and SG have progressed the actions agreed after their meeting following the disappointing MacRobert decision. Planning didn't really want to engage with any additional guidance on what we need to do to consider "started" in the eyes of the planners. They just restated they expected the conditions in the planning approval to be complied with. Professional fundraising enquiries confirmed that the costs for that were going to be very significant and didn't really offer any new insight other than to state they

would develop a formal feasibility study and that they had a track record of getting money (from the same funds previously applied to). No further updates to report. SG plans to meet with Mike Brown at the site and try to come up with a minimum compliant action plan ourselves and run it past planning. At least that way the project team can maybe preserve future optionality. There are mutterings of a new round of Place Based investment funding so if that comes to pass the project team would have another run at that fund.

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

BR reported that the Upper Square project is now complete. The lower square has a couple outstanding items but is nearly there. DM stated that a bench and one planter is still pending on the green. A design for the water butt has been decided and there are a few alternative solutions such as collecting water at the Victory and pumping out of the burn if the requirement is such.

#### **HARP**

DS stated that an Amenity Notice detailing external defects is waiting to be issued by Aberdeenshire Council to the owners.

#### **Aboyne FareShare**

The project was successful in securing £1.5k from Tesco and £4.5k from the Coop for their worthy cause which means at the current rate of spending we will have 1.97 years of funding. GA has been asked to give a 5-minute presentation to Marr Area Partnership meeting on 22th November 2022. Sally McLardy and GA have a meeting scheduled to discuss the project for the presentation. The group have highlighted that there is a lot of paperwork to do which is taking its toll on current volunteers. Sally McLardy has indicated that she now has a part time job and will not be able to give so much time to the project. Current volunteers have stated that more volunteers are required to support the project. The volunteers booked a slot at the Farmer's Market to promote the project on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### **Aboyne Green Spaces**

RS had heard back from 'Keep Scotland Beautiful/It's Your Neighbourhood' and our group have been assessed on their scale of 1 to 5 as Level 3 "advancing", which is a great achievement as we have only been going as a group since April this year.

We have planted over 200 winter flowering plants this week to give the planters in Station Square and Ballater Road colour during the winter months, with 200 more primulas to plant in the next 2 weeks or so.

RS applied for a Royal Horticultural Society Sustainable Futures Grant for £2,500. The grant is called Aboyne Green Spaces Sustainable Watering Grant and involves installing water butts at the Victory Hall and hand-towed trolley bowers. We should hear of our success by February 2023.

We have increased our committee number to 7 which I feel has the right balance of plant knowledge and project experience. The group size has increased to 15 active members.

#### **H&W**

Nothing to report.

#### **Jubilee Fountain**

The water has been turned off for the winter.

#### **Education**

Nothing to report.

	<p><b>Artist in Residence</b> The project has commenced the new workshops on Monday/Tuesday. The lantern workshops were hugely successful and they added a lovely aspect to the Aboyne &amp; Bonfire Event.</p>
4.	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b></p> <p><b>Resilience</b> SG sent an update.</p> <p>Progress continues to be made with the basic consumables for the 3 hubs now being largely bought and in place should the hubs be needed. I'm not sure where we are with the generator plans for Kincardine O'Neil and Dinnet, last I heard the electrician was being formally contracted and making orders/plans to install.</p> <p><b>Log Bank</b> AE is attending a meeting this week and the board will be updated at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Succession planning</b> – BR was formally voted in as chair of MDCT. At the AGM MM and RS will also formally stand down whereby two new board members will need to be sought to take their place.</p> <p><b>Swift Project</b> – this project has now been handed over to the Aboyne &amp; Mid-Deeside Mens Shed.</p> <p><b>New Projects</b> – AE discussed a couple of projects with the Board. There is a potential youth club project with various venues being explored in Aboyne. There is a business support group being run by David Robinson, Red Evolution who is trying to open dialogue between local businesses. A cooking project by Margaret McNutt offering cooking lessons at the Aboyne &amp; Mid-Deeside Mens Shed. The board were made aware of the projects and have not been formally asked to support at the moment.</p> <p><b>Vote of Thanks</b> – JK on behalf of everyone at MDCT thanks Alan Emslie for his hard work and commitment to the trust over his tenure.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> The next meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7pm at Aboyne &amp; Mid-Deeside Community Shed.</p> <p><i>Meeting schedule is 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.</i></p>

**Date Approved** .....

**Chairman** .....