

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting at Community Shed and on Zoom

18th January 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Brian Rae (BR) (Chair), Phil Lee (PL), Dave Marshall (DM), Gail Amey (GA), Malcolm Laing (ML), Johnathan Kitching (JK) Fiona Robertson (FR), Alistair Brodie (AB) and guest Cat Mazi (CM).
Apologies:	Steve Gardyne (SG) and Geva Blackett GB (Aberdeenshire Council).
1.	<p>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</p> <p>Firstly BR put forward that Fiona Robertson be elected onto the Board. Approved by PL and seconded by ML.</p> <p>The approval of the Minutes of 16th November 2022 and 18th December 2022 was approved by DM and seconded by FR.</p> <p>Cat Manzi was introduced to the board and has kindly offered to advise MDCT on their communications to increase visibility and reach.</p>
2.	<p>Accounts:</p> <p>The funds were discussed by the MDCT Board. Annual discretionary fees to cover governance were concluded. PL checked the outstanding monies which is estimated to fetch £11k.</p> <p>Action: GA to look at interest rates.</p>
3.	<p>Project Updates:</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>GA updated the board on the activities of the DCT Group. The new buses both have oil changes booked in Aberdeen scheduled in the next fortnight. Although drivers are coming forward a few more are still required to make sure there are enough of a pool to cover holiday times. A job description for volunteer drivers was handed out to the board. Cat is putting together a poster for distribution. The board approved the request of drivers with a D1 moving buses without a MiDAS for maintenance/repairs to assist the office.</p> <p>Action: GA to provide facebook access to Cat asap.</p> <p>Woodlands</p> <p>BR wanted to discuss the Ladywood's ongoing maintenance and schedule a walk through to access areas that need to be addressed if any. FR updated the board on the procedures in other woodlands and highlighted the differences procedures when dealing with advertised walking routes and desire lines. PL discussed preferred succession planning within the woodlands project team and suggested a new lead every 3 years to guarantee a smoother handover as most are on the team for over 6 years. PL also asked for a woodlands email so that all new leads have historical reference. Replantation of felled area was discussed to protect the trees from deer. Repurposing current fencing was highlighted vs the cost of new fencing. It was decided that FR and PL would jointly manage the woodland with focus on replanting for FR and repair of walkways for PL. It was noted that signage needs to be addressed with the woodlands.</p> <p>Action: PL/BR/ML/JK A tentative walkthrough was planned for Saturday 18/2/22 10am. GA to organise a woodlands email.</p> <p>ABPA</p>

Action: There are plans to revive the current planning permission. A short discussion took place with regards to how the site fared to others in the area. The users tend to be younger and if an upgrade goes ahead the site would benefit from an extended skills-based track as opposed to a trails-based track.

Wheelers

The board discussed the forthcoming lapse of planning approval, it was reluctantly decided due to ongoing insurance/ maintenance/unknown timescale, that the permission should be allowed to lapse, and that no work would be allowed to commence unless funding was available to complete the project.

This led to a discussion regarding the existing funding arrangement. Substantial funds had been allocated to the project for around ten years, and that given there was little prospect of this being used in the near future, these funds should be allocated elsewhere. The possibility of the Bike park using part was to be investigated by FR. It was not the board's wish to terminate the project and MDCT would continue to support any future efforts by the Wheelers group.

Station Square Renovation Project

BR reported that the project is now complete apart from the installation of the water bowser. JK thanked all involved in the project for their efforts.

Action: BR to follow up small planter which has not arrived. ML to order hanging baskets for village and bridge.

HARP

DM has asked the local councillors to place the Huntly Arms Hotel on the at-risk register. This will initiate an obligation notice to the owners. Environmental planning will maintain a firm link with councillor for next steps.

Action: Pending recent events.

Aboyne FareShare

BR and GA had a meeting with the Sally McLardy and Morag Yule who are part of the team to get an update on the project. Morag has taken over the role of organising the deliveries and members to receive goods and distribute goods from Sally. The funds are in a healthy position going forward.

Aboyne Green Spaces

The group is quiet due to the winter months. The planter is due to be delivered shortly and then all outstanding jobs will be complete. The group successfully applied for over 100 trees such as Hawthorn and Holly for distribution around the village. ML said that a group will be getting together every Monday to tidy areas up around the village. PL spoke with contractor regarding the tank which just needs to be connected. Scottish Water free standing water point next to bus stop.

Aboyne Paths & Tracks

Glen Tanar to Aboyne link. Meeting with Glen Tanar happened as planned and agreement has been reached for support and progressing to planning permission.

We have agreement to mark the trees that need to be removed. A consultation with the Academy is planned for the next week as part of their Heritage Horizons CNP work

Castle woods planning permission is being written. Landowner agreements were questioned; this is something we will need to be cautious about for future liabilities.

The new notice board is collected and is safely stored. The map is being discussed with Ellie F this week. Waiting to hear from Dunecht Estates on the idea of taking people off

	<p>the Birsemohr road with some new bits of path. And also their contribution to the text about working in partnership with those who own manage and work on the land.</p> <p>There is no news on the Dessmuir Estate paths under Mortlich and Little hill. Discussions are projected to re start in the spring.</p> <p>APTG are having positive discussions with Aberdeenshire council on keeping up the pressure on the landowner to sort out the blockage on the Deeside way and the issues regarding the damage to the riverbank path after the floods.</p> <p>Feb work party will look at sorting out the issues in the NE corner of Robert Garden’s field and mend his fence; also do some gorse and broom on river bank east.</p> <p>ML offered his services to JK when landowners agreements are required.</p> <p>Artist in Residence The board was informed that the application to AVA was unsuccessful. Action: BR to close out the project with the artist.</p>
4.	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Insurance – It was discussed for ML to review all MDCT Insurances for good housekeeping measures. Action: GA to email copies of current insurance policies.</p> <p>EBikes – DM tabled a suggestion to put forward a local company who may be interested in utilising the eBikes in another format. Action: GA noted the suggestion and will revert when the project comes to an end.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 15th February 2023 at 7pm at Aboyne & Mid-Deeside Community Shed.</p> <p><i>Meeting schedule is 3rd Wednesday of each month.</i></p>

Date Approved

Chairman