

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting at Community Shed and on Zoom

15th February 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Brian Rae (BR) (Chair), Phil Lee (PL), Gail Amey (GA), Malcolm Laing (ML), Johnathan Kitching (JK) Fiona Robertson (FR), Alistair Brodie (AB) ex-officio Aboyne Community Council and Simon Blake (SB).
Apologies:	Peter Baker (BP), Steve Gardyne (SG), Dave Marshall (DM), Consultant Cat Manzi (CM) and Geva Blackett GB (ex-officio Aberdeenshire Council).
1.	<p>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</p> <p>The approval of the Minutes of 18th January 2023 were approved by ML and seconded by BR.</p> <p>Simon Blake was unanimously elected on to the board and it was agreed that he would be the Trustee overseeing the DCT project.</p>
2.	<p>Accounts:</p> <p>The first draft of the end of year accounts were presented to the Board as well as the project funds up to 14th February 2022. All projects have been asked to review and revert any inaccuracies. It was agreed to continue with GC for our annual audit. GA shared information on interest rates and it was concluded that further research was required before a decision could be made.</p> <p>The board, when studying the accounts decided that a small amount of £109.09 which was historically fundraised for a wellbeing project would be transferred to APTG to assist with their ongoing fundraising efforts to upgrade walkways that benefit the whole community.</p> <p>Action: GA to go to Ballater and speak with a Bank of Scotland teller regarding interest rates.</p>
3.	<p>Project Updates:</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>GA and SB had a meeting to discuss the DCT project. It was noted that although drivers were coming forward for community transport there was a need to attract car volunteer drivers to fulfil the requests. SB and GA will make a concerted effort to go back out to the community transport groups locally and nationally to get ideas and inspiration to formulate a strategy to increase the usage of the buses.</p> <p>Woodlands</p> <p>PL updated the Board on the talks with RTS regarding the recent felling and the query of the outstanding monies due. The agreement that was set up with DWP and MDCT stated that they hold a 3% retention fee which equates to £8,000 for a duration of one year. This will be used to restock which will be detailed in the Land Management Plan which is being commissioned by RTS we have currently offset £1,780 against the plan and await a detailed plan and final cost updates. FR shared her knowledge on Land Management Plans regarding duration, governance, and legal implications.</p> <p>The discussions continued regarding fencing vs Trico for deer control when replanting but no decision was made by the Board. The points to consider are: that a fence would mean trees are safe; Trico would need to be sprayed every six months either by volunteers (who will need to go on a course) or by a contractor. A thermal drone or Thermoscope has still</p>

to be decided to determine the population of the deer which will be used in the decision-making process.

With the felling licence comes a legal obligation to restock within 3 to 4 years. It was acknowledged that an area in the Bellwood has outstanding thinning to be done. PL suggested that a couple of dedicated rangers for the woodlands be given access to the woodlands email to improve communications currently and historically moving forward. The rangers will also have knowledge of the operational forecast for the woodlands.

AB and BR initiated a conversation with regards to wind turbines and the probability and viability of such a project in the woodlands.

PL wanted to thank and acknowledge I & E Water Services, on our facebook page, who cleared the blockages to the water ways for free.

JK updated the board on the APTG's maintenance on the pathways connected to the Bell Wood.

Action: PL/BR/ML/JK A tentative walkthrough is still planned for Saturday 18/2/22 10am.

Action: PL & FR have a meeting with RTS scheduled.

ABPA

PL and FR offered to complete a walk around and assess the bike park. There has been no committee installed currently. Future funding opportunities were discussed for the extension.

Action: PL & FR risk assessment.

Wheelers

The planning has lapsed on this project due to a lack of funds to move forward. The project leaders have initiated a discussion on facebook to have an open debate about the future of the group going forward.

Station Square Renovation Project

The project is now complete, and the funds have been closed out and approved. The only outstanding action is a planter that was delivered in the wrong size but hopefully this will be rectified shortly.

HARP

DM, BR and ML attended a meeting with the owners of the Huntly. It was noted that the owners were adhering to the amenity notice and completing the maintenance to reserve the integrity of the building. It was inferred that opening the bar and part of the hotel could be an option.

Action: BR and DM to keep an eye on the ongoing work and future strategy.

Aboyne FareShare

Morag Yule gave an update to GA that the distribution centre was operating smoothly and the only changes to report to the Board was the increase of people using food banks. Groups that historically came every 2 to 4 weeks now come for weekly top ups to their food larders.

Action: GA to keep an eye on the funds in case further fundraising will be required.

Aboyne Green Spaces

ML received delivery of the perennials for pollinators and over 100 trees of a variety of species including Hawthorn. The walk through of the Lady Wood is due this week and the

	<p>group can decide if any trees are to be planted in the Lady Wood as one of the final destinations.</p> <p>Aboyne Paths & Tracks The last APTG work party on two sites, corner of Robert Gardens field and riverside east had a record turnout of 18 people - jobs well done.</p> <p>Paths project all nudge on.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. castle woods planning application in and we should hear in two weeks. b. Glen Tanar link slow progress. We have been asked to mark up trees to be removed at tower of Ess. We have the felling licence in place. The usage survey by tongue people going to the whole of the Academy next week. c. Paths south of the river is helpful for estate approval. We don't need Estate approval to create the new map but would be helpful for several reasons. New noticeboard will go in when the ground thaws a bit. JK went to MDCT meeting to talk about road safety signage on the Birsemohr road. d. Dessmuir paths, APTG are about to start organising the meeting we were asked to ask for in the spring to look at the Mortlich paths! The Felling licence for the "not the Deeside way" hasn't yet been applied for 15 months on. We remain optimistic, progress can be made in the next few months. Our aim is to link the Mortlich paths into the LPP, with a walk crossing at the white cottage to Bellwade with appropriate signage on the main road. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. RTS (forestry contractors for the Coull woods have asked us to have a first aider (one day course emergency aid) being set up for a midweek day in March / April. There will be places for others. Brian Patterson from the Men's shed of APTG have 4 people to date. 4. A meeting is brewing with the golf course now Bill Logan the new president is in place. This is part of a promoted route on the APTG new 2025 map around Aboyne Loch. <p>Artist in Residence Due to the unsuccessful funding application the project has come to an end. The board discussed and approved the close out of the project.</p>
	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Social Media – GA organised the links for facebook to be sent to Cat Manzi and the MDCT staff today.</p> <p>Communication – JK reiterated that a clear definition of what MDCT does and what other groups such as the Aboyne Community Council needs to be clearly defined. MDCT needs to be more visible within the community so that the community are sign posted where to go if they need assistance or information.</p> <p>Insurance – ML gave an update of the insurance review and reverted his findings to the board. Action: ML will follow up his enquiries.</p> <p>Constitution – ML and BR attended a meeting with MacKinnons to discuss the current constitution. It was recommended that adjustments were required to the MDCT Articles of Association and Memorandum. When projects come under the MDCT umbrella they will be given a standard constitution. Action: ML will follow up on the adjustments going forward with a proposed draft to be approved at the next AGM. GA was tasked to discuss future funding opportunities.</p> <p>Aboyne Area Local Plan – MDCT have been asked to be part of the group. Action: BR and JK put their names forward to represent the board.</p>

	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 15th March 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