

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting at Community Shed

24th May 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Brian Rae (BR) (Chair), Phil Lee (PL), Gail Amey (GA), Malcolm Laing (ML), Fiona Robertson (FR), Simon Blake (SB), Alistair Brodie (AB) ex-officio Aboyne Community Council and Neil Taylor (NT) on behalf of APTG.
Apologies:	Peter Baker (BP), Dave Marshall (DM), Consultant Cat Manzi (CM), Johnathan Kitching (JK), Antonia Eastwood (AE) and Geva Blackett GB (ex-officio Aberdeenshire Council).
1.	Welcome and Approval of Minutes: The approval of the Minutes of 19 th April 2023 were approved by SB and seconded by ML.
2.	Accounts: BR explained the new fund report to the board as well as discussed, the movements within the funds up to 23 May 2023. The board approved to spend £2 - £3k to explore the office accountancy procedure efficiencies using a SAGE consultant.
3.	Project Updates: Transport SB informed the Board that the dial-a-bus driver had tendered their notice. A suitable replacement has been found and will start asap. Procedures regarding hospital transport drivers were discussed. It was concluded that the insurance and driving tests would be explored further. Action: ML check insurance for volunteer car drivers. GA to research local driving instructors for test. Woodlands All work has been completed by SSE in the woodlands. A complaint was received by a member of the public but unfortunately the work was unavoidable. The team have ordered 16,000 trees of Norwegian Fir, Citrus Spruce and Scots Pine. PL informed that £14k has been ringfenced in the Restricted Funds for planting, spraying and replanting. Projected costs recommended for resilience planning is estimated at 30p/tree to plant and £180/hectare to spray. PL received a request from a teacher at Aboyne Academy for an outdoor area designed for the collection of insects, they were concerned regarding the recent activity in the Lady Wood. A fund of £10k will be sought for the Lady Wood to contract a survey and for future works. Action: GA to get in touch with ex Director regarding RPS – FR will be the new representative going forward. GA to look for funding for the Lady Wood. ABPA FR gave an update that the group regarding the researching of other tracks they can be compared to such as Boat of Garten. The group is planning new signage and logo as part of their advertising strategy. The group is still waiting on planning approval. HARP Nothing new to report. Aboyne FareShare Nothing to report.

	<p>Aboyne Green Spaces The coffee morning was a great success with over £600 funds raised for the project. All planting in the Lady Wood is complete. Action: GA to complete Coop community fund application.</p> <p>Aboyne Paths & Tracks Glentinar Link Path Project - Working on a path agreement with GT Estate. Positive support from Aberdeenshire Planning to our recent pre-planning enquiry. Aim is to apply for planning Aug with construction Dec-Mar. Total cost approx. £190,000. We have £100,000 promised by Paths For All. Applications to Nestrans/Vatenfall for £25,000. Ongoing discussions with Aberdeenshire council re balance of funding. Castle Woods Easy Access Paths & Deeside way Ramps - Total cost £250,000 or £130 to £160 K for phase one. (Deeside Way Ramps + as much of paths as funding available by Mar 2024). £65,000 from Paths for All, £25,000 from Peoples Postcode Lottery. Multiple ongoing funding applications. Landowners have agreed in principle to our formal path agreements. People counters in place at wood entry points. Project plan on village noticeboard Just Giving Page set up for both projects (We need £5,500 to trigger a potential £50,000 grant from landfill funding). Web Link https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/aboynepaths QR CODE DessMuir - Discussions about possible routes / on the Dessmuir Estate (Mortlich and little hill) are ongoing.</p> <p>We represented the Trust at an Aberdeenshire Council walking festival on 13 May.</p> <p>The last work party is scheduled for Sat 6th May. Work on Drainage on the Bridle Path, south of Queens Loch.</p> <p>It was noted that that planning application cost can be reduced by applying through the community council.</p>
	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Defibrillators – BR will get in touch with the group for an update.</p> <p>AYH – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Insurance – ML will get a quote for 10m liability going forward.</p> <p>Articles – ML stated that increasing the number of co-opt members on the Board will be approved at the next AGM.</p> <p>Farmers Market – The farmer’s market has been booked for the second Saturday in June and July.</p> <p>Social Media – Red Evolution have been paid for a tutorial for updating the website which we hope to receive soon.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 21st June 2023 at 7pm at Aboyne & Mid-Deeside Community Shed.</p>

	<i>Meeting schedule is 3rd Wednesday of each month.</i>
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Date Approved

Chairman