

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting at Community Shed

21st June 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), Dave Marshall (DM), Dale Kitching (DK), Chris Grieve (CG) and Margaret Mulcahy (MM).
Apologies:	Peter Baker (BP), Alistair Brodie (AB) ex-officio Aboyne Community Council, 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 24 th May 2023 were approved by ML and seconded by CG. It was noted that GB had formerly resigned from the Board due to her personal commitments.
2.	Accounts: BR proposed the disposing of assets in the accounts which would eliminate showing depreciation in projects that have been completed in prior years to give a more accurate position in the accounts. The board decided that a new procedure of capitalising assets would be decided. It was agreed that projects which fund for an asset would be shown as project costs and equipment for the office would not be capitalised. Community buses would continue to be capitalised. MM will highlight any significant fund movement to the board going forward. ML reinforced to the Board that the annual accounts will need to be approved by August in time for the AGM and to adhere to the regulations set by OSCR.
3.	Project Updates: Transport SB updated the board on DCT activities. ACTI - In 2022 the Aberdeenshire Council Transport Initiative held a meeting where they updated all groups that the grant application process may change in 2024. This would mean that the application process would be more competitive, and applicants would be assessed on value for money. DCT has just received notice that this will be going ahead. GA will attend a meeting on 23/6/23 to get an update from our funders on how this may impact the project and will revert to the Board. Volunteers - We have recruited 3 new volunteers for MDCT (Alan, Elaine and Dawn) as well as adding 4 new drivers for BRD to our approved driver list this month. The drivers will cover Ballater Walking Week and they will also be the designated drivers for an extra weekly run. We are planning to operate a shopping service (Evergreens) on a Thursday for Ballater Royal Deeside as they have decided to give up their community bus. We are planning a promotion to attract more hospital volunteers. Reporting - ACTI and BSOG reports are due as well as a couple of funders. Procedures - Further procedures need to be put in place going forward which will be discussed with SB/GA. Passengers - Dial-a-bus passengers seem to be slowly coming back and are asking about Health and Wellbeing trips again. Bryan and Diane are prepared to drive on Wednesdays to cover the trips. Funding - Currently due to the increase in percentage of the ACTI contract and the income we currently get from hires/donations we do not need to fundraise for operational funds.

The BX64 GHO is ageing, and a decision needs to be made soon with regards a replacement bus.

ML came back to the board to inform that the Mid Deeside Hospital service is covered by the MDCT insurance.

Action: ML to research local driving instructors for test.

Woodlands

PL stated that they were waiting on the logging trucks to collect the last of the timber. The project leaders are discussing the best options for spraying the trees and where to store the equipment. Current options being looked at are contracting the spraying out which would average £1/tree estimated £16k. Citrus trees are safer from animals due to their foliage. There is evidence to suggest that spraying the edges could reduce the costs as this would deter the fauna from eating the saplings. The planting will take place in November so the project has a few months before making a decision.

Action: GA to look for funding for the Lady Wood.

ABPA

FR highlighted that the planning application has been approved including the amendments which focus on a pump track. This would include an asphalt surface for multiuse including skateboarding and scooters. FR went to research a similar track in Boat of Garden.

To comply with the new constitution the board would expect an operational bank account to come under MDCT management.

Action: Treasurer ABPA to move funds to MDCT.

HARP

There have been positive moves to maintain the property by the owners over the last couple of months. There is an article in the Press & Journal tomorrow.

Aboyne FareShare

Nothing to report.

Aboyne Green Spaces

ML gave an overview of the summer planting schedule to the board. There have been over 800 plants put in the planters and planting areas. The box hedging has been replaced in the square also. A big thank you to the Seed Box for donating a large number of plants to the project. DM gave an update on the trees and shrubs to be replaced/cut back on the green.

Aboyne Paths & Tracks

DK gave an update for the project.

Accessible paths for Deeside Way - the money has now been raised £63k from Paths for All and £25k Peoples Postcode Trust for the project to go ahead. The aim is to wait until the money is raised for other projects to reduce contractor cost.

Shared Prosperity Fund got level up funding. £50k landfill and £100k Hugh Fraser fund. BR raised the question regarding penalties to be incurred due to winter weather. DK is looking at the options to avoid liabilities.

Glen Tanar Link Path – Raised so far £100k Paths for All, which can be 70% of total cost. This project needs to raise another £100k to partly match fund. They will collate ideas using perching posts at Victory and Mens Shed.

	<p>AYH – They are now a constituted group and they have found a safeguarding officer to support the project. AE will arrange a meeting with Alistair Aboyne to discuss the project and gather support. The project is awaiting a Community Learning Development (CLD) officer to come back to them with regards to moving forward with the project.</p>
	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Farmers Market – The projects and representatives to attend will be Woodlands FR, Transport GA, Paths & Tracks and Green Spaces.</p> <p>Renewable Energy – nothing much to report apart from there is an idea to get the old mills going again.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 19th July 2023 at 7pm at Aboyne & Mid-Deeside Community Shed. The next meeting in August will be the AGM.</p> <p><i>Meeting schedule is 3rd Wednesday of each month.</i></p>

Date Approved

Chairman