

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting at Community Shed and on Zoom

21st September 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair) mins, Peter Barker (PB), Phil Lee (PL), Dave Marshall (DM), Mark Mitchell (MM), Gail Amey (GA), Steve Gardyne (SG) and Johnathan Kitching (JK) via zoom.
Apologies:	Richard Smout (RS), Geva Blackett GB (Aberdeenshire Council), and Brian Rae (BR), Alistair Brodie.
1.	Welcome and Approval of Minutes: The approval of the Minutes of 20 th July 2022 were proposed by SG and seconded by PL.
2.	Accounts: GA updated the board on the status of the project funds.
3.	Project Updates: Transport Ongoing problems with driver shortages ensue. All vehicles passed MOT and 10-week service. Woodlands Wood has been harvested and is sitting at the road side, much has been picked up by DWP. No monies received so far from the contractor, AE has chased up DWP. Pine and fir are getting a good price but not so much for biomass. Plan to secure the gate to monitor the collection of the logs which have been clogged up for firewood. Plan to use a dumper to pick up the wood and transport to the shelter. New signage for Bell Wood and Ladywood is being researched and a decision by the committee will be made soon. The 10-year forest plan is scheduled to be updated for Ladywood and Bellwood, which MDCT can apply for a grant to cover the costs, it will include plans for thinning and felling. ABPA MM will be stepping down due to the end of his tenure on the MDCT Board. The planning application has expired its 3-year approval and unfortunately the committee will have to reapply. MM will update the progress for next meeting. Wheelers A milestone for funding is coming up. The committee is exploring extending the planning permission for the park. Still need to decide on the minimum action with the environmental development officer to keep the planning application active. The 7th October will be McRobert deadline for funding, which will have an impact on Sport Scotland fund which is conditional to the successful match funding plan. Community Led Development Fund has unfortunately past them by as the lead time is too short. Raw material costs have gone up by £30k. CPR Deeside Nothing new to report. Aboyne Paths & Tracks Group (email update from JK)

1. APTG AGM is on Tues 11th Oct. All welcome.
2. Attempts to calm traffic on the Birsemohr road ongoing with discussions with Aberdeenshire Council
3. APTG have had a good degree of grant success recently to go towards the current path projects
4. Progress has been made on the Glen Tanar to Aboyne Link. Next step is a full Scoping report.
5. Castle Woods Project is on track with progress on applying for planning permission and work on the rams to get into the wood at the recommended gradient
6. The three woodland walks on the south of the river (Dunecht Estate) is making steady progress.
7. Attempts to re-invigorate path renovation on the Mortlich / Little hill paths is ongoing with Dessmuir Estate
8. APTG continue to pressurise / help the council solve the Old Line tree blockage. Work with Mar Paths forum.
9. Fungle, Guard to the Tank track link is making good progress. This is a development with 8 organisations getting involved
APTG, ATA, Doon the Brae, Horseback UK, the Rotary, Glen Tanar, Chris Rodgeron and the Princes Trust.
10. APTG plan to put a new map together in autumn 2024

HARP

A second request has gone to the owners for minor works to be done on the property. Nothing has changed.

Station Square Renovation Project

Finished closing off upper square road. Tree guards and trees for the area which has been closed off have been ordered and planting is scheduled to refresh bare areas. Very pleased with the contractor (KNC) who was on time and on budget. There was some funding in the Placed Based grant left to finish off the square, so an "Aboyne" planter was purchased. The plan to install a water gathering system on the games shed is ongoing. The money needs to be spent by end of year. The committee discussed options to store the bowser during the winter.

Aboyne FareShare

Successful funding came in from Tesco and Coop.

Aboyne Green Spaces

Regular watering, weeding and tidying sessions are held each Monday with 6 to 12 volunteers. We have planted the area next to the Huntly and also the strip in front of the victory hall. Winter plants have been ordered.

H&W

Nothing to report.

Jubilee Fountain

Nothing to report.

Education

Nothing to report.

Artist in Residence

North East Open Studios (NEOS) event was well attended. The new term workshops for individuals and groups have commenced and are well attended.

4.	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Facebook - We have setup a new facebook page. It was recognised that we do not promote the activities of the charity as well as we could. We need to allocate time to update the website and The Deeside Piper regularly.</p> <p>Resilience SG gave an update, Leaflets have been dropped through the doors in Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne. Money has been received from SSE and kit has been ordered for the generators. Volunteers have been approached from each village as well as a maintenance plan procedure. An alternative site has been sought in Aboyne.</p> <p>Log Bank Marr Area Partnership Initiative in cooperation with Chris in Coull, will receive donated wood from Dinnet estate and Invercauld, they will chop, bag and store for a low cost. Finding ways to distribute to those in need will be the next challenge.</p> <p>Royal Deeside Partnership (RDP) – AE held a meeting with Ballater Royal Deeside, also with Braemar Community Limited from Marr Area, we meet regularly to look for areas of cooperation. Visit Ballater is a business association that was set up to attract people to their village, we learned how they organize their water and planters which looked really good this year. We also learned about how these groups are set up and what their focus is.</p> <p>Succession planning - there are three members of the board that need to be replaced, including the chairman.</p> <p>Upcoming Events: The possibility of using the lower square was discussed for Xmas markets etc.. Alistair Tong from the Rotary Club Aboyne & Deeside is hosting a networking event on the 17th October and has invited MDCT, Aboyne & Mid-Deeside Community Shed, Aboyne Paths & Tracks and Aboyne Fireworks Committee.</p> <p>Updates: Stephanie as suggested as a possible addition to the Board.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 19th October 2022 at 7pm at Aboyne & Mid-Deeside Community Shed.</p> <p><i>Meeting schedule is 3rd Wednesday of each month.</i></p>

Date ApprovedChairman