

# MINUTE OF MEETING

## MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST – BOARD

28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Victory Hall, Aboyne

<b>Present:</b>	Hamish Forbes (HF)(Chair), Lynn Mackie (LM), Duncan Cassie (DC), Richard Smout (RS), Gil Barton (Minutes), Alan Emslie (AE) Wilson Forbes (WF).
<b>Apologies:</b>	Apologies received by Cllr Peter Argyle (PA), Mark Mitchell (MM) and Barry Hauxwell (BH).
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</b>  The minutes for the meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018 were approved. The minutes were proposed by LM and seconded by AM.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Accounts:</b>  AM asked for explanation as to the relationship with Alan and Black which was clarified by HF in that they provide the driver for the bus. There was a discussion on the financial position of MDCT. It was agreed that in line with Aberdeenshire Council staff salary increases, the MDCT staff will be awarded a 3.6% increase to their salaries. There was a discussion on the fountain costs which have to be met and in particular the decontamination of the water. AE asked if we have any control over the playpark on the green and HF confirmed the council are responsible for repairs and maintenance. It was agreed that the Educational Classes had significantly increased the general funding and with their demise the balance was reflected by this. The Board agreed that if any new ideas would be considered to try and re-generate this funding stream. The Royal Deeside Partnership funding was reduced by 25% from 1 <sup>st</sup> April however we are extremely grateful to Cllr Peter Argyle and the other councillors who fought to secure the 75% to ensure this valuable work continues for another year. Bike park banking situation - if they are part of MDCT then account needs to be within MDCT banking. HF going to speak with Gail and MM to clarify position.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Deeside Community Transport:</b>  The Co-op have agreed to continue supporting the bus to the sum of £5k. LM advised that there was to be a visit to look at new buses tomorrow and will update accordingly. Advertising of the Mid Deeside Hospital Bus Service is about to start in Easter. Rebranding is currently underway and buses rebranding will be undertaken shortly.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Project Updates:</b>  <b>Woodlands</b> <u>Re-stock Cpt 5</u> The invoices for planting, provision of transplants and scarifying have all been received and paid. They are nominally below budget. BH has asked RTS to get us the invoice for fencing ASAP which is expected to be nominally over budget .In summary the overall budget will be as expected. Deer got into the wood however volunteers managed to get it out eventually and thanks to all those who assisted.

#### Aboyne Academy Wood work

BH has not heard from Liam Ball for some time but is aware matters are progressing. Given that it is exam time currently in the academy it is not anticipated that matters will progress immediately. He will however get back to BH when the benches, 17 way markers and signs are ready for collection. With regard to the nature project BH has not heard anything from the academy regarding this.

#### Car Park

BH and HF had agreed that the loan agreed at the last meeting would be made via woodland funds; this was passed on to Sam and Gail hence this note is copied to them.

You will recall MT's advice that the trees requiring removal (small in number) could be part of localised "thinning" and that that activity should be completed pre tree survey. BH had suggested that these trees and those at the Bike Park could be a single activity, this however does not appear to be the case. BH spoke with Sandy Sim and he has the necessary accreditations to undertake this. The MDCT office has information on this. We need to have a conversation with MT regarding providing the tree survey and any habitat requirement. AE will make contact with MT regarding this. BH has also copied information to James Reid at RTS.

BH's believes the approach required for the new car park should be tackled with three distinct priorities:

- Planning Consent
- Fund raising
- Designing the content of the planning consent with the need to create as low a budget as possible

BH suggests the group of 4 making up the project group each take one of these and then proceed on a co-ordinated basis.

#### Public Access Grant

BH will continue working on this in France and will update as necessary.

#### Bag Pack Enhanced Woodland funding

Lynn led the bag pack on Saturday at the Co-op and only had 7 volunteers made up of board members and their families. Very disappointing when whole of membership had been asked. The rebranding was well received by those who donated and there appeared to be interest. The amount raised was £450.

**CPR Deeside** – no formal update.

#### **Community Garden**

HF reported that he had heard back from Alistair Aboyne who has said no to the request for land for a community garden and potential place to park the community buses. RM reported that he had made contact with the Aboyne gardening club and that the club were meeting tonight and will feed back to RS to explore a possible collaborative approach. HF will speak to Marcus Humphrey re possible land at Rhu-na-Haven Road for bus park and community garden.

#### **Young@♥Deeside**

GB provided the Board with an update on progress with this project which is progressing well. Informal focus groups are being held in Aboyne, Ballater and Braemar on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April respectively. They will run from 10.30 to 12 noon and tea, coffee and healthy nibbles will be provided for participants. Aileen Longino from Aberdeenshire Voluntary Agency (AVA) who has been leading the project has set up a Facebook page and has been advertising widely in local magazines, shops, libraries etc. The aim of the project is:

- **young@♥deeside** aims to provide a sustainable network of activities, clubs and

	<p>support to older people in the rural communities of Aboyne Ballater and Braemar by helping reduce social isolation and inequalities by connecting these communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will create effective and creative communication tools which will enable capacity building, supporting health and wellbeing of communities to be the best they can!</li> </ul> <p><b>Aboyne playgroup</b> The Aboyne playgroup has approached MDCT looking for funding. MDCT cannot provide funding for groups or individuals. All available funds are ring fenced for the specific projects. Our remit is not to provide charitable donations.</p> <p><b>Community friendly facing</b> As part of the rebranding exercise and new website, short biographies of the Board of Directors and staff along with photographs will be included in the website. The idea is to make the website and indeed MDCT more forward facing and approachable.</p> <p><b>Donation Request</b> A request was made by a board member to provide a donation to the recently bereaved widow of Nathan Gunn. This request was discussed at great length by the Board. After said discussion, the Board all agreed that unfortunately it is not within the MDCT remit to provide charitable donations to individuals or groups. The funds held by MDCT have been secured for a specific project and any deviation would be misappropriation of funds. Any such donation could also be in breach of OSCR rules. The Board is aware that a 'Just Giving' page has been set up and donations can be made here accordingly.</p> <p><b>Aboyne breastfeeding</b> Vicky McPherson, Peer Support worker has sought MDCT's help with regard to a banking facility. The group have been successful in securing funding but have no bank account available currently and have requested if the money can be transferred to MDCT. The Board agreed this with a small administration charge being made.</p>
6.	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b></p> <p><b>Aboyne games</b> HF will ascertain from MM if MDCT are placing an advert in the brochure this year.</p> <p><b>Community council</b> An enquiry was made regarding the status of the Community Council and the Board were advised that Andrew Fyffe is chairperson and in due course there should be an ex officio from the council attending the MDCT board meetings.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Community Room, Deeside Community Centre, Aboyne.</p>

Date Approved ...25.4.18.....

.....S.O.O.....Chairman