

# MINUTE OF MEETING

## MID DEESIDE LIMITED – BOARD

17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm

Community Room, Deeside Community Centre, Aboyne

<b>Present:</b>	Hamish Forbes (HF)(Chair), Lynn Mackie (LM), Duncan Cassie (DC), Richard Smout (RS), Peter Argyle (PA), Barry Hauxwell (BH), Mark Mitchell (MM), Gil Barton, Alan Emslie (minutes), Gail Amey (GA, stayed for finance and transport)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Apologies received by Wilson Forbes.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</b>  The revised minutes for the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017 were approved. The minutes were proposed by LM and seconded by MM.
<b>2.</b>	<b>New Logo:</b> All agreed to the new Mid Deeside Community Trust logo.  <b>Website:</b> GA circulated a draft map of the new website which all agreed is looking good. It was agreed to defer the membership fee of £1 for now. It will be highlighted that membership is free to try to get more members. It was highlighted that we are not sure who is an active member and who is not. The data base has not been updated for some time. Discussed the Mid Deeside defined area. This was confirmed as being Dinnet to Kincardine O'Neil. A map exists and this could be made available on the website.  It was agreed that Health and Wellbeing will be added as a main project along with the transport and woodlands.  We have the opportunity to change our domain name to <a href="http://www.mdct.org.uk">www.mdct.org.uk</a> as it is available. We can still maintain the previous address for some time and link it to the new address to ensure that we are found. This was agreed by the board.  <b>Accounts:</b>  A statement of funds up to Jan 2018 was circulated to the board for review and approved. It was agreed to merge Active Aboyne account to MDL. It was felt that the Active Aboyne initiative had not been successful due to conflicting events. It could be reinstated in future if required.  Grant Considine fees to finalise the end of year accounts for 2017 is £3600 including VAT. Also reviewed the Banking Workflow. Discussed Bike park account. Plan to keep it inside MDL accounts.  GA explained that by having many bank accounts it increases the accounting costs incurred and is unnecessary as we have an accounting package that logs the funds (unrestricted/restricted) and the projects when the transaction is put into the system so it is easier to track. The board agreed to give permission to proceed with combining bank accounts from January 2018.  GA produced a summary of the Management Fees highlighting the allocation of the administration support for the year.

<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p> <p><b>Branching Out in Grampian:</b>  GB attended the Forestry Commission initiative launch of Branching Out in Grampian in December which was held at Crathes Castle. Further information can be found at <a href="http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/health-strategy/branching-out">http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/health-strategy/branching-out</a>. One of the programme leaders in Grampian has already been Midas trained by MDL with the plan being to use our bus to take participants to the woodlands. There is potential for the Bellwood to be utilised amongst others in the area such as Glen Tanner which was offered by Eric Baird who was one of the 30 attendees. GB will continue discussions and dialogue with the organisers.</p> <p><b>Young@♥Deeside:</b>  SB and GB attended the <b>Young@♥Deeside</b> meeting on the 16th January which is an initiative that has been in development stages for around a year. It is aimed at over 50's in the Deeside area to increase wellbeing through a variety of approaches. The group are now at the stage of setting it up constitutionally and applying for funding. Initial funding is being sought through the Aberdeenshire Wellbeing Festival which runs in May and is funded by the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership. A maximum of £300 per area can be applied for giving a potential total of £1200 if successful. In order for application to be made the board were asked if the group could, if successful in applying deposit the funds in a holding account in MDL. This was discussed and approved by the board on the basis that this would be a short term arrangement. The longer term aim of the project is to seek funding for a part time coordinator. SB and GB will continue to attend the meetings and GB is continuing to do a mapping of health and wellbeing work across the area and meeting with those involved.</p> <p><b>Deeside CPR:</b>  BH requested that Deeside CPR appear on the monthly Board Agenda and he will endeavour to provide an update each month</p> <p>BH advised that the Training Team report a busy start to 2018 with eight training sessions planned for the Aboyne Academy ,two for Lumphanan Primary ,and a further two for the village of Keig. The Braemar Community have requested two sessions (senior /adult. The majority of these sessions are planned before the end of Feb. Early March 2018.</p> <p>Due to this build up but also feedback from the team a further investment in equipment has been requested. (TV/DVD combo, Defibrillator Trainer, Badges for the Trainers). In addition, the group want to stimulate courses from the public in the major villages by having a small flyer designed for shops, community halls, etc. The cost of all these items should be less than £1000.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Deeside Community Transport:</b></p> <p><u>New Bus</u>  It will be a priority for to purchase a new 17 seater within the next 2 years as the BU12 SBX is over 5 years and there are 70,000 miles on the Hopper. Normal practice within DCT is to replace the serviced Deeside Hopper with the new bus and move the older model to serve local community groups. At current usage however we do not need 2 community buses. Discussed purchasing a 'Green Bus', these are more than twice as expensive as a regular diesel bus, plus we would need a place to park and plug into power. Leader funding is possible up to 50%. The process is very onerous though. It was felt that it would be much easier and cheaper to go for a standard diesel bus. It was</p>

	<p>agreed by all to do this. It is expected that green/electric buses will become cheaper and more readily available by the time we need to go for another replacement. GA will proceed with the application.</p> <p>We need to look at where we store and maintain the buses. We have volunteers who assist with this but it is felt that a longer term integrated solution is required. This would include, safe storage, cleaning, maintenance, charging etc. We could look at owning a place but it is believed that this could be expensive to purchase and maintain. The Coop was suggested as a possible location since they had previously indicated that this may be possible to do. Another suggestion was to see if we could use the Ambulance station since it is not continuously used by the Ambulance service. Another idea was to tie in with the new Men’s Shed initiative, this shed is planned to be near the Aboyne games storage shed.</p> <p>It is felt that we need to formally recognize volunteers who give up a lot of time and effort driving the buses also cleaning, storing and maintaining them.</p> <p><u>Transport to and from Aboyne Medical Centre</u>  Training in MiDAS for drivers and escorts as well as a PVG certificate will be required for all MDL volunteers. 5 drivers have been trained and 1 escort so far. We are just waiting for the certificates. We will need a brand name for the service that does not include “patient” in the wording. “Health Hopper” had been suggested but some felt that it may not be appropriate for people who may be on crutches or amputees. The use of the word Hopper is well accepted for the current bus so many feel that the Health Hopper is a good name for the service. Alternative suggestions are requested or approval for Health Hopper is needed since we need to conclude this soon.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Project Updates:</b></p> <p><b>Woodlands</b>  Update report given by BH. A letter had been sent to Mr M. Rasmussen with regard to an increase in the presence of roe deer in his garden. No further communication on the subject has been received.</p> <p><u>Bellwood Replacement Car Park</u>  Planning consent is needed for replacing the existing car park. The architect has produced a drawing. AE will request a quote from contractor to allow initial estimate for project. In order to finalize drawings, a topographical and tree survey will be required. A further project meeting will be planned to move things forward.</p> <p><b>The Ladywood</b>  BH advised that HF AE and himself had walked the Lady Wood to identify any needs. Difficulty was encountered in identifying between formal and informal paths but otherwise other than tidy up activities no specific needs were identified. The damaged oak reported by MM has been removed and the contractor duly paid.</p> <p>It was agreed to progress with the F.C. public access grant which when available could be put to use initially in the Ladywood. A new path at the westerly end utilised presumably by those from the new houses off Tarland Road could replace an informal one there.</p> <p><b>Bellwood</b>  BH advised as follows:-  Cpt 5 restock the Scarifier has now complete work and demobilised from the site. Actions to follow are Complete Fencing, Delivery of Transplants and then Planting by contracted labour. It is hoped for completion by mid-March 2018.</p>

	<p>The Bell Wood has experienced random fire lighting during 2017 on a scale which is very disturbing. The possible consequences of this could be catastrophic to the woodland, the public, their property and the wildlife. BH has ordered further signage “no fires” and intends seeking police advice as to how to handle any future such action together with the working wording of a warning notice.</p> <p>Xmas tree sale had raised approx. £700.</p> <p>Attempts are being made to encourage use of the Bell Wood for “Health Walks” GB reported on discussion re the FC’s Branching Out initiative and BH the MacMillan Nurse Chemo patient walk initiative.</p> <p>The Aboyne Academy are now working on Benches, Way Marker Posts and Sign Boards for the Bell Wood. BH advised that beyond the Restock of Cpt 5 he intended giving priority to the Public Access grant available via the F.C. and Scottish Rural affairs.</p> <p><b>Bike Park</b></p> <p>MM has circulated the plans for an extension and advised the meeting that the designer had attempted to minimise the extent of tree removal as noted. He further advised that the concept proposed could not be achieved without those trees indicated being removed.</p> <p>BH suggested that the board needed to give attention to the impact on the woodland generally associated with the development specifically relating to car parking, access track usage and use of the low road for access.</p> <p>The board agreed that the Bike Park extension and the proposed new Bellwood Drive car park would need to be completed on a co-ordinated basis and that the 2 discreet projects should run in parallel. It was also noted that ABPA should encourage access via the Low Road. On that basis it was agreed by the board that ABPA could proceed with the necessary permissions.</p> <p>BH added that as the Bike Park extension was targeting older bikers it may be necessary in future to create access to the Bike Park via the main track to avoid potential incidents along the narrower path ways. (See previous comments re health walks.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b></p> <p>Aboyne Wheelers: HF mentioned that the project is progressing, and planning and permissions are ongoing.</p> <p>HF – again raised the need for succession planning for the board next year with both HF and BH finishing their 6 year terms in November. A vice chairman position should be included to assist with this.</p> <p>HF mentioned that they had received the lawyer’s bill. He was planning to query it since it appears that there may be some double charging going on.</p> <p>LM asked if it would be possible to put a barrier on the bridge across the Tarland burn to allow pedestrians and bicycles to pass freely but to stop mini tractors etc. this could stop the person who has been entering the woods with a tractor and chainsaw to remove firewood.</p>

	<p>With ref to changing our name. MM suggested that we sponsor a local event at the Aboyne games. Also, to put an article/advert into the games magazine since it has wide coverage.</p> <p>The vision or lack of one was discussed with a view to putting it up on the website. GB had suggested “To assist Mid Deeside communities to flourish”. The objectives also need to be reviewed to see if they are still relevant or if they need to be updated. PA highlighted that if we update the objectives we would need to go through the memorandum of understanding, update companies house etc. even for a change of a few words. It will need to be decided at the next meeting if any changes are required.</p> <p>Deeside partnership: HF mentioned that the next meeting would be held in January. The £3000 of funding is under threat and may stop by March. PA mentioned that Aberdeenshire council will try to keep funding for this partnership going.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 at 7.00pm in the (location TBD) but probably <b>MDL office</b>, Victory Hall, Aboyne.</p>

...**SOO**.....**Chairman**