

# MINUTE OF MEETING

## MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST – BOARD

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00 pm

Conference Call on Zoom

<b>Present:</b>	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair), Brian Rae (BR), Johnathan Kitching (JK), Cllr Peter Argyle, Steve Gardyne (SG), Richard Smout (RS) and Gail Amey (GA) mins
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mark Mitchell (MM), Peter Barker (PB) and Dave Marshall of MDCC (DM)
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</b> The approval of the Minutes of 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 were proposed by JK and seconded by SG.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Accounts:</b> There was nothing new to report – the accounts were sent out late.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Project Updates:</b>  <b>Transport</b> The passenger numbers are still down on the transport which is due to several factors such as passenger's passing, ill health, and passenger confidence. We have ordered a converted VM Crafter, and we hope to receive the new bus before March 2022, which will replace the DX64 BBJ that is used for the Dial-a-bus.  <b>Woodlands</b> Storm Arwen had a devastating impact on the paths in the woodlands. A big thanks to Duncan and his team who managed to clear the paths in two days. Alan proposed that the project, on the recommendation of RTS would join cooperative Deeside Woodland Products cooperative. The fee is £120/year for min of 2 years which would cover felling and resell of wood with a 6% commission to DWP the other contractors involved would take a percentage per tonne. This has the advantage of allowing access to harvesters and contractors at preferred rates, as well as assistance with the felling license and organisation of the various contractors involved. It is all conducted 'open book' so that the costs and benefits are transparent. There is firewood for collection in the wood, which is available for a donation, we have had a few takers so far.  <b>ABPA</b> They plan to make a film for Visit Aberdeenshire to use for advertising. Successful funding from Tesco.  <b>Wheelers</b> Unsuccessful for Landfill fund because we were so marginal in distance from the landfill. Sports Scotland are now capping £50k for a Skatepark and they would prefer to have match funding for the 'Skatepark. There are further smaller funds which are being explored. A larger fund is the Play Space Investment Fund is a fund that will be going live in February where we plan to put in an expression of interest. There will be a meeting shortly to discuss future funding and online donations options. More projects have been applying during COVID.  <b>CPR Deeside</b> Nothing new to report.  <b>Aboyne Paths &amp; Tracks Group</b>

	<p>The team are working with a number of landowners to help remove Arwen fallen trees. Projects continue on a number of fronts; Castle woods easy access paths loops, the Aboyne to glen Tanar Link path, Paths and tracks on the south of the river, Dunecht estate, Dessmuir Estate and upgrading of the old line, the gate on Robert Gardens river side path is about to go in, the Christmas hamper raised £550 for our running costs and £150 for other projects and the forthcoming work parties are planned for a number of small projects.</p> <p><b>HARP</b> Discussions with owner ongoing. Sale to prospective buyer appear to have fallen through. Hotel is still for sale. Discussions held with Scottish Land Fund regarding a possible application.</p> <p><b>Station Square Renovation Project</b> BR gave an update. Contractor finished the project but there is a glitch with planning, we had added planters on the north side of the plan which unfortunately has turned out to be out with the redline border that was in our planning application. Requested to put a new planning application for the additional planters etc. Insurance required to cover for the liability of the planters and seats due to contract with Aberdeenshire Council. Additional grant of £15k may be used for additional works in the upper square. BR has asked that MDDC may pick up the gauntlet for the next planning application. We are waiting on a new tree to replace the current one in the island, which has been requested to be replaced by MDCT since it is below the standard expected.</p> <p><b>Aboyne FareShare</b> Project is still very active. Nothing new to report apart from the change in the Lead for the project. Sally McLardy has now taken over from Nicola Ewan.</p> <p><b>Community Garden</b> RS gave an update to fruit tree planting going ahead at St Edwards' church and Deeside Way and in the Bell Wood. There is a need to organise a rota team to water new plants at Station Square and Ballater Road.</p> <p><b>H&amp;W</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Jubilee Fountain</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Education</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Artist in Residence</b> The courses are going well and have started again. Additional funding has been applied for to sustain the project.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resilience Project is being run as a subgroup of MDDC. The Aboyne &amp; Mid Deeside Community Shed and MDCT have been in discussions with regards to putting in an analogue line and an electricity source (generators or batteries) to be another venue for resilience. SG volunteered to sit on the resilience committee on behalf of MDCT.</li> </ol>

	2. AE would like to hold another Strategy Meeting this year to discuss succession planning, recruitment and funding. Asked the Board to forward recommendations to include on the Board.
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> The next meeting will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7pm via Zoom.</p>

**Date Approved**

.....16.2.22.....SOO.....Chairman