

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST – A.G.M

26th October 2018 at 7.30 pm


Formaston Room, Victory Hall, Aboyne

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| Present: | Hamish Forbes (Chairman) (HF), Wilson Forbes, Mark Mitchell, Richard Smout, Alan Emslie, Gil Barton, Sheila Forbes, Ruth Emslie, David Scott, Jennifer Gibbons |
| Apologies: | Apologies received from Barry Hauxwell, Andrew Fife, Fiona Clenshaw, Alison Smith, Michael Smith, Ian Wallace, Lynn Mackie, Joanna Sinclair, Doug Mackie, Victoria Mackie, John Barr, June Barr, David Jenkins, Margaret Jenkins |
| 1. | <p>Welcome and Approval of Minutes:</p> <p>HF welcomed everyone to the AGM and also listed those who sent their apologies. The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved, proposed by Gil Barton and seconded by Richard Smout.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Chairman's Report:</p> <p>HF thanked Barry Hauxwell who has resigned his position in MDCT for all his time, commitment and energy he has put into the Bell Wood project. He then went onto thank the Board, the sponsors, all the volunteers and MDCT staff; Gail and Sam.</p> <p>The current year, 2017 has been another successful one for the charity despite the challenges of attracting funding and also volunteers. The accounts currently show that we are currently in a healthy financial position but this is not guaranteed. The challenges for the future will be raising funds for purchasing new buses for our community transport operation and also for the restocking of our community woodlands. Attracting new volunteer is also an ongoing challenge and MDCT would welcome new members.</p> <p>HF then went onto the current MDL projects:</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>The Deeside Hopper bus service has been well used during 2018 with 8,000 passengers being transported around the Mid-Deeside area on the "Hopper" in 2018. The 2 community buses we operate continue to be utilised by around 47 local community groups.</p> <p>MDCT received grant approval from the Marr Area to run a pilot scheme to transport people to and from the Aboyne Health Centre and Hospital. The pilot scheme started in the spring and 5 new Midas trained drivers have been recruited to enable us to build up a pool of drivers to operate the community buses.</p> <p>MDCT still intend to explore buying a "green bus" in the future and have had meetings with Aberdeenshire Council regarding funding. Apart from the cost of purchasing a green bus there are currently insufficient charging points in the area.</p> <p>Woodlands</p> <p>This project continues to flourish with Cpt 5 of the Bell Wood being restocked in the first quarter of 2018, the principal transplant being Norway Spruce with a strip of native Scottish Broad leaf at both the westerly and easterly ends of the compartment. This activity was the subject of a grant for the restock made to us by the Scottish Government although 90% of the cost had to be provided from the trusts funds.</p> <p>The restock has involved the erection of a deer fence around the area to protect the</p> |

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| | <p>transplants from deer, hare and rabbit. The public has assisted by reporting any sightings of deer, who despite the fence have managed to enter the area.</p> <p>A significant level of maintenance by volunteers has been made to the path network within the Wood by strimming overgrown adjoining undergrowth and removing any trees fouling the paths.</p> <p>Routine inspections of the path network in the Lady Wood has taken place and any necessary remedial work undertaken.</p> <p>Aboyne Academy has been of great assistance to the woodland by providing way marker posts, additional bench seating and notice boards. The installation of these items has been started, again by volunteers. Further dialogue with Aboyne Academy is planned in an effort to establish if a nature project in the Bell Wood could be developed to assist the Academy and to also aid all things natural within the woodland.</p> <p>MDCT has been in dialogue with the Bellwood Residents Association in respect of a new car park to service the woodland. As a consequence of this, a formal Planning Application is currently being prepared and the search for grant assistance made. Commitment to fund approximately 50-60% of the anticipated costs has been received. The estimated number of visitors to the Bell Wood is thought to have doubled since the preparation of the existing Forest Plan and this together with the emergence of " health walks " is the primary justification for the new car park.</p> <p>The sale of Christmas trees in 2017 in line with the previous two years was successful and a similar sale is planned for this year. Funds raised will go towards the project and its ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>Aboyne Bike Park</p> <p>Aboyne Bike Park located in The Bell Wood is still popular and the plans to enlarge the existing facilities are moving forward.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>We are still organising the community education and it is an area that MDCT are keen to expand.</p> <p>Work Experience</p> <p>We met with Aboyne Academy to forge closer links and this resulted in Aberdeenshire Council agreeing to a work placement from the Academy which took place successfully in May this year.</p> <p>Jubilee Fountain</p> <p>The Jubilee Fountain at the entrance to Aboyne Green continues to be our responsibility in terms of repairs and lighting.</p> <p>Aboyne Wheelers</p> <p>The Aboyne Wheelers' project to build a skate park near the Community Centre in Aboyne is still an ongoing project which will hopefully reach the stage of obtaining planning consent soon.</p> <p>Deeside CPR</p> <p>We continue to support Deeside CPR with their operations involving the defibrillators and the Heart Start Courses which they have organised.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Approval of Accounts</p> <p>The 2017 accounts were discussed and proposed by Mark Mitchell and seconded by Ruth Emslie. HF reported that the accounts were healthy however did point out that the funds were all ring fenced for specific projects and in particular the purchase of a new bus which will need to be addressed in October 2019.</p> |

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| 4. | <p>2017 was a Year of Change</p> <p>After the approval at the 2017 AGM of the name change from Mid Deeside Ltd to the Mid Deeside Community Trust, 2018 has been a year of exciting change. The new website has recently been launched and this will be an area that we will be building on over the next year. The rebranding is now complete and the community buses and village hopper have also had the livery updated to reflect the new logo and name change. There has been positive feedback on the logo and new name.</p> <p>A new area of development is 'Health and Wellbeing' and this is an area that complements the other main projects. Gil Barton, Trustee responsible for this new area reported on the two main initiatives that are being developed mainly the establishment of a Mid Deeside Health and Wellbeing group who are looking into the establishment of a Social Prescribing Model and the 'Young@Heart Deeside' initiative. Further information can be found on the website http://www.mid-deeside.org.uk/.</p> <p>The re-establishment of the Mid Deeside Community Council is welcomed and we now have Ian Wallace as the MDCC representative sitting on the MDCT Board.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Questions and Answers:</p> <p>There was discussion on the timing of the AGM and it was agreed that providing the Accounts are signed off then ideally this should be in the summer to allow for more current activity reporting.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Election of Directors</p> <p>Barry Hauxwell, Director responsible for the Woodlands has resigned after 5 years of hard work. The Board would like to acknowledge formally and to thank Barry for his commitment and dedication which has led to the success of the Woodlands Project today. Alan Emslie is now the Trustee responsible for the Woodlands Project.</p> <p>Wilson Forbes, Lynn Mackie and Duncan Cassie have kindly agreed to continue on as Trustees.</p> <p>Hamish Forbes discussed the challenges of recruitment of volunteers both for the Board and the projects. He acknowledged that we are seeking younger volunteers and particularly women to provide more equity. He asked all those present if they could encourage anyone interested in being involved in MDCT to come forward. There are currently 2 board vacancies.</p> |
| 8. | <p>A.O.B.:</p> <p>Nothing further.</p> |
| | <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>To be confirmed.</p> |

Date Approved 25/8/19

.....Chairman