

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST – BOARD

21st November 2020 at 7.00 pm

Conference Call on Zoom

Present:	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair), Johnathan Kitching (JK), Lynn Mackie (LM), Nadine Stuart (NS), Duncan Cassie (DC) Brian Rae (BR), Cllr Peter Argyle (PA), Dave Marshall of MDCC (DM) and Gail Amey (GA) (Minutes)
Apologies:	Richard Smout (RS), Mark Mitchell (MM) and Wilson Forbes (WF).
1.	Welcome and Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 21 st October 2020 were approved by JK and seconded by AE.
2.	Accounts: The end of year has been closed on SAGE. A review of 6 monthly DCT accounts has shown a deficit that will need to be found using COVID funding for the 12-month period. Community Transport revenue has reduced by £14k. The percentage of ACTI grant that is unspent will have to be returned in March 2021 we estimate the amount to be £10k.
3.	Project Updates: Transport A big thank you to MM who has collected the new bus from England and dropped off the 17-seater to be sold. The livery is being applied on Friday 20 th Nov and all buses will be sanitised on Monday 23 rd Nov. The DAB continues to operate at a reduced level but at maximum capacity all days. We are continuing transport to NHS hospital appointments. Station Square Renovation Project We were awarded as the project holder £135k to upgrade the south and north square which needs to be started by March 2021 and completed prior to September but ideally by Aboyne Games in 1 st weekend of August. AE updated the Board on the discussions between Aberdeenshire Council, MDCC, Aboyne Business Association. We have been supported by the council in terms of planning and release dates for the grant. The meeting between MDCT and MDCC to discuss the project resulted in a few challenges for the project. MDCC would like to revisit the consultation and timeline prior to going to an architect or progressing any of the workscope. The position of MDCT is that the timeline is incredibly tight and that the amount of time required for another proposed large-scale community consultation and evaluation would mean we would not complete the project in the specified time which would be very problematic for MDCT. The project is based on an original survey in 2018, Aberdeenshire Council deem the last survey to be current and relevant and a strong basis for award of the funds. PA explained the Aberdeenshire Council position regarding timing, it has been imposed by the Scottish Government and we need to comply fully, or the funds will go elsewhere. It was agreed that the timeline is fixed and that MDCT would communicate to other stakeholders their intent to either follow the current proposal or we cannot accept the funds from Aberdeenshire Council. AE will follow up an email to MDCC and DM will revert back to MDCC also.

Woodlands

DC reported there was an incident last Saturday with motorbikes in the woodlands. It was suggested that camera traps could be considered as a deterrent. There has also been damage to some slats on the board walk, Roy Grant went up to fix the slats at the weekend. It was believed to have been caused by a horse walking on the board walk. The trust decided that due to COVID they would not be cutting down Christmas trees this year. First planting session for the new saplings will be next week with support from the Wheelers group. The new path was completed from the Bell Wood to Bellwade farm. In addition we used the hired digger and plant to clear paths of debris and mud all the way to the bike park entrance. Thanks to Paths and Tracks group for assisting with the new path and the path clearing.

ABPA

MM updated the board that an Expression of Interest has been put forward for some of the £8m put aside by Sports Scotland for biking (all disciplines). If it is accepted, they will then complete a full application. It will be reviewed in December (they do monthly rounds). ABPA plan to order 10 ton of type 1 and dust to do some repairs, hopefully before Christmas. Next week they are meeting Tom Cole from CRC at the site to mark out the pump track. They will then remove all the self-seeded Silver Birches to give some visibility for the future extension.

Wheelers

AE met with the team and in process of applying for funds to support this project.

CPR Deeside

Nothing to report.

Community Garden

RS had a meeting with Lord Aboyne. He has asked MDCT to start a project with them to take down Birch and plant some oak as well as put in a path. This will be reviewed and discussed further at a future meeting.

H&W

Nothing to report.

Jubilee Fountain

Nothing to report.

Education

No update.

Aboyne Paths Group

APTG are planning to apply to the MAR small grants scheme for two fencing projects, Along the castle path from the men's shed to the main drive. A riverbank fence up stream of the bridge to be moved back away from the bank edge.

To raise the funds to pay our Admin costs we are investigating how to raise some funds with a Christmas hamper (created by donations from within the paths group).

The path from Aboyne Loch to top of Mortlich is now clear of bracken and needs to be walked to help the path keep its identity. APTG helped Aboyne Fishings refurbish their

	<p>bridge on the path to the east of the village. The low road may well see a gate at the Village end put in by Aboyne Fishings. An Aberdeenshire Council Access officer has encouraged Chaz the ghillie to work with APTG to find funds for gates at the Waterworks end of the road. It was decided that APTG could have a presence on the MDCT stand at the farmers market on the 12 Dec to sell raffle tickets. Whilst ensuring that members of the community know that the MDCT annual hamper isn't happening this year but donations are very welcome to the food bank.</p> <p>Huntly Hotel DM reported that we have been gathering public opinion to support the feasibility survey. They have been in contact with the original company who drew up the fire design to add to the study. The positive update would be that completion of the study would be finalised by December. It was reported that the auction has been withdrawn due to the sale of the hotel. The owners have stated that the hotel has been sold to a buyer from the hospitality sector. We have agreed to continue complete the survey on behalf of the community to communicate their opinions if future planning is sought.</p> <p>Aboyne FareShare Due to personal circumstances the project co-ordinator will be stepping down from front line duties. She will however be continuing to organise the volunteers and project.</p> <p>COVID-19 Support There have been 1022 requests to date and now we have a list of regulars that we support on a weekly basis. The main concern is the number of volunteers remaining, if volunteers continue to decline, we will struggle to give the current level of support.</p>
4.	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New project – Defibrillator maintenance. MDCT transferred money to the First Responders to manage the defibrillators since MDCC was not functioning at the time. The First Responders would like to transfer the money back MDCC to maintain them as per the original agreement. There is £750 in the pot and MDCT have been approached to continue the maintenance since MDCC may struggle to raise the money required to fund the ongoing expenditure. 2. New project - <i>Socially-Engaged Artist in Residency in the Village of Aboyne, An Open Art Studio for the Village and surrounding area</i>. WF came forward to support the project but has been unable to take this forward. Men's shed has offered support and Gil Barton will also assist to get funds for the project. NS suggested that there is a Lottery Fund that could offer a project over a 2 year period. 3. We were approached by a local company for permission for them to use Segways (as well as e-bikes) on guided tours use in the Bell Wood. This has been declined by the Board since Segways are illegal to use on public roads or pavements in the UK. They can only be used in private land with the owners specific permission. 4. The Christmas market stall booked to promote projects such as Huntly Arms, Station Square, New Bus, Christmas hamper raffle?

	Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 16 th December 2020 at 7pm via Zoom.

Date Approved16.12.20.....S.O.O.....Chairman