

MINUTE OF MEETING

MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST – BOARD

16th December 2020 at 7.00 pm

Conference Call on Zoom

Present:	Alan Emslie (AE) (Chair), Johnathan Kitching (JK), Mark Mitchell (MM), Nadine Stuart (NS), Duncan Cassie (DC) Brian Rae (BR), Cllr Peter Argyle (PA), Richard Smout (RS), and Gail Amey (GA) (Minutes)
Apologies:	Lynn Mackie (LM), Dave Marshall of MDCC (DM) and Wilson Forbes (WF).
1.	Welcome and Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 18 th November 2020 were approved by MM and seconded by NS.
2.	Accounts: End of year complete. Will need to reconcile the funds which do not align.
3.	Project Updates: Transport 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 Bus revenue has reduced by £11k. The 6-month ACTI grant that is unspent will be £10k to be returned in March 2021. Woodlands DC highlighted the need for some more drainage on the repaired paths. Path repairs are ongoing to remove muddy patches and improve drainage on the paths. AE highlighted that approx. 500 trees have been planted but there are a few hundred trees left to plant in the Bell Wood. This will be done when the weather improves. ABPA MM updated the board of the maintenance and fundraising plans for the Bike Park. Wheelers AE and the team planted some trees which was reported in the P&J to raise awareness of the group. AE has been supporting the committee to apply for funding. One land fill fund which was about to be applied for was aborted due to an onerous claw back payment requirement. Other alternative land fill funds are being looked at. Aboyne Paths Group Work party in Castle woods 15th Dec, cleaned up 6 bin bags of rubbish and started to frame ideas as for a possible future 'all abilities' path. JK and RS to discuss ideas from Alistair Aboyne about the wood for forest garden and a paths network. A full plan needs to be agreed between the different stakeholders in MDCT. APTG awarded £2000 from Marr Area Committee for fencing work. Agreement made with Alistair Aboyne and Anne Harper to divide up the costs for the section of path between Castle

woods and Castle Drive and a section of fence up stream of Aboyne bridge that is being encroached upon by the river, making the path unsafe.

It was agreed APTG could use the unrestricted funds from the MDCT budget to cover any temporary costs pending claim back.

The APTG Christmas hamper raised £550.00 to cover its running costs.

Approached being made to Glen Tanar to get an official position on the idea of an Aboyne to Glen Tanar path.

Huntly Hotel

The HARP stall outside the Hotel during the recent Farmers Market was well received with lots of interest and enquiries and a continuing wish to see the Hotel saved. DM has requested copies of the main material. The outcome of the community survey currently remains as a Hotel with ground floor bar, bistro, restaurant, function rooms and kitchens restructured with possible self-catering lets also shops or retail units on the westside. Upper floors reduced, taking off flat roofs to reduce rooms to circa 25, reinstalling pitched roof line, taking back the rear extension to its original height. Heating by possible ground source renewable given the land available with gardens for outdoor and covered use with possible parking for vehicles, buses.

Station Square Renovation Project

NS updated the Board on the feasibility study with regards to the project. The committee have analysed the project and taken into account the positive feedback from the community. The outcome is that there are two options and that both have problems. The canopy option poses problems with moving car park spaces however this aspect of the project could be fulfilled within the time and budget. It was assessed that there is a high financial risk to the trust due to increased public liability and maintenance in the project's current form. It was agreed that MDCT would go back and discuss with Aberdeenshire Council different options and maintenance agreements to reduce long term liabilities for the trust.

Aboyne FareShare

A total of nine volunteers now registered with MDCT.

Information about project continues to be sent to relevant groups and organisations. Churches in the area have been contacted, and information sent to pre-school groups via Community Learning and Development.

Currently four groups are collecting food on a regular basis – Mid-Deeside Parish (supporting three community larders in Torphins, Lumphanan and Kinardine O'Neil; Aboyne After School Club; Cromar Food Waste Group (supporting Tarland School); Ballater Pop Up Soft Play (also includes food distribution to sheltered housing at Sluiemohr and Monaltrie Court).

Paperwork completed to register Aboyne Fareshare as a food business with Aberdeenshire Council. Registration successful, and business regarded as low risk – no further action required.

	<p>A second delivery received from FareShare Grampian – two pallets of mixed groceries on 5th November.</p> <p>FareShare have indicated that the grants provided by the Scottish Government to buy additional food as part of their Covid support initiative have now finished. This means that FareShare will return to its core business of redistributing food excess from the food industry, and the food supplied to Aboyne Fareshare may change. It is likely that there will be more short date food, and possibly fruit and veg, if we are able to accept it. Without refrigeration, this would have to be limited to items such as potatoes, onions, root vegetables, hard fruit, etc which would have a longer shelf life and not require refrigeration. We may have to change our delivery/collection days so food can be picked up immediately after delivery. Also, we may have to use some of our funds to purchase additional items or find other sources of food donations. Our partners collecting food have all been informed of this change and will be kept up to date with further developments.</p> <p>No costs were incurred this month.</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> <p>CPR Deeside MDCC have agreed to take on the maintenance of the defibrillators.</p> <p>Community Garden RS has still to contact the owner of the land to discuss the space. Had a meeting to discuss a forest garden to enhance what is already there. It will be a joint enterprise to include path, oak trees, fruit trees, signage which is open to the public.</p> <p>H&W Nothing to report.</p> <p>Jubilee Fountain Nothing to report.</p> <p>Education No update.</p>
4.	<p>A.O.B.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New project - <i>Socially-Engaged Artist in Residency in the Village of Aboyne, An Open Art Studio for the Village and surrounding area.</i> The Community Shed have agreed to support the project by offering a space. They may also be able to help with funding applications. An application to MacRobert trust is to be made since it was indicated that they were receptive to receiving an application. Funding and admin support are required to kick start the project.

	<p>2. Market Stall – A slot will be offered at each Farmers Market to a charity. We may only be able to get one slot, however we may be able to get more if there is less take up. It was decided to book the April slot and monitor it monthly to see if we can more opportunities.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place on 20th January 2020 at 7pm via Zoom.</p>

Date Approved20.1.21.....SOO.....Chairman