



TGDT AGM – Minutes
Ex-serviceman's Hall, Kirkmichael
27th March 2024 7pm
Held in-person in Kirkmichael

Attending members: Tilly Smith (TGDT Director & Chair), Sam Robinson (TGDT Director), Alastair Sharp (TGDT Director), Robert Mintram (TGDT Director), Chloe Clay (TGDT Director), Linda Morris (TGDT Director), Ellie Richardson (TGDT Director), John King, Andrea Campbell, Sean Green, Tracy Green, Martin Richardson, Karen White, Tony Birchall, Tony Thompson, Tricia Lawson, Phil Roger, John Shewan, Alyson Shewan, Charlie Ironside.

Apologies: David Toovey (TGDT Director)

In attendance: Oli Giles (TGDT staff), Lydia Fisher (TGDT staff), Claire Filer (TGDT staff)

1. Introduction and opening remarks

Tilly Smith (TS) opened the meeting and gave introductions. TS apologised for the lateness of the AGM and the amount of time between open meetings.

2. Apologies

Sam Robinson (SR) informed members that they had received no apologies. John Shewan (JS) gave apologies for David Toovey (DT).

3. Minutes from the previous AGM

The minutes from the previous AGM were approved; Phil Rodgers (PR) proposed and Tricia Lawson (TL) seconded.

4. Chair's report

TS gave the following chair's report.

This year has been another challenging but successful year for Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust. Looking back at what's been achieved by TGDT in the 2022 / 23 financial year I'm pleased to be summarising another year of substantial progress towards development plan projects and socio economic impact across our communities.

The year has been characterised by four main areas of focus:

1. Restarting operations and events following the global Covid 19 Pandemic which affected TGDT operations such as The Smugglers Hostel and Tomintoul and Glenlivet Discovery Centre and our programme of events in Glenlivet.
2. Completing the affordable housing development on the old school site in Tomintoul.
3. Deepening and extending the trusts impact in Glenlivet and Inveravon area with the creation of the Heritage Ranger role and extension of the Development Officer role. This has been made possible by grants from Dorenell Community Benefit Fund and continued support from Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association.
4. Progressing plans for a touring style campsite in Tomintoul which will bring economic benefit to the area and help TGDT become financially sustainable.

At the conclusion of the last reporting period significant progress had been made on our affordable housing project. Despite the challenges faced by our main contractor around availability of materials and labour exacerbated by Brexit and the invasion of Ukraine the project remained on budget and within an acceptable timescale for completion. Practical completion was reached at the end of the reporting period and Moray Council Building Control signed the project off on 6th March 2023. The first tenants moved in at the beginning of April 2023 and the site was fully occupied by September 2023.

In Glenlivet we were delighted to be putting on events again and supporting Tea in the Park which exceeded all expectations with a week so busy the small army of cake and soup makers were nearly overwhelmed! However the Glenlivet and Inveravon community rose to the challenge and the event was a huge success. Other notable events in Glenlivet included the live dance performance 6feet 3shoes and our Star Party weekend in September 2022.

During the plan period we were also successful securing funding for a Glenlivet and Inveravon Heritage Ranger from the Dorenell Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. The ranger role builds on the legacy of Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership providing visitors to heritage sites in the Glenlivet and Inveravon area with bespoke tours and events. Lydia also supports the Dark Sky group with events and has proved a real asset to TGDT and the area. Our 2021 community priorities survey continues to guide our work in Glenlivet supporting both hall committees with their vision for the Glenlivet and Chapeltown Halls is a priority.

Finally, recognition and thanks must go to our various funders and partners for helping us and our communities through another testing period. Fiona Robb at HIE has continued to play an important role supporting the trust, signposting to funding and helping us plan future projects. Communities Housing Trust have provided specialist housing advice have helped us navigate a complex and multifaceted project. Liz Henderson and Fiona McNally from CNPA continue to be a strong advocate for TGDT and provide valuable contributions at TGDT board meetings. We must also recognise the contribution Moray Food Plus make to TGDT in supporting our community Larder which has distributed over 1 tonne of food produce during the reporting period.

Your Trust board members have, without exception worked tirelessly to make everything you see and read in this annual report happen. The trust has restarted its operations quickly and efficiently following a difficult couple of years coping with the changing guidance around COVID 19. The trust has continued to take on new opportunities that deliver impact in our communities such as the Post Office and Heritage Ranger post. We are fortunate to have six knowledgeable and experienced board members but this does leave vacancies and I'd urge anyone considering joining the board to speak to a board member about this rewarding and varied role.

5. Operation Managers report

Oliver Giles (OG) gave highlights from the managers report.

6. Presentation of the annual accounts

OG gave the treasurer's report.

a. Appointment of Rubycom Ltd as group accountant

TS informed members that TGDT has changed their accountant.

7. Election of directors

AS informed the AGM of the resignation of two board members and that since the last AGM the board has co-opted two board members who will now become full board directors. There are also two new members standing for election. As there is no opposition for these seats on the board the four new directors were appointed. AS commented on the variety of skills that each board member brings and encouraged members to add to this by joining the board.

8. Closing remarks

TS gave the closing remarks.

9. AOB

Tony Thompson (TT) asked for confirmation about the accounts, TS explained.

JS asked where information about the new directors was posted. OG answered that they on the website. Charlie Irons (CI) Commented that a newsletter might be helpful to post this information. Ellie Richardson (ER) commented that the directors are in discussions about this.

Phil Rodgers (PR) commented that the accounts shows that there is a membership fee. The board confirmed that there is no membership fee and that this is a typo.

PR commented that there is no balance sheet. OG answered that the audited accounts have been provided. PR commented that there has been no school roll increase due to the affordable housing project. TS recognised this comment.

JS commented that website is hard to use. AS agreed that it is outdated. Members commented on the transparency issues this causes.

TS encouraged a discussion of these matters at the open meeting that will follow the AGM and thanked members for their comments.