



Tomintoul & Glenlivet
Development Trust

TGDT AGM – Minutes

Richmond Memorial Hall

9th November 2022 7pm

Held in-person and online in Tomintoul

Attending members: Tilly Smith (TGDT Director & Chair), Sam Robinson (TGDT Director), Phil Rogers (PR, TGDT Director), David Toovey (TGDT Director & Treasurer), Alastair Sharp (TGDT Director), Michele Birnie, Cathal Breen, Graham Linn, Guy MacPherson-Grant, Tricia Lawson, Jenny Hershell, John Shewan, Mike Woolvin, Tony Birchall, Euan Maxwell, Jeff Clare, Charles Stewart

Apologies: Patricia Nisbet, Patricia Hamilton, Alyson Shewan

In attendance: Oli Giles (TGDT staff), Lydia Fisher (TGDT staff), Rebecca Irons (TGDT staff), Mark Johnston (CES)

Welcome

Tilly Smith opened the meeting and set out its purposes before thanking members and staff for attending.

Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes of the 2021 AGM were presented by Phil Rogers and questions, or queries invited. There was a question about where the minutes were posted and it was confirmed that they were posted to the website. The minutes were proposed by Tony Birchall and seconded by Cathal Breen.

Chair's Report

This year has seen the project for affordable and sustainable houses near completion by Alpha Projects. The housing allocations policy published in July 2021 was published to reflect the community's housing needs. We are all looking forward to seeing the houses completed and occupied.

Although it was disappointing that the purchase of the Croft Inn didn't go ahead after the consultation, feasibility study and business plan, TGDT wish the new owners every success going forward.

Both the Glenlivet and Braes Hall are being supported by the Trust through consultations and have returned to delivering events and hosting performances.

Dark Skies are a priority for TGDT, and programming is underway. There is a new Dark Skies Exhibition at the Discovery Centre as well as plans for an observatory that are progressing. Thanks are due to Fiona Robb at HIE for helping with funding. Thanks are also due to the Community Housing Trust. Liz Henderson continues to advocate and support.

Trust members have worked tirelessly to make everything in the report happen. Six knowledgeable board members support the work of the trust.

Development Managers report:

The Development Managers report was presented by Oliver Giles. The reporting period for the AGM ran from April 2021 to March 2022. Significant impacts have risen due to the pandemic environment and prior to cost-of-living crisis, the TGDT foodbank was expanded.

Achievements:

Affordable housing project. The housing policy consultation favoured economically active individuals with strong local ties to the area. The open application process began in July 2022. The Trust has delivered a multi-million pound project. Twelve high specification houses are being delivered. As a result, the Trust has been asked to share our experiences with Shetland and other communities.

Tomintoul campsite. Feasibility study completed. The Lying-in-Field had wading bird issues and costs were prohibitive. For now the business and feasibility plan remains relevant.

The Trust were successful in delivering a new blue bike trail for the mountain bike centre, which has proved very popular and has now been extended by the centre. The bike centre is a great resource for the area.

Ventilation window improvements were undertaken at Richmond Hall and planters refurbished at Tomnabat Sheltered Housing in Tomintoul from shared funding.

There is a new dark sky exhibit at the Discovery Centre. The Smugglers Hostel and Discovery Centre continued to operate despite continuing COVID challenges.

Internet and broadband. The Community Broadband Scotland programme continues. Strathavon internet has just been upgraded.

Looking ahead we will be looking at finishing the affordable housing project with a completion date of late December or early January. The campsite project is continuing along with community improvements and programmes. We will be looking to continue the work of the Development Officer and Heritage Ranger roles. Thanks to staff, supporters, and funders.

Presentation of the annual accounts

The accounts were presented by David Toovey.

Tilly Smith confirmed that the Trust has the annual accounts for scrutiny.

Trust income in the reporting period was £721,237 an increase of almost 10% from 2020/21. Like for like income excluding the Affordable Housing grants was £222,538. Like for like expenditure for the same period increased from £194,004 to £239,698.

Income from the operation of the Smugglers Hostel fell from £17,649 to £5,304 and income for the same period at the Discovery Centre has risen from £1775 to £7,165.

The Centre has benefited from significant funding through the UK Government Covid support measures, and this is included in Trust grant income. Due to the continued impact of the global pandemic on tourism and events we are forecasting another significant reduction in earned income for Tomintoul Hostel Ltd and our Discovery Centre.

Tilly advised that since gaining charitable status, the accounting has become more complicated, and we are now being audited.

Guy McPherson Grant queried the “error message” on page 14 in the accounts. As the accounts are in draft this will be rectified before the final accounts are published.

Election of directors

The election of directors was presented by Alastair Sharp.

During the reporting period the Trust has had seven directors. After Doug Nisbet passed away, Laurence Prime was appointed. Certain member directors should retire but can be reappointed. Alastair, Laurence, and Philip are retiring, and the Trust allows for eight member directors. Alistair, Philip, and Laurence are seeking re-election. Usually done by acclamation in this instance. We can therefore say that those 3 directors are re-elected for next year.

Tilly Smith brought the AGM to a close and invited questions. There were no questions.