TGDT AGM

18th November 2020 (Draft)

Attending members: Sonia Hutchinson, Martin Hutchinson, Paul Irons, Tony Birchall, Tilly Smith (TGDT Director), Doug Nisbet (TGDT Director – Chair), John Polak (TGDT Director), Andrea Polak, Jean Birchall, Patricia Grant, Guy MacPherson Grant, Val Ireland, Fiona Toovey, David Toovey (TGDT Director – Treasurer), Pat Nisbet, Jenny Herschell, Mike Woolvin, Amy Woolvin, Scott Ashforth, Jennifer Stewart, Tricia Lawson, Andy Wallace (TGDT Director), Sam Robinson, Karen White, John Shewan, Alison Shewan, Phil Rogers (TGDT Director), Julie Rogers, Steven Herschell, Pat Wallace.

Others in attendance: Oliver Giles (TGDT staff), Rebecca Irons (TGDT staff), Simon Ovenden (Crown Estate Scotland), Murray Ferguson (CNPA), Fiona Robb

Apologies: Alistair Sharp (TGDT Director).

Welcome

Doug Nisbet opened the meeting and set out the purpose of the meeting?

Minutes of Previous AGM

Minutes of the 2019 AGM were proposed by Tricia Lawson and second by Mike Woolvin.
Members meeting notes were proposed by Guy MacPherson Grant and second by Doug Nisbet.

Chair's Report

Tomintoul and Glenlivet was identified as a fragile area in need of support following a 2010 consultation led by the Cairngorms National Park Authority. The Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust (thereafter 'TGDT' or 'the Trust') was formed in 2012 as a community body to address the regeneration of the local area. In 2019-20 the Trust continued to progress the priorities within the current Community Development Plan 2018-2022. The priorities progressed within this period were the Affordable Housing Development and the Caravan/Campsite in Tomintoul, whilst identifying and responding to development opportunities in Glenlivet. A 'Green Energy' study for the housing development was secured, significantly enhancing the design of the development. Importantly, community consultation on Charitable Status led to this being achieved later in 2020.

In Glenlivet, the Trust also instigated a management system that allowed 'Tea IN THE PARK' to continue successfully in 2019. The family event 'WILD in the park' was successfully repeated centred on Glenlivet Hall and the first 'Country Fair' was held in the square at Tomintoul. In partnership with North East Arts Touring (NEAT) the Trust hosted a number of cinema and live theatre events in Glenlivet and Richmond Memorial Halls. We were also

pleased that the Discovery Centre continued to attract a similar number of visitors in its second year of operation.

As I stand down from the Chair at this AGM, I am proud of what has been achieved by the Trust, even although we have only one full time member of staff, supported by part time and seasonal staff. I would like to thank our Board members who have attended and participated strongly in our Board meetings and undertaken many other volunteer activities. In my view, the stability and leadership of the current Board has led to an enhanced reputation for the Trust within the community and with our partners and stakeholders. Two of our members are standing down at this AGM to concentrate on their businesses in these challenging times and I thank John Polak and Andy Wallace for their service.

I would also like to thank our Cairngorms National Park representative Liz Henderson for her regular attendance at our Board meetings and the helpful advice she has provided along with the Park's Director of Planning and Development Murray Ferguson. The continuity of Fiona Robb of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) provides the Trust not only with a valuable source of knowledge but her support at our Board meetings and elsewhere has been an inspiration. HIE funding of the Trust's core costs for a further 2 years to 2022 has been particularly important at a time when survival rather than sustainability is the watchword in the present crisis.

Our Development Manager, Oliver Giles, has continued to prioritise our important development projects, that will subsequently lead to a sustainable, self-sufficient Trust, as well as keeping a strong focus on Trust finances and grant administration. His important groundwork on the Affordable Housing Project in Tomintoul within 2019-20 has permitted this project to progress towards funded land purchase and funding of the former school's demolition in 2020. Of course, 2020 has been a year when we had to face the severe difficulties of COVID-19. Oliver promptly applied for COVID-response grants for both of our companies which allowed us to fund staff to reopen the Discovery Centre for 50% of its normal hours. In addition, we hosted the Community Larder, COVID help line in Tomintoul and the administration of Community Response Grants to local organisations.

As 2021 approaches, we will see the winding-up of the £3.6m Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Project (TGLP). The impressive partnership working and achievements of this wide-ranging portfolio of projects, originally secured for the community by TGDT, is a credit to Chair Steve Smith and the project staff. TGDT has agreed to chair the TGLP Legacy Board which will oversee the ongoing health and maintenance of the projects for a 5-year period, supported by the Cairngorms National Park and Crown Estate Scotland.

The Trust continues its close communication and partnership with the community and a significant range of stakeholders. The Trust's first development objective is the achievement of a vibrant and sustainable community. Whilst not every indicator is positive immediately, our long-term goal is to support our community and its development and to seek to maintain and enhance a local infrastructure for a quality way of life in this challenging but beautiful part of Scotland.

TGDT Manager's Report

Oli Giles delivered the Development Manager's Report which can be viewed in the downloads section of the TGDT website: 1. Housing, 2. Events, 3. Covid 19, 4. Charitable Status.

The following questions were highlighted:

- Where are we with the campsite – site has been identified and we're in the process of agreeing a valuation with Crown Estate Scotland. A grant to conduct a feasibility study has been applied for.
- Events at the mountain bike trails – we would like to re schedule our proposed duathlon event at the bike trails but are waiting for COVID restrictions to be eased

Oli gave further thanks to TGDT volunteers, staff and stakeholders.

Presentation of Annual Accounts

Accounts for the 2019-2020 period were presented.
David reported the hostel has had a difficult year with the majority of income coming in the form of Covid related grants, this will be reflected in the 2020 accounts. Conversely TGDT has had a good year with more grants for capital and revenue projects and unrestricted funds through the Covid grants.

The acceptance of the TGDT accounts was proposed by Phil Rogers and seconded by Jennifer Stewart.
The acceptance of the Hostel accounts was proposed by Tony Birchall and seconded by Phil Rogers.

TGLP Heritage Officer

Rebecca Irons gave a demonstration of the recently launched Tomintoul and Glenlivet Digital Archive and thanked all the volunteers involved in the project for their input throughout the project. You can access the archive at www.tgdt.org.uk/digitalarchive

Election of Directors

AGM election of directors. All directors standing for election and re election were unanimously appointed.

Closing Remarks

Murray Fergusson (CNPA) gave thanks to trustees and to Doug and highlighted that funding for TGLP is coming to an end. Murray also thanked TGDT members for their strong support from and gave congratulations on another good year.

DONM

Next members meeting late January 2021