Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust

Open meeting minutes

13th September 2023 – Glenlivet Hall

Present: Tilly Smith (TS, TGDT Director & Chair), Phil Rogers (PR, TGDT Director), Laurence Prime (LP, TGDT Director), Sam Robinson (SR, TGDT Director), Chloe Clay (TGDT Director) Oliver Giles (OG, TGDT Operations Manager), Claire Filer (CF, TGDT Glenlivet & Inveravon Development Officer), Lydia Fisher (LF, TGDT Glenlivet & Inveravon Heritage Ranger)

In attendance: Andrew and Lisa Myson, Eleanor Mackintosh, John Shewan, Sharon Murphy, Shaun and Tracy Green, Cliff and Marie Butcher, Ian Hargreaves, Charles Stewart

Apologies: David Toovey, Robert Mintram, Tricia Lawson

Tilly Smith (TS) opened with introductions to the board and staff and gave details of what trust membership entails. TS introduced LF who gave an update on the recent Glenlivet and Inveravon Heritage Ranger activities. A copy of the presentation is available in the downloads section of our website.

Eleanor Mackintosh asked how the lighting upgrade work will be funded – Sam Robinson confirmed the cost of the lighting upgrade work will be funded by Crown Estate Scotland.

Charles asked if there are still lights available to the general public living in the area. Sam Robinson confirmed that lights were available but the fitting cost would need to be met by the individual until a new fitting contract is signed.

A comment regarding the information about this project and we'll endeavour to provide more details once the new lights and fitting contract has been secured.

John Shewan asked if Lydia charged for tours – LF responded that the tours are by donation via a function during the Eventbrite booking process. A conversation around the potential for coach tours and getyourguide type third party channels ensued.

Claire Filer – Glenlivet and Inveravon Development Officer update

Claire provided an update on her activities since joining TGDT in May which have centred around Tea in the Park which was again a huge success. Claire thanked the volunteers who made the event possible and the customers who supported the event.

Other activities include looking at the representation of and advocating for young people in our community and continuing the events programme which includes a Viking Myths live puppet show on 13th October at Glenlivet Hall.

Eleanor Mackintosh asked Claire about the potential for capital projects utilising Dorenell Windfarm Community Benefit funding. Claire highlighted plans for affordable housing in the GICA area and capital refurbishment work with both hall committees. Claire asked the community to come forward with any other ideas.

John Shewan highlighted that the trust was set up with mainly Glenlivet based board members who recognised the need to keep the hostel and museum open and that the ideas should be coming from TGDT too.

A conversation ensued on retaining and attracting young people utilising the special characteristics of the area to make it an attractive place to live and work.

Oliver Giles – Operations Manager update

Oliver gave an update on the board and introduced Chloe Clay who is a new board member and resident of Glenlivet.

Oliver provided an update on the season operation of The Smugglers Hostel, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Discovery Centre and the Post Office stating the season has been an improvement on last year but that reduced opening times had impacted overall visitors. Oliver highlighted that there are now more Post Office visitors compared to visitors looking for visitor information.

Oliver provided an update on the campsite project confirming that following the last open meeting a site meeting was held with local residents and that the project was due to go to planning committee on 22nd September.

Oliver concluded with a dates for the diary slide including the TGDT AGM on the 15th November at the Green Hall A'an Side.

Ian Hargreaves asked if the hostel can be tidied up and Oli confirmed a week has been blocked out in the diary for hostel maintenance work. Tilly invited anyone willing to help to get in touch.

Tilly asked if there was any other business and their being no further questions or comments the meeting was closed at 8.15pm

DONM TGDT AGM 15th November 2023 Green Hall A'anside 7pm