

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 27th June 2016



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair), Wilson Metcalfe, Peter Graham, Steve Hull, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Susan Conti, Gareth Whymant, Dan Puplett, Eddie Tomkinson (treasurer)</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes. Proposed – PG Seconded – DW</p> <p>Actions and Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting.</p> <p>3a. SH said that the tree guards have not yet been removed. This will be done at the next work party.</p> <p>5a. SH reported that he has been in touch with Nick Molnar who has agreed to crush the bracken in the coffin field shortly. A meeting with SH and Angus Dixon has yet to be arranged. Wild Things! don't have any funding available at present to build a hibernaculum. SH said that the removal of rhododendron in the pond area is a priority just now to let more light in.</p> <p>Due to DP's absence the idea of a talk by the fisheries trust on invasive species has been carried forward.</p> <p>5b. Photos were taken at KBM and have been published in the Gazette.</p> <p>6. Management Plan – see below item 6.</p> <p>8a. Scotland's Finest Woods Award – see below item 8a.</p> <p>8b. Moray Woodland Strategy – see below item 8b.</p> <p>8d. Nesting boxes – GM reported that she has spoken to Carol Stuart, headmistress at Forres Academy who said that she will ask the Technical department about building next boxes. GM will follow this up.</p> <p>8e. SH reported that GW has replaced some wooden stakes with metal stakes which appear to work well.</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>DP</p> <p>GM</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>a. Email from FACT. See below item 8d.</p> <p>b. Email from CWA including conference programme, booking forms and info about attendance fees. See below item 8c.</p> <p>c. Web-site message from Kathryn McRitchie, primary teacher at Applegrove, asking about possible activities for John Muir Award. GM replied but other arrangements had already been made.</p>	WM
4.	<p>Muiry and New Forres. Due to ET's absence there was no report.</p>	
5.	<p>Sanquhar and Bike Track</p> <p>a. Work Party. SH reported that more western hemlock were removed during the last work party. No birds were found to be nesting in the area worked in. The next work party will slash bracken in the coffin field and pick up tree guards left in the wood. SH reported that the number of wild flowers including orchids has increased in the coffin field. SH and WM will liaise about using the "Billy Goat" brush cutter to cut the paths in Sanquhar and across the coffin field in a couple of weeks' time.</p> <p>b. Hut repair and fence reinstatement. No further report due to GW's absence. DW will email GW to ask for up-date.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>SH,WM</p> <p>DW</p>

	<p>There has been more damage to the hut and a considerable amount of litter had to be removed.</p> <p>c. Signage. WM said that Information Boards would be a more accurate title than Signage. The FCWT have been awarded £1500 by the Paths for All Community Fund. This is the maximum amount that can be awarded. The first 75% will be paid almost immediately with the remainder paid later in the year after a report on the project has been submitted. We have to match the award with an equivalent amount of volunteer labour linked to the Project. The cartographer has provided a first draft of the map and WM is currently reviewing this. WM has received quotes for producing 5 of the information boards from one firm in Elgin and is awaiting a quote from another. WM will ask ET about metal posts to mount the boards.</p>	WM
6.	<p>Management Plan. WM reported that he had circulated his latest draft for comment from those assisting him. Ian Suttie has provided input on the Muiry and New Forres woods to match that of Sanquhar woods for inclusion in Section 3, the Woodland Profile. The map being prepared for the Information Boards may be of use for the detailed woodland plan. WM will pass the final version, when complete, to GW to see if it can be used. He will also circulate to the other Board members for comment. The financial estimates section of the Management Plan has still to be done.</p>	WM
7.	<p>Finance. There was no financial report due to ET's absence.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB.</p> <p>a. Scotland's Finest Woods Award. FCWT has been awarded a commendation. As nobody was available for the presentation during the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, the plaque will be presented in Forres by Sandy Hogg. A date will be arranged.</p> <p>b. Moray Woodland Strategy. WM and PG reported that the meeting was not relevant to the FCWT.</p> <p>c. Community Woodland Association Conference. GM will liaise with ET to establish whether the Trust is a member of CWA and what is required from us regarding the hosting event.</p> <p>d. Walkers are Welcome. Email from FACT inviting interested groups to attend meeting to join the Walkers are Welcome steering group in Forres. WM said that FACT may have funding for the initial set up. WM will attend the meeting.</p> <p>e. George Alexander brashing offer. George Alexander has offered to carry out some brashing in Sanquhar Wood with a group of Forres Academy students during the summer holidays. He knows areas which would benefit. The Board is happy for him to do this. GM will contact George.</p> <p>f. Membership Drive. A mailshot particularly in Forbeshill and Drumduan was suggested. Also, members could hand out leaflets to people visiting the woodlands. This should be done nearer the time of the AGM. However, if it's done earlier new members could be given membership to include the next year. GM will start composing a flyer. A more permanent form of membership should be considered to prevent a lapse.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>GM,ET</p> <p>WM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p>
10.	<p>Date of Next Meeting – at the Community Centre on 29th August 2016 at 7.30pm</p>	