

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 29th August 2016



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair), Steve Hull, Wilson Metcalfe, Eddie Tomkinson (treasurer), Peter Graham, Susan Conti, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Gareth Whyment, Dan Puplett</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes. Proposed – PG Seconded - WM</p> <p>Actions and Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <p>2. Due to DP's absence the idea of a talk by the fisheries trust on invasive species has been carried forward.</p> <p>GM has emailed Carol Stewart, headmistress of Forres Academy regarding the creation of nesting boxes. Awaiting a response.</p> <p>8a. DW reported that the Scotland's Finest Woods Award has been received and photos were taken of the presentation. DW will send these to the Gazette for publication.</p> <p>8d. WM attended the FACT meeting. He reported that FACT is going ahead with registering with Walkers are Welcome, paying the initial fee which is annual. The FCWT's contribution at present is the maintenance of the paths in our woods.</p> <p>8e. GM reported that a group of Forres Academy pupils accompanied by George Alexander had spent several days during the summer holidays in Sanquhar Wood carrying out brashing and cleaning up around the shelter.</p> <p>GM sent a thank you note.</p>	<p>DP</p> <p>GM</p> <p>DW</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>a. Emails from George Alexander – see above.</p> <p>b. Email from Caroline Inckle with information about her wood sculpture exhibition at Inverness Museum from 6th August to 10th September.</p>	
4.	<p>Muiry and New Forres.</p> <p>ET reported that two work parties had taken place which had concentrated on brushcutting and maintaining paths. Some fly tipping at the New Forres car park was cleared.</p> <p>He said that Stewart Nolands had drawn his attention to some old fencing at Muiry which has collapsed and posed a tripping risk and a risk of dogs getting caught in the wire. Some of this fencing extends to White's property and council land. ET will meet with Andy Scott from Moray Council to discuss the removal of the wire.</p>	<p>ET</p>
5.	<p>Sanquhar and Bike Track.</p> <p>a. Work Party. SH reported that the July work party had cleared bracken in the Coffin Field following Nick Molnar's work with this horse. Tree guards were tidied up. The August work party tidied around the bike tracks. WM cleared along the bike tracks and paths with the brush cutter. Another small group cut down a leaning tree behind Woodside Drive and placed posts in Coffin Field prior to mowing.</p> <p>SH said he had contacted David Black of Plantlife re our meadow</p>	

	<p>management for biodiversity. David said that our timing of cutting and lifting of grass was good and leaving some areas uncut each year is also good. He suggested light poaching of ground with rakes in areas near to hay rattle to enable them to go into new areas. He suggested introduction of red clover by seed or plugs. He didn't think the kidney vetch would do very well in the long term. He agreed that it would be a good idea to mow most of the orchid area at the same time as the rest of the field in early September for one year followed by a later cut next year.</p> <p>ET confirmed that the mowing will be done shortly. He will put the tape on the posts. The cut grass will be dumped in a previously unused area in the plantation behind.</p> <p>ET will ask Sandra McIver if she knows of a farmer who could us the grass. It appears that John Young is no longer interested in looking after the bike track. WM said he would get in touch with Tom Ireland who had expressed interest in doing this job.</p> <p>ET said that Angus Dixon will continue with rhododendron and laurel spraying this week.</p> <p>b. Hut damage/repair and fence reinstatement. The repair work had to be rescheduled. SC will get in touch with GW to arrange a date.</p> <p>c. Sanquhar Mains road and car park. ET reported that the road has been repaired. However, WM reported that there are already signs of deterioration possibly because unsuitable materials were used. ET will discuss this with GW.</p> <p>d. Signage. WM presented a map of Sanquhar Woods. It was agreed that the new boards will be placed in the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sanquhar Mains car park entrance by gate up to MTB hut 2. Mannachie Rise/Loch View entrance 3. Woodend entrance where brown wooden board is 4. Entrance upstream from Sanquhar Loch beside Burn of Mosset where brown board was 5. Entrance just upstream from Chapelton Dam - positioned on northern side of track just after the metal gate. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WM has received 2 quotes for printing the information board maps sized 40" by 30" onto vandal proof resin. ET and WM will design the mounting frames for the boards to incorporate boxes for leaflets. 2. 	<p>ET</p> <p>ET</p> <p>WM</p> <p>SC</p> <p>ET</p> <p>ET/WM</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Management Plan. WM reported that he is awaiting some more comments from Trustees. The outline is still to be tidied up and section 9 containing an economic estimate is to be finalised.</p> <p>WM has sent a draft copy of the Management Plan to Angus Dixon who is working on the application for funding of the rhododendron eradication programme.</p>	<p>WM</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Finance. ET reported a total of £25,107.65 in the account. Public liability insurance including insurance for the bike track now amounts to £1108.65. The insurance goes directly to Zurich.</p> <p>The audited account will have to be approved during the next Board meeting.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB.</p> <p>a. Community Woodland Association Conference. DW, ET and GM discussed preparation requirements for the conference in a meeting with Caroline Derbyshire. A copy of the programme and booking forms will be sent out and forwarded to the Trustees by GM and members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DW will present a 15 minute introduction. • A site visit at Sanquhar Woods will be arranged for conference participants. • The walking route which will start at the Sanquhar Loch dam has yet to be 	<p>GM</p> <p>DW</p>

	<p>decided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH agreed to accompany the group. DW will also ask GW and Ian Suttie. • Route maps have to be printed. • DW will ask DP to prepare a risk assessment. <p>b. Mountain Bike Event. This is now rearranged for 2nd October. A Trustee with keys will open the gates the night before or in the morning.</p> <p>c. Membership Drive. Ideas to be pursued are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letterdrop • info to be handed out at mountain bike event • info to be handed out at entrances to woodlands • info tables at TESCO and/or Garden Centre. • article in Spotlight • publicity in the Gazette • WM will ask if Moray Council could lend us a footfall counter. <p>GM will work on brochure/leaflet</p>	<p>DW DW</p> <p>DW/DP</p> <p>DW</p> <p>WM GM</p>
10.	Date of Next Meeting – at the Community Centre on 26 th September 2016 at 7.30pm	