

# FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre  
7.30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016



## MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p><b>Present:</b> Donald Wright (chair), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Eddie Tomkinson (treasurer), Gareth Whyment, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Susan Conti, Wilson Metcalfe, Steve Hull</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> none</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b> Minutes proposed by PG, seconded by GM.</p> <p><b>Actions and Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting.</b></p> <p>2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP will invite Bob Laughton from the Fisheries Trust to talk to the Board about invasive species at one of the next meetings.</li> <li>• GM reported that there has been no response from Forres Academy regarding the construction of bird boxes.</li> <li>• DW reported that the Coffin Field was mowed after a delay which had been due to a broken-down machine and Council staff absence.</li> <li>• GW reported that on the road leading to the Sanquhar Mains car park the surface had settled somewhat and is now in better condition. Due to the nature of the surface a more permanent solution is difficult to achieve without spending a great deal more money.</li> </ul> <p>3. GM has sent email to FCWT members informing them about the Co-op Community Fund.</p> <p>5a. SH said the next work party will try to remove the barbed wire along the edge of the Sitka plantation.</p> <p>5c. DW reported that he had spoken to John McMulkin regarding the possibility of a voluntary contribution towards the cost of maintaining the bike track. Options will be considered for the next event.</p> <p>The board will also consider the installation of a collection box.</p> <p>ET will replace the padlock which has seized up. He will also source some angle iron posts to replace rotted posts on brown signs.</p> <p>The Board agreed that they are happy for future bike events to take place. It was noted that an orienteering event took place in Sanquhar Woods on 1<sup>st</sup> October which the Trust had not been notified of. Fortunately, the event was finished before the guided walk took place for the CWA conference.</p>	<p>DP</p> <p>SH</p> <p>ET</p>
3	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>a. WM reported that no correspondence was received via the web site from June to September. This was probably due to Outlook preventing mail from coming through. Since it was changed to Yahoo</p>	

	<p>one message has been received. This was a request for a work opportunity for a disabled person. WM responded to say that we cannot provide such work opportunities.</p> <p>b. Letter from CWA thanking FCWT for participating at the conference. A full report will follow.</p> <p>c. Email from Caroline Inckle proposing making an application to Project Arts to allow her to make a few bespoke pieces which could be installed either temporarily or permanently in the community woodlands, with FCWT contributing materials in the form of wood and paying the fee for a public, guided artist walk in the woods where she would talk about the work and the relationship to walking and collecting within her practice. The fee for this would be £150. The Board expressed a general interest in the project. GM will contact Caroline and discuss the risk of vandalism of such works and get more details about the financial and commercial arrangements.</p>	GM
4	<p><b>Muiry and New Forres Work Party.</b> ET reported that path clearance had been carried out with the help of the billy goat. More of the same will be done next time. Thinning in parts of Muiry still to be discussed.</p>	ET
5	<p><b>Sanquhar and Bike track</b></p> <p>a. <b>Work Party.</b> SH reported that young grand firs, hemlock and sitka had been removed near the Woodend entrance. More of this will be done next time. Also, an attempt will be made to shift some of the grass cuttings from the Coffin Field further into the wood and to remove the barbed wire from the old fencing (see Item 2). The patches of rhododendron to be pointed out to contractor. Next work party 5<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>SH will create a long-term maintenance plan for Sanquhar Wood with an overview of what work can be done by volunteers.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Cycling Club could be approached to see if there was interest in helping with the maintenance of the cycle track. ET will speak to Tom Ireland about this.</p> <p>ET stated that the track at the south end of the wood leading from the carpark to the flood alleviation scheme is getting overgrown and needs cutting back again. This would need to be done with a flailing machine.</p> <p>b. <b>Hut damage/repair and fence reinstatement.</b> GW reported that the repair of the shelter roof will be finished shortly. The Board agreed to defer the installation of a robust litter bin near the shelter as it is doubtful whether it would alleviate the problem and might even aggravate it.</p> <p>c. <b>Paths' signs project.</b> WM reported that the cartographer has been paid and the display boards are now in production. ET and WM have designed a metal frame with a protective rain shield and 3 pockets for publicity materials. The posts are made of galvanised steel which can be painted at a later stage.</p>	SH SH ET GW

6	<p><b>Management Plan.</b> WM reported that several minor changes had been made in accordance with suggestions from the Board. He will circulate the final plan before the AGM.</p>	WM
7	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ET presented the annual accounts for the previous year. DW and ET will make a few adjustments.</li> <li>b. ET reported a total of £25,036 in the current account.</li> </ul>	DW,ET
8	<p><b>Other.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Membership Drive.</b> DW will contact printer to discuss further options for a brochure.</li> <li>b. <b>AGM preparations.</b> ET confirmed that a notification has been placed in the Gazette. GM will organise snacks and drinks. Joan Tomkinson and SC will be at the door. The Board agreed that a rise in subscription will not be proposed this year.</li> <li>c. <b>CWA Conference feedback.</b> DW reported that the conference appeared to go well and the contributions made by FCWT were much appreciated. He had given a presentation about FCWT and 25 delegates had subsequently attended the walk through Sanquhar Woods. A letter of thanks has been received.</li> </ul>	<p>DW</p> <p>GM SC</p>
9	<p><b>Any Other Business.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Forestry Plan.</b> ET will liaise with GW, WM and Angus Dixon to work on a detailed Forestry Plan to complement the new Management Plan.</li> <li>b. GM will make an inventory of tools owned by FCWT.</li> </ul>	<p>ET,WM,GW</p> <p>GM</p>
10	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p>	