

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 30th January 2017



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair), Gareth Whymant, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Eddie Tomkinson, Wils Metcalfe, Steve Hull, Tom Ireland, Susan Conti (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Gisela MacFarquhar,</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 28th November 2016 Under 10(d), the meeting dates should be changed from 28th January to 30th January. Minutes then proposed by PG, seconded by ET. Actions and Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting. 2.2 Bob Laughton still on course to attend February meeting. DP to confirm with him time allocated (30 mins). ET to change padlock tomorrow. 3(b) FACT and FIB had their stand at Co-op last week. Proposal to have our own stand there before end March. 5 (b) GW reported fence at Sanquhar finished. Once we determine what extra materials are required we will write to Keith Builders to say more damage and could we get materials for free. 10(b) TI has had letter from Companies House confirming his FCWT directorship. ET has noted that we now have to declare any specific interests. He has checked and no-one has anything to declare.</p>	<p>DP</p> <p>ET</p> <p>GM/GW</p>
3	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a. Student from Edinburgh University wrote to inform us of her project at Burgie House of a glass house beside arboretum. Will refer her onto Transition Town or FIB.</p> <p>b. WM had referred to Moray Council someone querying a dangerous pine in Cluny Hill.</p> <p>c. In response to a request, WM had sent out a FCWT map.</p> <p>d. WM had granted permission to a geocacher for a geocache in Sanquhar, given there are already several sited there.</p>	
4	<p>Muiry and New Forres</p> <p>a. Work Party. Nothing to report. First work party since last year due in a couple of weeks, weather dependant.</p>	
5	<p>Sanquhar and Bike track</p> <p>a. Work Party. SH reported 8 volunteers who cleared Douglas firs and Sitka. Next work party on 4th Feb will continue this work. GW still has some trees so possibility of planting them in these cleared areas discussed. Will need to be dug in as still in containers. GW to get more stakes (25-50) from Christies, still have plenty guards. Will set aside a day to plant them. We will also plant IS' oaks. May need to retain some unplanted trees to replace any trees planted last year that have died.</p>	<p>GW</p>

	<p>b. Grass Mowings - DW spoke to Billy McRitchie who will scrape these if he is in Sanquhar. Discussion re where to put this year's mowings - possibility of dumping in a hole near to Coffin Field - have till Sept to decide.</p> <p>c. Barbed wire - SH has put this into rings and hung on a post so no longer dangerous. ET and DW will remove.</p> <p>d. Volunteer Action Plan - SH has drafted a good VAP. Will keep as a live document which can be up-dated. SH requires an electronic map to mark areas - Wild Things have one, will follow up on GM's return. ET to print six copies. SH mentioned Sitkas which need felled to reduce seeding - may be done as Thinning Programme, or B McRitchie may remove them after it.</p> <p>e. Bike Track - TI reported that he had been trying to get in touch with John Young, who was not responding. It was agreed we move on. TI has spoken to other cyclists who are keen to be involved. FCWT agreed to pay for training for 2, possibly 3, people in trail maintenance. Cycle Scotland carry out the training, c. £159 pp. ET to look out info on previous trail inspections. TI emailed Mountain Biking in Scotland - waiting to hear back. An application for £500 to Baxters under TI's name to be submitted by Friday. DW raised issue of revenue from track as costs c£500 pa insurance. TI in communication with Andrew Melton, Grantown, to find out how they raise funds.</p> <p>f. Paths Signs Project WM reported that a sign was erected and photos taken just before 31st December so report submitted in time. Four signs still to be erected. ET to speak to AJ Engineering soon. A Launch Event to be organised to tie in with the "Walkers Are Welcome" event weekend of 1st April. FCWT will use the WAW booking site. There will be a family walking event - WM will design the route with input for the script from DP (who will be away that weekend).</p>	<p>ET/DW</p> <p>SH</p> <p>ET</p> <p>ET</p> <p>TI/ET</p> <p>ET</p> <p>WM/DP</p>
6	<p>Forestry Plan ET has met with David Hay who reported the Forestry Commission have no money for funding this financial year, as their budget slashed. DH happy with the replanting. Angus Dixon just needs to tweak plan then ready for submission. Will get quotes late summer. Thinning Programme - will sell the wood standing so contractors bring their own machinery. GW to inspect tomorrow and report back to board with an estimated value. Important to run public consultation. Application for £7400 for Rhododendron eradication has been submitted to Berryburn - decision due 22nd February. Need to confirm whether Rhod. erad. in Forestry Plan.</p>	<p>GW</p>
7	<p>Website WM has posted photos. Is working well.</p>	
8	<p>Finance Current bank balance £21,744.71. £744 mix of fees and donations. £930 back from Gift Aid. We are running a deficit of £6533.45 this year already. D Hay said we should make a profit from the thinning.</p>	
9	<p>Other a.Red Squirrel Project Beth Priestley, Trees for Life, has requested four more squirrels as West Coast project successful. It was agreed</p>	<p>DP</p>

	<p>to give two squirrels from Sanquhar - without a squirrel survey difficult to know numbers in our woods.</p> <p>b. Bird and Squirrel boxes PG has been in contact with the maker. Five bird boxes have been put up, another six in progress. Two done, four to do in next fortnight. One squirrel box is almost finished but it was agreed not to make any more. It was suggested the maker make owl boxes instead.</p>	PG
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Membership Drive DW to follow up map for leaflet next month.</p> <p>b. Future Projects DW noted extensive paths in Muiry and Newforres need upgrading, so potentially a lot of work. COAT (Cairngorm Outdoor Activities Trust) ?? Landfill best place to apply for funding. DW has spoken to TMC re Community Asset Transfer of parts of Muiry. Again would involve a lot of work - need a Business Plan. DW to speak to Whites of Cassieford re purchase of their strip of land in Muiry. FCWT woodland would still remain under 100 ha. It was agreed that, in principle, FCWT were interested in both the purchase of Whites land, and a CAT of part of Muiry. Will keep investigating.</p> <p>c. Dog Walkers FCWT to write to dog walking companies who use our woodlands to ask for contribution. Have some names already. May offer them advertising space on our website.</p> <p>d. Standing Order forms FCWT doesn't currently have one. PG to draft one to go on website, and insert into membership form.</p> <p>e. Dallas Dhu Development WM brought to meeting's attention public presentation on 7-9 March re this development. Will mean more people living near to Sanquhar.</p> <p>f. Picnic table without a view near one of the ponds has now collapsed completely. Is marked on new maps but will not reinstate. ET will ask Benromach if they might sponsor two new ones, as sturdy as the existing Benromach one. Would like one in Muiry too.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>PG</p> <p>ET</p>
11	Date of Next Meeting – 27 February 2017 at 7.30pm	