

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre  
7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017



**MINUTES & ACTION POINTS**

| Item | Minute   | Action  |
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| 1    | <p><b>Present:</b> Donald Wright (chair), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Wilson Metcalfe, Tom Ireland, David Rooke, Dan Puplett, Gareth Whyment</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Karen Mitchell, Steve Hull</p> <p>The chairman welcomed Tony Henry.<br/>Tony Henry described the potential tasks of a ranger for FCWT. The Board agreed that it would be advantageous for the Trust to have such a person and will explore the possibilities for funding.</p>  | DW  |
| 2    | <p><b>Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b><br/>The minutes were proposed by WM, seconded by TI.</p> <p><b>Actions and Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Padlock</b> - repair in hand to be carried out by Bill McRitchie.</li> <li>• <b>Materials for hut repair</b> – GW to put in order with KBM. Not sure if materials will be donated.</li> <li>• <b>White’s</b> – no further progress has been made.</li> <li>• <b>Picnic Table</b> - Benromach will fund a bench. DW has sent the measurement to the joiner. Bill McRitchie will construct the path - awaiting quote.</li> <li>• <b>Trampoline.</b> DW has sent a letter to John Young to request removal of his trampoline from FCWT grounds. PG has confirmed that the trampoline has not been removed. DW will take further action.</li> <li>• <b>Euan Mellis.</b> GW will see if there would be some thinning work at Muiry’Newforres for Euan Mellis to do.</li> <li>• <b>Removal of overhanging branches for Ian Lewis.</b> GW to investigate.</li> </ul> | <p>DW</p> <p>GW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>GW</p> <p>GW</p> |
| 3    | <p><b>Correspondence.</b><br/><b>Web-mail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Julie Burns</b>, primary teacher in Elgin, requesting pieces of wood from felling. WM responded.</li> </ul> <p>DW has been approached by Brian McDonald who asked if some larch logs would be available from the felling for path edging at Sanquhar Loch. DW will reply that only a few larch will be felled which will be unsuitable for this use.</p>   | DW  |

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| 4 | <p><b>Office Bearers.</b><br/> DW agreed to be treasurer.<br/> GM will pick up mail from the HUB.<br/> GM will maintain membership spread sheet.<br/> TI,DR and KM will act as social media sub-committee and develop membership initiatives.</p>  |                        |
| 5 | <p><b>Communication.</b><br/> <b>Web-site.</b> WM reported that the web page was temporarily down but is now working again.<br/> <b>Facebook.</b> TI reported that facebook is live. It is sharing with other local newsgroups. Over 200 people have reached it since start-up.<br/> WM will look into creating a link on the web-page.</p>  | WM                     |
| 6 | <p><b>Finance.</b><br/> DW reported that ET has handed over his files.<br/> £4000 is still pending from the Berryburn Fund which will have to be spent by June next year on further rhododendron treatment.<br/> All bills are paid, including the Moray Council invoice for the mowing of the Coffin Field and the clearing work along the south track and the bike tracks has been paid.<br/> The total in the account amounts to £22,495.92.</p>  |                        |
| 7 | <p><b>Membership.</b> No up-date.</p>  |                        |
| 8 | <p><b>Muiry and New Forres.</b><br/> <b>a. Work party report.</b><br/> DW reported that IS has emptied the bins but no work parties took place last month.<br/> <b>b. Projects.</b><br/> Bill McRitchie will sort the soakaways on the paths and re-surface the car parks.<br/> DW reported that a survey of the paths has been carried out, but he will get a second opinion. The project might need to be broken up into smaller sections.<br/> <b>c. Other.</b><br/> DW will investigate the possibility of funding from the Auchernack Trust for the path up-grade. There is a good chance that we'll get some funding from Landfill. In order to get funding from Moray Leader the woodland paths would have to link with core paths.</p> | DW<br><br>DW<br><br>DW |
| 9 | <p><b>Sanquhar and Bike Track.</b><br/> <b>a. Work Party.</b> GM reported that 6 volunteers spend a morning cutting and pulling sitkas. GM will suggest to SH to do some thinning in the birch thickets.<br/> The next work party will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> December.<br/> <b>b. Bike Track.</b> DR reported that some trail creep has been dealt with and drainage has been improved. Posts still have to be replaced. After the thinning the state of the trails will have to be investigated.</p>   | GM, SH<br><br>TI,DR    |

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|    | <p><b>c. Projects.</b></p> <p><b>Path improvements.</b> After the thinning a programme of path improvements should take place. The areas of concern need to be highlighted.</p> <p><b>d. Thinning.</b> DW reported that the felling has commenced. Warning signs have been put up by the contractors. GW has also attached warning signs to the information boards. The work is expected to take 3 to 5 weeks in total.</p>  |    |
| 10 | <p><b>AOB.</b></p> <p><b>Heavy Duty Mulcher/Mower.</b> DW proposed to share the cost of a shredder with Bill McRitchie who would keep paths and edges of tracks clear in return. DW will investigate further how the cost, repair and maintenance expenses, and usage would be shared. He will email the board members with the outcome.</p> <p><b>Brushcutter Repair.</b> WM proposed that FCWT pay their 20% share of the cost of the repair. This was agreed.</p> <p><b>First Aid Courses.</b> TI will get further information about First Aid courses. GM said that she and SH would take part in a course. They feel however, that they don't require a 2-day course as the likelihood of being in need of such knowledge is extremely slim, considering that any volunteer work would never take place in a remote area.</p> | DW |
| 11 | <p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.</b></p>   |    |