

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 3rd March 2018



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Wilson Metcalfe, David Rooke, Karen Mitchell, Tom Ireland, Steve Hull</p> <p>Apologies: Dan Puplett, Gareth Whyment</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 27th November 2017 Amendment requested by SH – Item 9, Work Party. There were 13 volunteers attending the work party.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by WM, seconded by DR.</p> <p>Actions and Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1 – Tony Henry’s proposals. DW will carry out further research regarding funding. • Item 1 – Padlock, repair in hand. The strainer will have to be replaced. • Item 1 - Materials for hut repair pending • Item 1 – Bench at Sanquhar lochan - in hand. • Item 1 - Euan Mellis. GW to survey and decide whether thinning is required at Muiry/Newforres. • Item 1 - Removal of overhanging branches for Ian Lewis. GW to do before spring. • Item 3 - Ewan Doig, Highland Tree Services. TI reported that Ewan is interested in joining the next volunteer work party. • Item 3 - Martin Nicoll, WM has responded. 	<p>DW DW GW DW GW GW</p>
3	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Mail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray Council, amendment to Core Paths Plan near Muiry/Newforres. Drop-in exhibitions at Forres Town Hall on 8th March 2pm-8pm. Copies for viewing available at Auchernack from 29th January to 20th April. • Moray Council, dualling of A96, notice of survey to be carried out at Muiry/Newforres. <p>E-mail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCWT members, comments on OPP4 housing, supporting Board’s actions <p>Web-mail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Croll, asking about long term options for OPP housing plans. WM to respond. 	<p>DW DW</p>

4	<p>Muiry and New Forres.</p> <p>a. Work party report. There has been no work party recently.</p> <p>b. Projects. DW will discuss a list of jobs with Bill McRitchie, e.g. tidying of paths and soakaways, and re-surfacing the car parks. The re-growth of gorse needs to be cut back again.</p> <p>c. OPP4 Housing. Following a temporary withdrawal of the planning permission, the Board will need to devise a strategy to prevent a revised application. DW and WM will research options.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW,WM</p>
5	<p>Sanquhar.</p> <p>a. Work Party. SH reported that 8 volunteers attended, removing sitka in the area to the left of the coffin field. During two adhoc work parties SH and 2 further volunteers removed some trees at the pond. He said a small number of rhododendrons had been treated last year. Next time sycamore stumps to the right of the coffin field will be treated.</p> <p>b. Bike Track. DR reported that the majority of the track is in very good condition. A couple of sections were damaged by the felling contractors. These areas will need to be dug out and re-layed. DR will establish if a contractor will be required to do this. Other areas like the drop sections also need some improvement, He said that Mike Kemp is an experienced builder and has tools, including a whacker plate, which can be useful to the work on the bike track. A full inspection is due soon.</p> <p>c. Projects. DW reported that the construction of the bench is under way.</p> <p>d. Thinning. DW reported that about 8 tons of wood are left to be picked up. A partial payment has been made to FCWT.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>DR, TI DW</p>
6	<p>Communication.</p> <p>Web-site. WM will instruct Canary Dwarf with creating link with facebook. Still to do.</p> <p>Facebook. TI reported that facebook experienced a surge in activity over the OPP discussion.</p> <p>Mailchimp. GM still to finalise set-up. Will ask DP for help.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>GM, DP</p>
7	<p>Finance.</p> <p>GM reported the total in the account amounts to £34,044.98. £12,296.88 have been received from James Jones so far for the felling. More is to come. Payments have been made to A. Dixon for managing the felling programme. GM has been refunded for AGM expenses.</p> <p>DW has requested the bank to set up online banking for himself and GM. Although GM now has access, DW is still awaiting the necessary details for himself</p> <p>KM advised that there should always be dual signatories to avoid any risk of mismanagement.</p>	<p>DW</p>
8	<p>Membership. GM reported that SC has agreed to continue as membership secretary and will report back to GM prior to board meetings.</p> <p>FCWT currently has 60 memberships, of these 26 are single and 34 are double, i.e. a total of 94 members. Of these there are 3 new members. 10 members have not renewed their membership this current year. SC will</p>	<p>SC</p>

	<p>send reminders.</p> <p>One member who donates £100 each year will receive a thank you note from SC.</p>	SC
9	<p>AOB.</p> <p>a. Trees and shrubs offer. DW reported that Brian McDonald had offered some trees and shrubs surplus to the re-planting at Sanquhar pond. SH said these would be useful to replace areas where rhododendrons have now been eradicated. SH will establish were to plant them. He said that chicken wire would be more useful for guarding the trees than solid sheaths. SH will contact Brian. DW will order chicken wire.</p> <p>b. Equipment donation. SH reported that Colin Hall from a Dragonfly society , now disbanded, offered tools which could be useful to FCWT. SH will arrange to pick them up.</p> <p>c. First Aid Training. TI will book a weekend course for 4 people.</p> <p>d. Traditional Skills Training. The Board agreed to provide funds for two people to attend a woodland management course. TI and DR have agreed to attend the course. TI will book.</p> <p>e. Tesco Funding. KM reported that the application is almost completed. Some more quantified detail is required. DW will provide this.</p> <p>f. Brash uplifting enquiry. SH will arrange an extra work party to gather some of the brash left after the thinning work to which members will be invited. They can then take away some for firewood.</p> <p>g. Green woodworking. TI proposed a green woodworking event with Aaron and Wooden Tom. There was some uncertainty about the costing and the likely interest. It was put on hold.</p> <p>h. McRitchie Equipment Proposal. After further negotiations with Bill the Board agreed to go ahead with the shared purchase of the heavy duty mulcher.</p>	<p>SH DW</p> <p>SH TI</p> <p>TI</p> <p>KM,DW</p> <p>SH</p> <p>DW</p>
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 26thth March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.</p>	