

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonard's Church Portakabin
7.30pm on 29th April 2013



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: : Graham Hilditch (chair), Eddie Tomkinson, Stuart Johnston, John Carson, Alan Smith, Claire Feaver, Wilson Metcalfe, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes) Apologies: Donald Wright</p>	
	<p>Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2013 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by JC, seconded by ET. WM pointed out that the members of the Woodside Park Residents' Association were present for item one on the agenda only.</p>	
	<p>Matters Arising.</p>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>Woodside Park and Pond. GH reported that Ian Suttie had met up with members of the Woodside Park Residents' Association and inspected the site. He found that the soil is suitable for the shrubs. The planting has started. Some protection and weeding will be necessary. AS advised that hand-weeding would be sufficient and preferable to spraying. Open areas should be planted with the shrubs rather than areas near existing trees to avoid overcrowding. GH will pass this message on. AS also offered to contact Wild Things to help with the planting.</p>	<p>GH AS</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Benromach Pipeline. GH reported that he had been in contact with representatives of Benromach Distilleries on a number of occasions. The start of the work has now been re-scheduled for July to avoid the main nesting season. Ian Suttie who knows the area well has stated that wildlife is unlikely to be unduly disturbed at that time. No tree-felling will be required. CF said that work should not be started before 15th August. If any nesting birds were disturbed work would have to stop in accordance with the Countryside Act. GH will pass this on to Benromach Distilleries. He said that they have agreed to be in close contact with the Trust while work is in progress and Ian Suttie will monitor issues concerning wildlife. GH said that as a goodwill gesture Benromach Distilleries have agreed to upgrade the path from the footbridge near the flood prevention structure and including the area above Mosset Burn and that they are interested in providing support with other future maintenance work. It was agreed that Benromach Distilleries should be given the go-ahead with the work.</p>	<p>GH</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Green Burial Sites. On behalf of DW, GH reported that a soil survey had been carried out by W.A. Fairhurst and Partners which established that the designated areas for green burial sites consisted of sand and gravel below a thin layer of topsoil. As this does not meet with Moray Council conditions, the areas are unsuitable as burial sites. GH will arrange meetings with Jamie Whittle (solicitor) and a representative from Moray Council to discuss legal and financial implications for the Trust regarding the withdrawal or revocation of the application. GH, SJ, ET and GM have agreed to attend the meetings.</p>	<p>GH ET, SJ,GM</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Web-site. WM reported that the website is now almost ready to go live. He has received</p>	

	<p>suitable material from Chris Piper and Pat Johnston for the site. He will go over it with GH and then email the link to the other Board members for comments. A few issues will still need to be resolved.</p> <p>The secretary's email address will be independent of the website. CF and GM will set this up.</p>	<p>WM CF, GM</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Forres Heritage Trust – Courtroom pricelist. The evening hire for the courtroom is £30. As the hire of the portakabin is comparable we will continue to meet there.</p> <p>Email from Brenda Devlin – re. trees near private property. GH will arrange an assessment of the safety of trees bordering on other properties with the Forestry Commission to establish if any trees on Trust property are posing a risk to neighbours. At the same time the FC will be asked for advice on how to proceed with the eradication of Laurel, Rhododendrons and other invasive species.</p>	<p>GH</p>
4.	<p>Operational Updates</p> <p>Muiry Woods. ET said that the travellers are still there. Planning permission for the height barriers will hopefully be received by June.</p> <p>Sanquhar Woods.</p> <p>Work party. SJ reported that a work party of 15 volunteers had turned up at Sanquhar Woods. They succeeded in widening an access path, clearing the floor of an old quarry, removing some rhododendrons and pulling up derelict fencing. The work parties will meet on the first Thursday and the first Saturday of each month. It was agreed that most of the clearing work should be carried out between September and March so as not to interfere with wildlife but the Sanquhar workforce could continue with some clearance and maintenance during the summer months. SJ added that some tools and equipment are owned by the Trust.</p> <p>Removal of birch. SJ reported that an unstable birch which he considered posed a danger to resting MTB riders had been removed at his suggestion. CF said that a number of neighbouring residents had taken out other growing and dead wood. AS said that residents should be discouraged from removing dead or growing wood as it should be left to decay.</p> <p>SJ said that the tent is still there but doesn't seem to be used. It was agreed that the tent should now be removed.</p> <p>Fires. AS said that the public are allowed to make fires in woodland as long as it is done responsibly.</p> <p>Giants in the Forest. AS said that the event had been successfully launched and has been well received by the public. There are a few posters to guide people to the heads and there is a more detailed guide on the Findhorn Bay Arts website.</p> <p>Motorbikes have been observed in the wood. Not much can be done about that apart from advising people to leave.</p>	<p>SJ</p>
5.	<p>Development Plan 2013-18.</p> <p>SJ said that he has been in contact with Iona MacGregor, a final year degree student from the Balloch School of Forestry, who is in the process of drafting a development plan. He will forward this draft to the Board for comment as soon as it is available.</p>	<p>SJ</p>
6.	<p>Wild Things.</p> <p>AS reported that Wild Things is an environmental charity based in Findhorn village. It has been in existence for 10 years working with primary and secondary schools in Moray as well as adults. It engages young people locally and provides activities for children throughout term time. On average about 50 children visit the wood each week. It does outreach inclusion work, runs training courses, leadership courses in woodland activity and has a youth leader programme. Its programmes all have educational aims and objectives. It uses the John Muir Award programme with its school groups. The 'Enchanted Woodland' project was delivered by Wild things! as the 5-year anniversary celebration of Sanquhar Woods.</p>	

7.	<p>Living Land Project.</p> <p>WM reported that the current Board is in an uncertain position with regard to this project as the previous Board had agreed to continue to support it and Moray Council planners will be aware of this. However, Sir Alastair Gordon-Cummings has recently informed (informally) the Board that Altyre Estates was no longer working in partnership with FCWT on this project.</p> <p>GH will contact Altyre Estates to clarify their position and arrange a meeting if desired.</p>	GH
8.	<p>Financial update.</p> <p>ET presented a comprehensive assessment of the Trust's financial position entitled "Preliminary Review of Status of Project Cost to date where there may be residual financial liability". It details the income and expenses of all FCWT projects to date. JC and ET will seek a meeting with Chris Piper and Ian Suttie to confirm the correctness of the figures.</p> <p>The present total in the account is £22770.05.</p>	JC, ET
9.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC reported that the changes to the Board have been recorded at Companies House. GM is yet to be recorded as secretary as Ian Nelson's name had been on the register until now. • JC has handed in the bank forms and is awaiting their acceptance. • GH said that the next insurance payment is due in June. • GM will keep hard copies of all agendas, minutes, and relevant documents that are passed out in relation to the minutes. • GH will approach The Hub to see if copies of minutes could be kept there for the public to read. He will also find out if the Co-op notice board would be available. • CF will find out if copies of the Newsletter could be made available at the library. 	GM GH CF
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting 27th May 2013</p>	