

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonard's Church Portakabin
7.30pm on 30th September 2013



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Stuart Johnston, Eddie Tomkinson, John Carson, Wilson Metcalfe, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Claire Feaver (left early)</p> <p>Apologies: Donald Wright</p>	
	<p>Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2013 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by JC, seconded by WM.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bank of Scotland: authority to operate accounts 2. Email from Chris Spencer regarding vandalism in Sanquhar Woods. 	
1.	<p>Benromach Distillery. GH reported that the work carried out at Sanquhar Woods is now finished although the pipes have not yet been reconnected. New trees have been planted and the woodland area has been restored. Legal documents are with the solicitors and have yet to be signed. The restoration of the path will probably go ahead this month. A bench was chosen to be placed along the path. GH will ask for extra grit to be left for the repair of other paths.</p>	GH
2.	<p>Management Plan. SJ reported that he had contacted David Hay from the Forestry Commission who has offered to act as a case officer for the Management Plan. It is possible that a grant of £1,200 will be available for the production of the plan through the Rural Payments and Inspections Division.</p>	SJ, DW
3.	<p>Triathlon Event. GH reported that he had asked <u>Doug</u> Cowie to find out who organises the event.</p>	GH
4.	<p>Dark Woods Event. GH, SJ and ET reported that this event appears to have been very popular for both children and adults. Around 150 people attended each evening. The feedback had been very good and a number of positive comments had been made. It was felt that the support provided by the FCWT by leading groups through the woods had been essential. Kresanna had said that she was pleased with the outcome of the event and indicated that it might be repeated on an annual or biennial basis.</p>	
5.	<p>Altyre Wetland Project. GH reported that a meeting with Fiona Chalmers had taken place. The discussion was mostly over the best points of access. It was pointed out that there was a lack of parking facilities. The car park at Sanquhar Loch and the FCWT car park at Sanquhar Mains would have to be used although access to this is currently over a private road in poor condition. The possibility of a car park at the Rafford Road end was discussed. WM said that access would be mostly via routes designated by the Footpaths Trust.</p> <p>The project would involve the erection of interpretation panels and a bird hide. The Board expressed a willingness to attend future meetings. Joint funding for the up-keep of paths and car parks would have to be discussed.</p>	GH
6.	<p>AGM. Venue - ET will book the canteen at Forres Academy. Catering – GM and GH purchase soft drinks, wine and biscuits. Advert and press release – GH Board of Trustees – It was agreed that there is no requirement for a re-election of the</p>	ET GM, GH GH

	current Board members as four members had retired already since the last AGM. All documents required for the AGM will be delivered by hand or post to Trust members before 16 th October, i.e. 20 clear days before the AGM.	GH, CF, WM, GM
7.	<p>Sanquhar Wood/Coffin Field. A Billy Goat will be needed to cut the bracken around the Coffin Field. A mower could be hired from the Moray Council to cut the grass in the Coffin Field. Overgrown paths also need to be cleared.</p> <p>CF reported on advice provided to her by RSPB experts that in order to help create a flower rich wildlife meadow cut matter would have to be removed. She also said that we had an offer from the Advisory Officer of the Highland region of the RSPB to do a voluntary survey of the Coffin Field in the spring in order to determine what plants there are and to decide whether it should be cut annually or perhaps every three years if there are plants that would benefit from this. The Advisory Officer suggested that we would benefit from an expert botanist to help with such a survey.</p> <p>It was decided that this will require further discussion, possibly with input from other people like Ian Suttie.</p> <p>Trees adjacent to private properties and in the woodlands have been identified for urgent work. ET and SJ will meet with Ian Suttie and Jeremy Thornhill, a tree surgeon, to discuss pricing and what needs to be done.</p> <p>JC said that his neighbours have also expressed concern about trees. GH will contact them.</p> <p>In future, annual inspections should include a survey of the buffer zones. At present the live trees in this area are not considered to pose any danger.</p> <p>JC said that he is planning to have a dead tree on his own property felled which might fall onto FCWT land, but will be removed.</p> <p>In response to an email from Chris Spencer (see correspondence) GH will discuss vandalism issues with the police and the fire station and contact the Forres Gazette to encourage the public and neighbouring property owners in particular to report any incidents. SJ confirmed that broken glass had been collected near the shelter and fires had been started. It was felt that to pull down the shelter would be too drastic a response as it is used by a number of people.</p>	<p>ET, SJ</p> <p>GH</p> <p>GH</p>
8.	<p>Financial up-date. ET reported a total of £37,614.99 in the account, not including new membership payments.</p> <p>He reported that the Entrust report has now been received. £4500 are to be spent on the improvement of paths by next March.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Newforres car park – ET said that surface of the car park is getting damaged through vehicles used by youngsters and will require resurfacing.</p> <p>Tree planting at Sanquhar Woods – SJ reported that FCWT had been allocated trees by The Woodlands Trust which will require storage until they can be planted.</p>	
10.	Date of Next Meeting. 4 th November 2013	