

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annual General Meeting held at Forres Academy
7.30pm on 6th November 2013



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Stuart Johnston, Eddie Tomkinson, Claire Feaver, Wilson Metcalfe, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Donald Wright, John Carson</p> <p>Apologies from Trust members: Fabio Villani, Alan Smith, Christine Suttie, Bruno Cawley, Lorenzo Zanre, Richard Ross, Paul Houlton, Mr & Mrs Laughton, 3 members of Merrilees family.</p> <p>Members in Attendance: 53</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last AGM. The minutes of the AGM held on 6th December 2012 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Stuart Johnston, seconded by David MacFarquhar.</p>	
3.	<p>Chairman's report. The chairman's report was read by Graham Hilditch.</p>	
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report. The treasurer's report was read by Eddie Tomkinson. The accounts were adopted by Stuart Johnston, seconded by Ian Suttie. The membership subscription will remain at £8 family, £5 single and £1 concession for the coming year.</p>	
3.	<p>Vote of thanks for the retiring trustees. Graham Hilditch thanked the following people who retired from the Board since the last AGM: Sonja Mould, Chris Wortley, Fiona Chalmers and Alan Smith.</p>	
4.	<p>Election of Trustees. Steve Hull joined the Board of Trustees having been proposed by Sheila Phelvin-Scott, seconded by Bruce Flood. Gareth Whyment joined the Board of Trustees having been proposed by Stuart Johnston, seconded by John Carson.</p>	
5.	<p>Date of next AGM – 6th November 2014.</p>	
6.	<p>AOB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent Income Source. Bruno Cawley put the following question in writing to the Board: "Now the Board has effectively lost the only independent income source they had, how do they plan to fund the maintenance of the community woodland we own?" - In response the Chairman said that the Green Burial had never been a source of income for the Trust. The examination of the soil at the Coffin Field by Fairhurst had established that the soil condition does not fulfil the legal requirements for burial. This is the reason why the project had to be abandoned and the application was allowed to lapse. Also, the business plan set up by the previous Board did not provide sufficient evidence that it would turn out to be a viable venture. Other sources are available for the management of the woods like grants and funds from local businesses such as Benromach Distilleries. - Disabled Access. Nicole Merrilees asked if there were any plans to improve paths to allow disabled access. The Chairman said that a stretch of path near the Mosset Burn is currently being upgraded but there are no immediate plans 	

	<p>to upgrade for disability access specifically. Wilson Metcalfe, Board member and member of the Forres Footpaths Trust, said that surfaces constructed specifically for disabled access tend to deteriorate rapidly when used by other users like cyclists, but the paths which have recently been widened are suitable for disability buggies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity of Trees. Brenda Devlin expressed concerns regarding the proximity of trees to neighbouring properties in the event of fire and suggested a boundary zone or firebreak. The Chairman said that this issue will be investigated and will be included in the next 5-year plan. An annual inspection programme may be set up for this. Gareth Whyment suggested that once conifers have been felled they could be replaced by broadleaf trees which have a larger root system. Steve Hull suggested that in time large trees could be replaced by smaller ones in the areas concerned. The Chairman stressed that property owners require adequate house insurance in the event of trees falling on their properties as it is standard practice to consider falling trees as an act of God. - Vandalism. Carl Adams expressed concern about the on-going vandalism, noise, heavy drinking and broken glass near the shelter and people who are involved in this behaviour walking through private property. The Chairman said that the Trust has an obligation to maintain the shelter as funding had been received for its construction and many people use it. He said it was a police issue and they have agreed to include that area in their rounds. Vicky Flood suggested that a way might be found to communicate with these people and to consider the involvement of schools and youth workers. George Alexander said that the hut was built with gifted wood. He said that a party had taken place last weekend and a lot of broken glass had been left behind. - HUB. A number of Trust members said that some staff at the HUB appeared not to know about FCWT and how to deal with membership application forms. The Board agreed to draw the attention of the volunteers working there to the FCWT. - Dark Woods Event. Maxeene Rutherford said that during this event large numbers of cars were parking in the adjoining housing area blocking entrances. The Chairman said that there had been parking signs put up to encourage people to use car parks but these had been removed by someone. If the event is repeated the parking issue will be highlighted. It was also suggested that with events like this it should be expected that a contribution was made to FCWT from the profits made. The Chairman agreed that in the case of commercial events contributions should be requested in future. - Thank you. George Alexander congratulated the Board on what had been achieved during the past year. <p>The Chairman thanked all members of the Trust for attending the AGM.</p>	GH
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