

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonard's Church Portakabin
7.30pm on 25th November 2013



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Stuart Johnston, Eddie Tomkinson, John Carson, Claire Feaver, Wilson Metcalfe, Donald Wright, Steve Hull, Gareth Whymant, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: None</p> <p>Also attending: Karen Collins</p>	
	<p>The chairman welcomed two new members to the Board – Gareth Whymant and Steve Hull.</p> <p>He also welcomed Karen Collins who had come to talk about her request to run a basket weaving course in Sanquhar Wood.</p> <p>Karen Collins said that the course would involve foraging for bramble, willow, dogwood, broom and ivy some of which would be cut in the wood and some would be brought in. The one-day courses would run between autumn and early spring with up to 15 people attending paying £55 each.</p> <p>She also talked about her willow coffin business. For this she is looking for suitable plots for planting willow for regular coppicing.</p> <p>Her website is naturallyuseful.co.uk</p> <p>After her presentation Karen left the meeting.</p>	
	<p>Minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2013 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by SJ, seconded by WM.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Woodland Association (CWA) membership form – ET to renew. - Email from Lorna Kerr regarding ownership of derelict land behind Pilmuir Primary School – WM replied. - Email from Vicky Flood regarding basket weaving course (see item 3). - Email from Fiona Chalmers regarding funding of Feasibility Study - ET will discuss this issue with Alan MacBeth, LEADER. He will also ask Chris Piper and Chris Wortley for the required signatures. - Email from Fiona Chalmers regarding Altyre Wetland Project – GH will contact Fiona to clarify her issues. - Email from George Alexander regarding help with Forres in Bloom – date passed. - Email from Alan Smith regarding various issues at Sanquhar Wood (see item 4). - Email from Heather Paul regarding re-routing paths at Sanquhar Wood to avoid walkers using private gardens for access – a work party will try to block off the path leading up to private properties. Apart from that, property owners could avoid using those paths thereby allowing the paths to become overgrown naturally. 	<p>ET</p> <p>ET</p> <p>GH</p> <p>SJ</p>
	<p>Matters Arising.</p>	
1.	<p>AGM/Membership.</p> <p>ET reported that the Trust has received £486 in membership fees and £120 in donations. There are 152 members at present. Some of the members who are paying</p>	

	<p>by Standing Order will be sent a reminder to up-date their payments if they wish to retain their membership. A general reminder will be sent out with the next newsletter in February to all previous members.</p> <p>An issue raised by Trust members at the AGM was that some volunteers at the HUB appeared to be unaware of the FCWT – ET discussed this with the volunteers.</p>	GM,CF
2.	<p>Dava Way Access.</p> <p>GH has asked Altyre Estate factor Peter Graham to provide the Board with a map of the area concerned. According to WM’s information the access ramp is likely to be built on the south side of the rail bridge which does not border on FCWT land.</p>	
3.	<p>Basket Weaving Workshop.</p> <p>CF expressed concern about disturbing wildlife in hedgerows when pruning and cutting take place. She will establish the time frame during which nesting birds will not be disturbed. GH will inform the course leaders that a trial run of the workshop can go ahead provided the Board is in agreement about where the cutting of growth takes place.</p> <p>GH will also inform Karen Collins that, at present, the Board is not in a position to approve the planting of willow.</p>	CF GH
4.	<p>Benromach Pathway.</p> <p>GH reported that in spite of the contractor employed by Benromach Distilleries having previously agreed to observe all concerns raised by the Board, he ignored the instructions, damaged adjoining areas with his machinery and supplied a very fine type of grit. After a further meeting with SJ, ET, GH and Keith (Benromach), it was decided to pull the contractor out and use Bill McRitchie instead. He will produce a method statement before proceeding. GH said that Benromach Distilleries expressed concern about their contractor’s failure to follow the stipulated procedures and are supporting the Board’s decision.</p> <p>GH will respond to Alan Smith’s email regarding this area and his comments on the grass cutting in the Coffin Field, explaining that this was a short term measure. Any future decisions about the maintenance of the Coffin Field and other woodland areas will be incorporated in the next 5-year plan.</p>	GH
5.	<p>Five-Year Plan.</p> <p>SJ and DW reported that in order to be able to apply for funding for the plan the Trust would have to register as a business with Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (RIPD) and accurate maps would be required.</p> <p>In order to help develop a strategy, Board members will walk round Sanquhar Wood on 13th December at 10am to establish what action is required.</p>	Board
6.	<p>Coffin Field Tree Planting.</p> <p>The saplings are due to be planted in March. Until then they will be stored in ET’s garden. ET is in contact with James Jones, timber merchant, about sourcing stakes and sponsorship.</p> <p>GH will contact Nicole Merrilees about the re-planting of some of the trees which were planted too close to the path last spring.</p>	ET GH
7.	<p>Financial Up-date.</p> <p>ET reported that £2,309 remain to be spent from Entrust. The money could be used for further path improvements, stock-piling of materials or signposting. A decision is deferred to the next meeting, depending on negotiations with Bill McRitchie.</p> <p>The bank balance on Monday 25th November was £ 37,132.39.</p> <p>Unpresented cheques:</p> <p>Insurance £ 368.00 Approx</p> <p>Moray Council £ 1,764.00</p>	GH, ET
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was pointed out that a number of organisations are using the wood without informing the Trust of their activities. GW and SH said that there is no legal 	

	<p>requirement for organisations to do this. JC will ask Jamie Whittle what the legal status is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SJ said that he wishes to resign as vice chairman and he intends to resign from the Board in 2 months for health reasons. GH asked the Board members to consider stepping in as vice chairman. - ET reported that the surface of the Muiry car park is now repaired. - GH asked the Board members to raise issues at Board meetings instead of circulating them by email in-between meetings. 	JC
9.	Date of Next Meeting – 13th January 2014	