

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonard's Church Portakabin
3.00pm on 31st March 2014



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Eddie Tomkinson, John Carson, Wilson Metcalfe, Donald Wright, Steve Hull, Gareth Whyment, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: none</p>	
	<p>Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2014 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by JC, seconded by WM.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence. Web site emails from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holly Willmott, Wild Things!, regarding maintaining contact and discussing planned activities. GH will invite Holly to attend the next Board meeting. - David Robinson, regarding lack of warning signs for cyclists and pedestrians where the tracks are crossing over. (see below Item 1) <p>Emails from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - George Alexander, Forres Groups Action Ltd., regarding making contributions towards the running of the HUB. GM to contact George. - Vicky Flood, regarding Board membership and woodland courses. The Board agreed that Vicky should be co-opted on to the Board and invited to attend the next Board meeting. <p>It was also agreed that SH should ask Colin Hall if he is interested in joining the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John McGhee, Moray Council, regarding drainage improvements near Newforres and Muiry car parks. These have now been completed. - Ian Douglas, Moray council regarding Outdoor Access Plan (see below Item 6). - Mrs Treen, regarding disabled access path to Sanquhar Woods near 24, Woodside Park. ET will look at the path and discuss options with Mrs Treen. 	<p>GH</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>SH</p> <p>ET</p>
	<p>Matters Arising.</p>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>Bike Track – ET and SH reported that they had walked the trail with Paul Masson, Cycletherapy. It was found to be in a sound condition. There were two areas where riders had developed a simple by-pass to avoid drops. These were acceptable although a watch must be maintained to see that the ground does not begin to break away. The pathways themselves showed that the trails were being regularly used and the construction of the paths was standing up well to the usage. All of the rocks positioned to develop the characteristics of the trails were found to be secure. The area on either side of the trails needs to be cleared of vegetation. This could cause injury to a rider and will also obscure signage telling both user and pedestrians of potential hazards. The principal signs at the start of the trails are in good order. A number of direction signs have been lost or have never been installed. These need to be replaced. A new sign at the lead into the jumps also needs to be created. ET will contact <i>Signage</i> to discuss needs for upgrading, replacing or adding any required signposts for cycle track. He said that the remaining monies from last year's Entrust grant should be sufficient to pay for these.</p>	<p>ET</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Tree Planting with Pilmuir Primary School – GM reported that a P6 class from Pilmuir Primary School had attended a planting session with the support of adult</p>	

	volunteers. The event had gone very well and had been enjoyed by all. A newspaper article and photograph were published in the Gazette the following week.	
3.	<p>Work Parties – GH and SH reported that there had been a good turnout of volunteers on both days in March. A large area has now been cleared of Sitka, and more trees have been planted in the Coffin Field.</p> <p>SH, GW and WM have agreed to do some more planting and the remaining saplings will be stored in ET's garden. More free saplings are available from the Woodland Trust.</p>	SH, GW, WM
4.	<p>Fundraising – GH has received confirmation that Piping Hot Forres has made a charity stall available to the FCWT free of charge. During the next Board meeting the programme of activities will be planned.</p> <p>GH and ET will attend a meeting of the Windfarm Fund this week which will involve the formation of a Board.</p> <p>JC said that the St Leonard's church hall is available for coffee mornings on every Saturday in September. He will also look into availability in October. The Board will need to draw on the help from Trust members who could be informed by email or newsletter.</p>	GH, ET JC
5.	<p>Use of Woodlands by Commercial Enterprises – Following a meeting with Jamie Whittle, solicitor, JC and SH reported that the Trust is not entitled to charge for activities whose purpose is educational or recreational (including commercial or profit-making events in the woodlands). This is set out in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 which states that everyone has the right of access for this purpose. However, the Trust is entitled to ask for voluntary contributions. The Board decided that it will make use of this option on an event by event basis.</p> <p>GW informed the Board that he will be taking a group of foresters through Sanquhar Wood on 8th April.</p>	
6.	<p>Outdoor Access Plan – The Trust has received an email from Ian Douglas, Moray Access Manager, presenting the aims and objectives of an access management plan which will involve a number of local organisations. Its purpose is to provide a co-ordinated path network to enhance recreational facilities for visitors and the local community. The Board decided that the Trust should participate in future discussions regarding this plan and GH will inform Ian Douglas.</p>	GH
7.	<p>Buffer Zone – GW, ET and GM have walked along the boundary of the Woodside housing estate and identified a number of potentially dangerous trees. GW will contact a tree surgeon to work out the costing of a tree-felling operation. He will also contact Nick Molnar regarding the removal of felled trees with horses and he will contact a neighbour of JC regarding a potentially dangerous tree.</p> <p>Other thinning work will be carried out at a later date.</p> <p>ET said that some thinning is required at Muiry/Newforres.</p>	GW
8.	<p>Financial Report – ET said that there has been no change in the accounts and the balance is still at £33,130.51.</p> <p>A grant of £6000 is due to be paid in by Entrust.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JC informed the Board that he had informed Companies House and OSCR of CF's and SJ's resignations. - GW presented a copy of the Doune Woodlands Plan which could be used as a model for FCWT's new 5-year plan. GW will suggest to Angus Dickson, forestry consultant, to proceed on this basis. - GW recommended that some Sitka Spruce should be left to grow in the woodlands as many pines, including Scots Pine are affected by a virus. 	GW
10.	Date of Next Meeting – 24th April 7.30pm	