

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonard's Church Portakabin
7.30pm on 24th April 2014



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

| Item | Minute | Action |
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| | <p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Eddie Tomkinson, Wilson Metcalfe, Steve Hull, Vicky Flood, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes) Apologies: John Carson, Donald Wright, Gareth Whymant Non-members present (for duration of presentation): Jenny Martin, Holly Willmot</p> | |
| | <p>Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2014 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by ET, seconded by WM.</p> | |
| | <p>Presentation by Wild Things! Jenny and Holly gave a powerpoint presentation on the history and objectives of Wild Things!. The organisation has been in existence since 2003. It is a limited company with charitable status. The original motive arose from desire to get local people involved in local environmental projects such as the Trees for Life project in Glen Affric. The overall objective is to run activities which are mutually beneficial for both people and wildlife. Wild Things! has since evolved into a major organisation providing activities for up to 10 000 people including school children, drug addicts and people with mental health issues. It is a provider for the John Muir Award scheme. It runs Coastal Classroom activities in co-operation with Whale and Dolphin Conservation. It runs accredited courses for youth leadership training. In 2008 Wild Things! ran a major event in Sanquhar Wood in co-operation with FCWT in which all local primary schools were involved. Also in co-operation with FCWT Wild Things! has carried out conservation activities in Sanquhar Wood like tree planting and removal of sycamore and laurel saplings in the past. A new project they would like to run is to introduce wildflowers in the coffin field. The Board approved of this project. Members of the Board asked about bushcraft activities, in particular fire setting. The Board was assured that this is done in a responsible way. Participants are made aware of the dangers and risks. The fires are small and all evidence of a fire is removed at the end of an activity. It was agreed that no fires should be lit in the giants' heads area in the near future. Jenny suggested that a designated area could be provided to reduce the likelihood of people starting fires in vulnerable areas in the wood. Members of the Board also asked about fundraising methods. Wild Things! now has a part-time fundraiser. Jenny suggested that one way of making funds available is to utilise public events like the Commonwealth Games or Homecoming Scotland. Jenny and Holly agreed to co-operate with FCWT in the organisation and running of the stall at Piping Hot Forres. GH will co-ordinate this. GH thanked Jenny and Holly for their very informative talk.</p> | GH |
| | <p>Correspondence. Website email from - Tom Docherty, regarding fire in Muiry Wood. Emails from - Mark Bond and Stuart Johnston, regarding fires in Sanquhar Woods. ET will ask the Gazette to alert readers to this issue and ask the public for vigilance. - The Hub, requesting cycle track leaflets. ET will ask Chris Piper if hard</p> | ET |

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| | <p>copies or electronic copies are still available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fiona Chalmers, Meeting to discuss proposed routes in Chapelton Outdoor Access Plan (see item 4). This will be held on 9th May. GH will attend as well as WM on behalf of the Forres Footpaths Trust. | <p>ET</p> <p>GH</p> |
| | Matters Arising. | |
| 1. | <p>Bike Track – ET reported that Donald Hall from Cycling Scotland has expressed an interest in holding cycling events, e.g. a time trial, in Sanquhar Wood. ET will meet him on 3rd May.</p> <p>GH reported that the Moray Mountain Bike Club is also interested in running events. Such events could be used to raise funds to finance insurance costs.</p> <p>ET said that he will contact Chris Piper who may hold software of bike track signposts from Signcraft.</p> <p>ET reported that David Robinson has agreed to clear overgrown areas immediately next to the cycle track.</p> | <p>ET</p> <p>ET</p> |
| 2. | <p>Work parties – A work party will be run on 17th May 10am. GM will email volunteers. GH and SH will organise it.</p> | <p>GM, GH, SH</p> |
| 3. | <p>Fundraising – The Piping Hot Forres stall will now be run together with Wild Things!. Membership forms, Trust information leaflets and quizzes will be made available. GH will co-ordinate the preparations together with GM, VF and Jenny Martin.</p> <p>GM will email Trust members to appeal for volunteers on the day.</p> | <p>GH, GM, VF GM</p> |
| 4. | <p>Financial update – ET reported that the current balance is £39,058.15. £6000 have been received from Entrust.</p> <p>He said that there has been no reaction from the newsletter appeal to Trust members who pay by standing order to update their payments.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ET will organise the replacement of broken locks on gates at Sanquhar Wood. - VF agreed to put together ideas for how to tackle the issue of illegal fires in woodlands and how to identify the perpetrators. This could be included in the 5-year plan. | <p>ET</p> <p>VF</p> |
| 12. | Date of Next Meeting – 2nd June 2014 | |