

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonards Church Portakabin
7.30pm on 3rd November 2014



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Steve Hull, Wilson Metcalfe, Eddie Tomkinson, Vicky Flood, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Donald Wright, Gareth Whymant,</p>	
	<p>Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by JC, seconded by SH.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence. Emails from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maxene Rutherford, regarding concerns about fires lit by Wild Things groups in woodlands. GH will respond giving reassurance that this happens in a responsible way and FCWT is aware of it. GM will request a further meeting with Jenny Martin from Wild Things to discuss alternatives. • Stuart Johnston, regarding removal of wire fencing. GM will inform Stuart that the Board is happy for him and John Rutherford to carry out this task. • Brenda Devlin, regarding clarification on the proposed tree felling. GH has responded. • Fiona Emslie, regarding teambuilding volunteer work. GM will ask for further details. <p>Website email from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valery Treen, regarding sycamore saplings. GM will respond suggesting a meeting with Mrs Treen to discuss issue. <p>Letter from Entrust requesting confirmation on how the monies granted will be spent. The money has to be spent before 31st March 2015.</p>	<p>GH GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p>
1.	<p>Sanquhar Woodland felling. GH reported that he and GW had had another walk along the boundary and met up with all householders who had contacted the Board. All issues are now resolved. The application for the licence to fell has now been submitted. ET stated that 2 quotations will be required. He will get in touch with GW.</p>	<p>ET, GW</p>
2.	<p>AGM GH said that an advert had been placed in the Gazette. GH will sign the financial report and duplicate them. GM will deal with catering requirements. Mrs Hilditch will serve drinks and sell merchandise. ET and Mrs Tomkinson will check membership at the door. SH will report on volunteer work in Sanquhar Wood.</p>	<p>GH GM</p> <p>SH</p>
3.	<p>Membership fees. The Board will propose a rise in subscriptions to Family £12, Individual £8, Concession £5. A definition of who is entitled to concession will be required.</p>	
4.	<p>The Berryburn Windfarm Grant Application is deferred to the next Board meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Sanquhar Work Party. SH reported that four volunteers had attended the work party last Saturday. Sitka and rhododendron saplings had been cleared and grass had been strimmed around the</p>	

	<p>saplings in the coffin field. During the next work party the guards and stakes for about 500 saplings planted last spring will need to be replaced. ET will order these. Some sycamore shoots which overhang neighbouring properties will need to be trimmed back. However, these sycamore have been coppiced for a number of years and need to be removed altogether. This can only be done when they are in leaf and SH suggested that this should be done in late summer at the time when rhododendron removal will be carried out. He also said that he had located a number of oak saplings which had self-seeded and he would like to transplant these during the winter.</p> <p>WM informed the Board that the Dava Way Association had recently purchased a strimmer on wheels which is suitable for widening paths. It might be possible to borrow this tool.</p>	<p>ET</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Financial Update ET reported a closing balance of £36,468.24. This includes a £6000 grant not yet spent, £268 in subscriptions and £180 in donations.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ET confirmed that all signs have now arrived and will be fixed in the near future. WM said that the kissing gate and entrance sign at the Sanquhar Loch entrance have also been damaged and removed. Their replacement will be put on the January agenda. • Spirit of Community event. WM reported that a considerable number of community groups had attended and wide-ranging discussions had taken place. It was a worthwhile event which had brought many groups together. No decisions were taken. • Culture Day. VF suggested that a gazebo set up in Grant Park might have attracted more visitors. ET said that gazebos are available from Transition Town. • ET reported that the Moray Council will shortly carry out some maintenance work in the Council woods at Muiry and they have offered to carry out path maintenance for FCWT at the same time. • Vicky Flood reporting on the Community Woodland Conference: This year the conference was themed 'Making Connections'. It was hosted by Dunbar Community Woodlands (DCW) who made everyone feel very welcome and had worked very hard to make sure we had a good time. As with many community woodlands they are dependent on volunteers. There were a number of speakers and visits during the weekend including visits out to Dunbar with reference to John Muir as this is his birth place, a visit to Dunbar Community Woodland itself and a discussion on its development, discussions on using mail chimp, facebook and websites, talks on woodland weddings and natural burial sites, forest gardening and such like. There was a talk on using woodlands as sensory experiences for people with autism and aspergers. There are many woodlands which suffer the same problems as ours in terms of keeping paths clear, dog mess and over-growing into neighbouring properties. There are many residents adjoining the DCW who love the trees and support the work the trust do. There are recently built houses where it doesn't look as if the root protection areas of the trees in the woodland adjacent to the houses had been taken into consideration. It is unfortunate that these will possibly become problematic in the future. DCW is a smaller woodland than Sanquhar. There is a meeting place in the middle of the woodland which houses a pizza clay oven. Their work parties use the oven and Kelly kettles to produce refreshments in the woodland. <p>All in all the conference was very inspiring and I felt that it is a very good source of support for all community woodlands.</p>	<p>ET, SH Board</p>

12.	Date of Next Meeting – 24th November 2014 at the Community Centre	
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