

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 26th January 2015



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Donald Wright, Steve Hull, Wilson Metcalfe, Eddie Tomkinson, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Vicky Flood, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Gareth Whyment, Susan Conti</p>	
	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting held on 24th November 2014.</p> <p>Item 11 – WM confirmed that he updated the website with the minutes as has been his practice since its establishment.</p> <p>WM said that the training session for the Billy Goat machine will be deferred until the spring when growth has started.</p> <p>Proposed by PG, seconded by WM</p>	
	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage magazine</p> <p>Emails from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP regarding Deborah Benham’s request to use fallen trees to build a cabin at Newbold. DP will contact Deborah and ask what exactly is required and to tell her that there might be suitable trees at the Muiry. • various people regarding storm damage in Sanquhar. This has been dealt with (see item 1). • Scottish Natural Heritage regarding funding for rhododendron removal. GM to follow up. • CWA – their bulletin 	<p>DP</p> <p>GM</p>
	<p>Agenda.</p>	
1.	<p>Sanquhar</p> <p>Damage Report. GH reported that ca. 15 trees had been damaged during the recent storms. Some of them had fallen on to the cycle track. Although an appointment had been made with George Barclay to arrange for their safe removal this has already been done by John Young on his own initiative and without informing the Board. Board members who happened to come across John lent him a hand. However, they pointed out to him that he was doing this without appropriate insurance and safety measures in place. John was aware of this. ET will meet up with John to discuss the possibility of further involvement with the FCWT, in particular with regard to the bike track.</p> <p>GH said that he will ask George Barclay to remove the fallen trees together with the felled trees.</p> <p>VF agreed to make inquiries about the requirements and the cost of the</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>GH</p> <p>VF</p>

	<p>renewal of her and GW's chainsaw licences. ET will then make inquiries about implications for having chainsaw users on the insurance.</p> <p>SH said that he will contact George Barclay who has a chainsaw licence to ask if he would be in a position to use his chainsaw if required.</p> <p>Felling Progress Report. GH said that all insurance documents, risk assessments and method statement are in place and George Barclay was going to start at the end of this month.</p> <p>Signage Progress Report. ET said that the signs are ready to be fixed and Varis had agreed to manufacture metal posts. This has been delayed due to their increased workload in dealing with storm damage. SH suggested that temporary signs should be put up and checked regularly.</p> <p>Gate Locks Progress Report. Fiona Chalmers has reported that cars have used the track at the Sanquhar Mains car park entrance to approach the bird hide. ET will fix a chain and padlock on the barrier.</p> <p>Sycamore Coppice at Woodside Park Entrance. It was decided not to apply poison at this stage. The next Saturday work party will cut back the growth with loppers and bow saws.</p> <p>BBQ/Fire Pit at Sanquhar. While the Board feels comfortable with the fire safety procedures Wild Things have in place and appreciates the educational value of the work they do, it also appreciates the concerns neighbouring householders have whose properties lie within a few hundred yards of the area where Wild Things groups have been lighting fires in the past. The main concern is about possible copycat activities carried out by less responsible people.</p> <p>The option of providing a fire pit or BBQ was discussed and was decided against as the Board feels that this could lead to litter being left and provide a magnet for vandalism.</p> <p>GM will email Jenny Martin and advise Wild Things that if their groups intend to continue making fires in the Sanquhar Wood areas they should choose an area which is further away from houses and less frequented.</p> <p>WM and DP will produce an info page on the website about people's rights to make fires in woodlands etc..</p> <p>GM will put info about this in the next newsletter.</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>SH</p> <p>ET</p> <p>SH</p> <p>GM</p> <p>WM, DP</p> <p>GM</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>New Proposed Projects.</p> <p>Sanquhar Rhododendron Clearance. ET reported that some Board members and Andrew Dixon had assessed the extent of the infestation of rhododendron and laurel in Sanquhar and a quote has been received from Andrew Dixon.</p> <p>The Board decided to go ahead with this.</p> <p>ET will co-ordinate a survey of the affected areas.</p> <p>Sanquhar Paths Upgrade. GM said that some stretches of paths in Sanquhar could do with upgrading as they can get quite muddy and difficult to negotiate for walkers. It was agreed that most of the paths should be left in their natural state and resurfacing should only happen on muddy stretches.</p> <p>WM will have a look at the paths in Sanquhar and the Muiry and report back</p>	

		ET
		WM
3.	<p>Sanquhar Work Parties.</p> <p>Instruction Sheet for Independent Volunteers. This has been written by SH for people who would like to do volunteer work in Sanquhar in their own time and will be forwarded to Board members by GM. In addition, ET will make inquiries regarding lone worker policies from the insurance and will draft a risk assessment. These documents will have to be signed by the volunteer workers.</p> <p>Work Party Report. The last work party had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions and will take place on 31st January instead when coppiced Sycamore will be cut back (see item 1) and the picnic table at the car park will be repaired.</p>	GM, ET SH
4.	<p>Future Funding.</p> <p>Berryburn Windfarm Fund. GH said that the FCWT is currently in the process of dealing with and applying for funding for a number of projects and should therefore postpone an application to the Berryburn fund. GM will research possibility of funding for rhododendron removal from Scottish Natural Heritage.</p> <p>ET has applied for funding from Landfill Trust.</p> <p>New Income Streams/Raising Profile.</p> <p>Letterboxes containing brochures fixed near entrances to the woods. ET will ask Varis to make some.</p> <p>Other ideas: creating a facebook page, summer/easter/teddy bears' picnic, nature walks, legacies, memorial trees.</p> <p>Further discussion was deferred to next meeting.</p>	GM ET
5.	GM will invite Ian Suttie to attend next meeting for discussion of plans for Muiry and Newforres.	GM
6.	<p>Financial Update.</p> <p>ET reported the balance in the bank standing at £36,129.08.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Volunteer Action Fund. VF reported that this fund is aimed at funding and providing development support for community volunteering programmes especially for projects which include disadvantaged groups. It involves the support and training of volunteers and could include staff training and a paid coordinator. At least 15 volunteers would have to be recruited.</p> <p>The Board decided that this would be too big a project for the Trust to take on at this point.</p>	
8.	Date of Next Meeting – 23rd February 2015 at the Community Centre	