

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 23rd February 2015



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Donald Wright, Steve Hull, Eddie Tomkinson, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Vicky Flood, Gareth Whymant, Susan Conti (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Wilson Metcalfe, Gisela MacFarquhar (joined at 8.30pm)</p>	
	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting held on 26th January 2015</p> <p>Item 7- VF wished to make it very clear that she was not seeking remuneration for this project but that she would have given her services for free.</p> <p>Proposed by DW, seconded by ET.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Gisela has sent a standard email to the following who emailed with concerns re the current felling. Her email explained reasons for felling and intention to re-plant with native species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glynis Wozniak • Claire Ross • Celia Smith • James Grigg <p>All are non-members. ET stated that our legal advisers have said FCWT does not need to reply to non-members, though it was noted that it would be good PR to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from Brenda Devlin – GH has responded. • Chris Spencer, Chair of Mannachie Rise Residents, also emailed regarding the felling. GH has responded to him. • Liz (no surname), Woodside Park, emailed regarding water levels in the nearby pond. She has been responded to. • Email from Jenny Martin of Wild Things regarding lighting of fires. They have suggested a different site for this purpose, away from houses. • Website email from Alan Smith who also put a letter into <i>The Gazette</i> this week. WM acknowledged the email. 	
	<p>Agenda</p>	
<p>1</p>	<p>Sanquhar Felling of Trees & Rhododendron Progress Report</p> <p>In response to A Smith's <i>Gazette</i> letter, GH has prepared a press release which will appear in the <i>Gazette</i> this week. A copy was circulated. It explained all householders adjacent to the felling were originally notified in July 2014 by hand delivered letter explaining the reasons behind the felling and the intention to replant with native species.</p>	

George Barclay should finish felling by the end of next week. The problem with Mannachie residents' complaints re noise etc has been dealt with.

DP had highlighted Groves Forestry cutting near a live badger sett. Had a meeting with Groves to identify where they should not cut. Groves have about one day's work left. FCWT has agreed to two extra days of cutting. Groves working 8am-4.30pm.

GW noted he was very impressed with George Barclay's work.

DP said some small ash had been cut down, but easy to mistake for Sycamore.

DW said there were some big trees right at the fence at Mannachie Rise. Some householders had asked for trees not to be felled. These trees may not be part of FCWT area. GW and VF to go to inspect. If they need to be cut, it needs to be done quickly.

Shona Christie, Mannachie Rise, has offered to pay for felling. VF has her details, GW/VF to contact.

The question was asked re protocol, if additional trees need to be cut. GW said they would be covered by the 6m³/¼ rule, and one could be felled.

The new trees will be planted either in autumn 2015 or spring 2016. We have two years to do so.

G Barclay has asked what to do with the stumps. GW recommends glyphosate. Beech does not need treated, but sycamore does. GW has a pesticide licence. He offered to spray with Roundup once G Barclay has finished felling. Capsules could be used but very time consuming. Will be done in next couple of weeks.

VF asked about stability of hill beside Woodside Drive now trees cut. It was thought that the existing roots would keep it stable for next 10 years, by which time the new trees will have grown.

Use of Glyphosate near ponds. SH had raised the issue of glyphosate breaking down more slowly in water which could affect the great crested newts in the ponds. He had contacted David O'Brien of SNH, and Steve of Trees for Life. He had been advised a special certificate PA6AW was required (Angus Dixon of Groves should have one). SH waiting for D O'Brien to respond before coming to a conclusion. Possibility Angus could apply glyphosate by brush, in July.

"Lever and mulch" - DP offered to get information. Will need a buffer zone for the newts. ET had written to the Forestry Commission, SNH, and Moray Council asking for advice. He had also asked for a specific report from Groves which will arrive in next few days.

Signage Progress Report ET reported the signs are ready, but we are waiting for posts which will be ready by end of week. FCWT putting them in ourselves. WM keen to put up new notices and a map showing all paths. Maps are in a digital form – 2 x 300 and 1 x 600. Cost of producing maps will be £1200 (Sanquhar £600; Newforres and Muiry £300 each). WM suggests integrating the title of the woods at the top of the notice.

VF asked about the possibility of putting a smart phone scan onto the signs. ET will ask WM.

Gatelocks Progress Report The chain is now on. GM, SH, ET, GH

GW/VF

GW/VF

GW

SH

DP

ET

WM

ET

	<p>have keys.</p> <p>Badger Sett The sett is quite big. GH spoke to SNH and Ian Suttie. Main concern is if using industrial machinery. SNH had no real concern. Can use a chainsaw. The nearby laurel does not cover a big area so could be sprayed not cut. Should leave a 20m zone around sett. In long run will be beneficial to the badgers as will allow grass, and therefore earthworms, to flourish. The Board agreed to spray the Laurel.</p> <p>Red Squirrels Need to walk through the woods and note any dreys before felling. There are some dreys near Brenda Devlin's where there is Scots Pine with birdboxes. GH spoke to SNH who sent some basic guidelines. Again, it could be argued that long term the felling will be beneficial for the animals, especially the planting of Hazel. GW will check.</p> <p>Sanquhar Thinning Some areas need thinning - a serious thinning programme needs to be drawn up. Is probably beyond George Barclay (though that is not definite), as would not be profitable. GW to map areas he feels should be thinned. If we all agree on the areas, then we will seek a thinning licence.</p>	<p>GW</p> <p>GW</p>
2	<p>Sanquhar Work Parties</p> <p>Instruction Sheet for Independent Volunteers SH circulated a draft worksheet. He noted that the risk from ticks needs to be added. Also info about bird nesting. We need a hard copy of a risk assessment. VF and DP have a generic risk assessment which would be suitable. This to be put on the back of the worksheet. GH will laminate copies. Need to ask WM to put on website.</p> <p>ET to speak to insurance company re lone workers. Needs to be clarified before putting out worksheets.</p> <p>Work Party Report Two workparties of four, then five, people have cleared the sycamore coppice. Was very labour intensive and may require further treatment. Last Saturday there was a clearance by the ponds. On Wednesday, a small work party under SH's guidance will continue. Saturday, 7th March will see guards and stakes put on young trees round Coffin Field.</p> <p>Repairs to car park picnic table To take place on 7th March with GH, ET, PG and R Conti. Trees to be moved in area where orchids are growing. ET will talk to G Barclay re helping with picnic table.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>VF & DP</p> <p>GH</p> <p>WM</p> <p>ET</p> <p>SH</p> <p>GH, ET, PG</p>
3	<p>Meeting with Ian Suttie</p> <p>Scheduled for 30th March. Any questions re Muiry/Newforres. WM will have a look at the paths. IS has raised the issue of clearing the paths with Moray Council, and has been waiting 4-5 months for Grant Speed to action. ET to chase G Speed.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>ET</p>
4	<p>Facebook Page</p> <p>To be linked to website but no postings from the public to be allowed, as would mean a member replying to all postings, in addition to website emails. VF to investigate.</p>	<p>VF</p>

