

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 30th March 2015



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair), Steve Hull, Wilson Metcalfe, Eddie Tomkinson, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Gareth Whymant, Susan Conti, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: : Graham Hilditch, Vicky Flood</p> <p>The chairman welcomed Ian Suttie to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Actions from Minutes of previous meeting held on 23rd February 2015.</p> <p>Item 1: GW and VF to check if trees at Mannachie Rise are on FCWT land – done. Request from Shona Ferguson to fell trees – still to contact. GW to spray tree stumps – done. SH to contact Dave O'Brian and Angus Dixon regarding manual application of glyphosate – done. DP to get information on "lever and mulch" – done. Web info has been forwarded to Trustees. This can only be done on a small scale with volunteers. It could be tried out during a work party session. ET seeking advice on how to apply glyphosate – done.</p> <p>WM to make enquiries regarding creation of up-to-date maps of woodlands – will get quotes for good quality map for Sanquhar, Muiry and Newforres. WM, ET and SH to liaise about installing signs on bike track. GW to check if any trees still standing have squirrel dreys – all trees are now cut. GW didn't notice any squirrel dreys.</p> <p>GW to draw up thinning programme – GW said that a map with digitised gridlines is required to establish exactly which areas need thinning. A felling license can then be acquired and the felling has to take place within the suggested areas. The map to be created by WM (see above) might incorporate this.</p> <p>Item 2: ET to get advice from insurance re lone working – done.</p> <p>Item 4: VF to investigate the setting up of facebook page – still pending. Nick Molnar has cut up fallen tree on Altyre Estates side. Cut timber and section lying across burn still to be removed.</p>	<p>GH</p> <p>WM</p> <p>GW</p> <p>VF GH</p>
3.	<p>Matters arising.</p> <p>Minutes of 23.02.2015 Item 6: AOB chainsaw licence. The chairman added the following statement: The Board will engage anyone with a full and up-to-date chainsaw license for work. However, they do not wish to incur the</p>	

	expense of acquiring or renewing licences. Minutes Proposed by GW Seconded by PG	
4.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Emails from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheila Crosby, Brenda Devlin and Stuart Johnston expressing their gratitude for the felling carried out behind their houses. Donations have been received from Brenda Devlin, Stuart Johnston and Graham Hilditch. - TCV (insurance) regarding advice on lone working. - Vicky Flood regarding communication policy. The Board is of the opinion that consultation leading up to the tree felling was adequate as all neighbouring householders were informed in good time. Communication with the general public could have been better, but very short notice given by the contractor prevented a newspaper article being published before the commencement of felling. <p>Website email from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alan Smith was noted. No further action. 	
5.	<p>Muiry and Newforres - Ian Suttie.</p> <p>Mr Suttie reported that the volunteer group at Muiry and Newforres had been engaged in maintaining the paths using weedkiller and by cutting back encroaching growth with the help of the billy goat cutter and a new machine hired from Moray Council which is capable of cutting bigger growth. The car parks are much used and have been upgraded and the bins are also well used. An information sheet which was attached to the litter bin is missing and should be replaced.</p> <p>A programme of thinning carried out by Angus Dickson, assisted by Scouts, is in progress. Some fir trees are too close and the growth of broad leaved trees is to be encouraged. Work parties have also been lopping off lower branches. There are very few rhododendrons and these are being dealt with.</p> <p>Future work – Mr Suttie suggested that an area of approximately ¼ acre should be clear cut to let in more light and create more biodiversity. Mr Suttie agreed to develop a budget estimate for this work. SNH provides information on heather management.</p> <p>GW said a survey will be required for the thinning programme.</p> <p>Some paths need levelling off. Mr Suttie will ask Bill McRitchie to do this.</p> <p>DW suggested that a couple of benches which had gone missing or are damaged should be replaced and on some paths soakaways should be created to allow rainwater to drain away.</p> <p>An on-site tour of the woods will be arranged by Mr Suttie for Trustees and Angus Dickson at the end of April.</p> <p>Mr Suttie also pointed out that many of the trees which had been planted with funding from Benromach Distillery had been damaged and stakes needed to be replaced. SH will investigate.</p> <p>Also, the installation of bird boxes which was to be done by David Wakely on instruction of Benromach Distillery had not been carried out. GH to inform Benromach.</p> <p>Mr Suttie said he had some young oak trees in his garden which could be transferred to a suitable location in Sanquhar. SH will look into this.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>IS</p> <p>IS</p> <p>Board</p> <p>SH</p> <p>GH</p> <p>SH</p>

	DW thanked Mr Suttie for his report. Mr Suttie then departed.	
6.	<p>Sanquhar.</p> <p>Tree felling. ET reported that the felling is now completed. Bill McRitchie has made progress with tidying up felled areas and moving hanging trees. Not sure if all is done. ET to check. There will be no invoice from Bill. He is taking the timber in payment.</p> <p>Rhododendron removal. All preliminary work has been done. The spraying will be done in June/July. Information on this will be posted on the web by WM and in the newsletter by GM.</p> <p>Work parties. SH reported that the repair of the picnic table is in hand. The replacement of stakes and guards is continuing. An area around the pond is being cleared of sitka, larch and western hemlock. This will create a more open habitat and reduce acidity in the pond. Grass has been cut and removed in the Coffin Field area where orchids are growing. The next work parties will take place on 4th and 18th April. GM will inform volunteers.</p> <p>Bike track. ET reported that John Young is happy to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the bike track and will attend Board meetings as and when required. Cycle Scotland is running a course on track maintenance which John Young has agreed to attend. He is also willing to promote and support track events. ET has approached Cycle Scotland who will organise a couple of events.</p> <p>Use of power tools. Separate risk assessments for the use of power tools will have to be created. DP will assist.</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>WM, GM</p> <p>SH, GM</p> <p>ET</p> <p>DP</p>
7.	<p>Financial Update. ET reported a closing balance of £33,811.08. The cost of felling came to £3600, minus £1445 for value of timber. Final cost amounts to £2155.</p> <p>To date the cost of work and materials purchased for the removal of rhododendron and laurel amounts to £1509.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Management Plan. DW stated that the last management plan had run out in 2013 and needs to be replaced. At this point we are uncertain how comprehensive a plan needs to be. Discussion deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>Volunteers/lone working/risk assessment. SH, DP and GM have finalised instruction sheet for independent volunteers and DP has created a risk assessment. These are now ready for use. WM will put them on the website. GM will report in the newsletter. GH will laminate copies.</p> <p>Memorial trees. The Board decided not to develop the idea of creating an area designated for memorial trees as this is likely to cause too much difficulty in the long-term maintenance and management and could turn out to be costly.</p> <p>Wild Things! Fire sites. GM has received a map marking possible sites for fires. GM will forward this to the Board. To be looked into at the next meeting.</p> <p>Participation in Toun Mercat and Piping at Forres. These events take place on 19th and 27th June respectively. The Board decided to withdraw from the Piping at Forres event. GM to get more information on the Toun Mercat event. If it goes ahead volunteers will be required for planning and manning a stall.</p>	<p>Board</p> <p>WM, GM, GH</p> <p>GM, Board</p> <p>GM</p>

	Articles of Association. GM and ET met with Jamie Whittle, solicitor, and confirmed that there are some inconsistencies in the articles, including the omission of changes agreed at EGMs in past years. ET will look at these.	ET
9.	Date of Next Meeting – 27 th April 2015 at the Community Centre	