

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 1st June 2015



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Donald Wright, Steve Hull, Wilson Metcalfe, Eddie Tomkinson, Gareth Whyment, Susan Conti, Peter Graham, Vicky Flood, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Dan Puplett</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting held on 27th April – none.</p> <p>Proposed - PG Seconded - SC</p>	
3.	<p>Actions from Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WM reported that he has been in touch with people who create maps and will report on progress at the next meeting. • GW reported that he has identified areas which require or could benefit from thinning. However, an accurate map will be required for a proper survey. Summertime after the nesting season or winter would be the best time for thinning. GW will continue working on this issue. The Board aims to commence with the felling next year. • ET reported that 39 Engineers have agreed to take on the removal of the tree which is lying across the Mosset as soon as they can make staff available. • SH reported that Nick Molnar has agreed to use his horses and equipment to crush the bracken in the coffin field in due course. • ET reported that Ian Suttie had taken several Board members on a walk through Muiry and Newforres. Ian had pointed out areas which could benefit from a heather mulching programme and paths which require upgrading. On the whole the two areas are very well maintained and appear to be popular with dog walkers and other people. The bins are being well used and there is little evidence of litter. Ian Suttie regularly empties the bins into a bin provided by the Moray Council. There is some evidence of rhododendron treatment but this is very occasional as it is dealt with as soon as growth is noticed. • GH reported that he had written to Jamie Whittle, lawyer, to confirm the accuracy of the servitude and indemnity and he requested for the bird boxes to be installed which had been 	

	<p>part of the agreement with Benromach Distillery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ET reported that a post driver would cost £30. The Board agreed for ET to purchase one. • The volunteer help sheet and the accompanying risk assessment are now ready for use. GH has produced some laminated copies of the volunteer help sheet. He will print off another 10 paper copies to hand out to volunteers and one laminated copy of the risk assessment for the lead volunteer. • ET and GH have met with John Young who has been on a bike track management course and is now competent to carry out surveys. He will assist with identifying suitable locations for the new signs. He is keen to promote and support the development of bike track events on Facebook and will work on arranging events with Cycle Scotland. ET will continue to work with John Young. • WM reported that he will be attending the billy goat training session next weekend. 	<p>ET</p> <p>GH</p>
4.	<p>Correspondence. None.</p>	
5.	<p>Muiry and Newforres. See above.</p>	
6.	<p>Sanquhar and Bike Track. Rhododendron and laurel treatment. GW stated that glyphosate is not known to be harmful to humans or animals when sprayed on plants unless it is touched with wet hands soon after spraying. Signs will be put up to warn walkers when spraying is in progress. GH and PG will deliver a note informing residents in Sanquhar estate and Mannachie estate about this. GH will also ask the Gazette to publish an article. GM will deliver the same note to Trust members. WM will put it on the Web.</p> <p>A letter requesting donations towards the replanting of the felled areas will go out at the same time. It is estimated that the cost will amount to around £3000. Replanting can take place between October and April. ET will make inquiries at Christies about the cost of plants. GM will ask The Woodland Trust if any more trees are available free of charge.</p> <p>SH presented an Action plan for the coffin field. Bracken will be dealt with by volunteer groups and Nick Molnar (see above) in June as growth so far has been very slow. The billy goat mower will be used in mid-June to cut along the paths. This can be done when WM is available. The whole coffin field will be cut in August and the grass removed. This should encourage more wild flowers to grow. ET will request Moray Council to do this. Planted young trees will need some clearance during the summer. The orchid area will need to be cut once orchids have finished seeding in late autumn. SH stated that the next work party will be re-planting some young trees which have been subjected to vandalism.</p>	<p>GH, PG GM WM</p> <p>ET GM</p> <p>ET SH</p>
7.	<p>Management Plan. WM reported that he had compiled a basis for a management plan from the previous plan which is now ready for updating. The Board may consider some changes to the overall aims and objectives and differentiate between the</p>	

	<p>social aspects of the woodlands and the physical management of the woods. DP, SH and VF have expressed an interest in forming a sub-committee to work on the plan. WM will co-ordinate the subcommittee.</p> <p>The Board agreed that self-sufficiency is not really an option at present and that the Trust will rely on funding from other sources.</p>	WM
8.	Financial Update. ET reported a total of £30,915 in the account.	
9.	AOB. VF asked for clarification of the updates necessary of the Articles of Association. ET said that this had been discussed at a meeting with Jamie Whittle and that amendments can be agreed at the next AGM if it is not an urgent matter and if it is listed on the agenda as an item.	
10.	Date of Next Meeting – 6th July 2015 at the Community Centre	