

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 6 July 2015



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	
1.	<p>Present: Graham Hilditch (chair), Steve Hull, Wilson Metcalfe, Eddie Tomkinson, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett</p> <p>Apologies: Don Wright, Gisela MacFarquhar, Susan Conti</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting held on 1 June 2015 – none.</p> <p>Proposed - WM Seconded - PG</p>	
3.	<p>Actions from Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <p>WM reported that work on developing maps of the woods continued. He has spoken with two map makers and is continuing to refine details before receiving quotations. One potential supplier would use Ordnance Survey Opendata (no OS royalties) and then would develop them using local knowledge and GPS surveying. It will be necessary for this mapping to be completed before GW prepares the proposed thinning programme and the Management Plan.</p> <p>ET reported that we are still waiting for 39 Engineers to advise whether they are able to assist in the removal of the tree breaching the burn. It was thought the Nick Molner had moved the logs that were in the field after agreement with GH.</p> <p>A quotation was being obtained the carry out the coppicing work in both Muiry and Newforres woods.</p> <p>John Young had led a work party of approximately 12 volunteers that had begun the maintenance work on the bike trails. It was hoped that John would be able to attend a Meeting in the near future to brief the Board.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>ET</p> <p>ET</p>
4.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>We had received donations from a number of residents in the area contributing to the works of thinning and replanting.</p> <p>Vicky Flood had emailed GH stating that she was resigning from the Board but with no explanation for her decision.</p> <p>Two emails had been received from Fiona Chalmers. GH remarked that he would briefly respond but in general most of the information requested was already on our web site. Certain points raised were not relevant since the Management Plan is for the Board to consider together with the actions it takes. Fiona did not renew her 2014 /2015 membership</p>	

	Our Insurance Policies for both the Woodlands and the Bike Trails have been renewed.	
5.	Muiry and Newforres. There had been a work party lead by Ian Suttie. This mainly centred on removal of tree guards that still encompassed well established trees.	
6.	<p>Sanquhar and Bike Track. Rhododendron and laurel treatment. WM emphasised the need for greater consideration towards the safety and training of persons using powered tools. He recently had been on courses to use the Billy Goat and powered Strimmers, sponsored by the Dava Way Association. In an age when Health and Safety have become much more relevant we have a Duty of Care to all of our members, volunteers and the general public to ensure that we minimise any risk. With no desire to 'Go over the top' we do need to ensure that plant being used is 'Fit for purpose', that people have been trained to use the plant safely and are dressed appropriately. We may need to create some form of recording system.</p> <p>Grove Forestry, (Angus Dixon) is due to start spraying the rhododendrons and laurel week in the week beginning 13 July. This will largely depend on the weather. It needs to be dry and little or no wind. WM asked for agreement with AD to photograph the work for use on our web site. SH also recommended that we inform SNH.</p> <p>Both SH and DP felt there was some positive signs of the wild flower meadow beginning to develop in the Coffin Field. Mowing and grass lifting needs to be done and this should be programmed for mid to late August: ET to contact Moray Council.</p> <p>It was felt that the planting of the new trees should be in November/ December 2015</p>	<p>GH WM</p> <p>ET</p> <p>ET</p>
7.	Management Plan. This is work in progress and is coupled to the work on creating suitable maps of the woodlands.	
8.	Financial Update. The current bank balance stands at £ 29,727.85	
9.	<p>AOB. WM advised that the metal gate leading to / from Chapelton dam and Bird Hide is damaged and cannot be locked. It is not ours and it is believed to belong to Altyre Estate. GH confirmed he would report this in his response to Fiona Chalmers</p> <p>One of the seats on the picnic table overlooking the pond has rotted. The area could also do with cutting back since the view is now overgrown. SH stated that if we improved the area, it may attract litter droppers.</p>	<p>GH</p> <p>SH</p>

10.	Date of Next Meeting – Monday 24 August 2015 at the Community Centre at 19.30	
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