

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 28th September 2015



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair), Steve Hull, Eddie Tomkinson, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes) Gareth Whyment, Susan Conti</p> <p>Apologies: Graham Hilditch, Wilson Metcalfe</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting held on 24th August 2015</p> <p>Proposed - PG Seconded - SH</p>	
3.	<p>Actions from Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update on map development as WM was absent. ET reported that a new captain had recently been appointed to 39 Engineers. He will meet him next Friday. Coppicing work in Muiry and Newforres still pending. ET has sent out thank-you notes to residents who donated money towards re-planting. The mowing of the coffin field was carried out on 2nd September. The grass has been removed. Small areas of the meadow were left uncut as refuges for wildlife and late seeding wildflowers. GH to confirm if he has responded to Sonya Mould's message. Discussion on contribution towards brush cutter deferred. Management Plan deferred as we are waiting on maps. ET has contacted the Forestry Commission who confirmed that they will contribute £2000 towards the development of the plan. ET reported that litter notices have been put up at Muiry and Newforres but not yet at Sanquhar. ET reported that litter bins cannot be installed at Sanquhar as the Council won't empty them. 	<p>WM ET</p> <p>ET</p> <p>GH WM WM</p> <p>ET</p>
4.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Emails from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iain Moss, Woodland Trust regarding ordering tree saplings. The Trust can supply a range of saplings at £0.83p per tree, including tube and stake plus delivery cost. This is a very good price. GW and GM will put in an order for around 1400 suitable trees. Nicole Merrilees regarding volunteering in Sanquhar. Mrs Merrilees has offered to help with planting trees. However, there has been no response from the wider community so far. GM will send appeals to the chairmen of the residents associations for Woodside, Sanquhar and Mannachie Rise. 	<p>GW, GM</p> <p>GM</p>

	GH to arrange an article in the Gazette regarding volunteers for planting and AGM.	GH
5.	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <p>ET reported that the work party on 9th September worked on clearing paths using the Billy Goat. The work party usually consists of 6 volunteers. Further work parties are put on hold as Ian Suttie is currently unavailable.</p> <p>DW said that the paths are sometimes badly flooded. ET said that the next work party will look into that and check on blocked soakaways and channels.</p>	ET
6.	<p>Sanquhar and Bike Track.</p> <p>Bike Track. ET reported that plans are in hand for a cycle event on 17th October organised by the Forres Cycling Club with support from Cycle Scotland. He will meet with John Young, volunteers and Board members on Monday 5th October 6pm to check the cycle track.</p> <p>SH agreed to concentrate working near the cycle track during the next work party on 3rd October. He suggested that some mature sitkas which are growing near the bike tracks should be removed during the next felling programme as rapid re-seeding is taking place in those open areas.</p> <p>Rhododendron spraying. ET reported that he, SH and GM had walked the affected areas with Angus Dixon. The effects of the cutting back and spraying are beginning to show. The treated areas will look untidy for some time as the sprayed plants are wilting and dying back. Angus said that he had treated areas near water by injecting rather than spraying. Some areas are still untreated. Angus has agreed to continue spraying this week as the weather conditions are favourable. He will treat the area near the pond in the coffin field at a later stage by first cutting back the growth and injecting with glyphosate next year.</p> <p>The Board has full confidence in Angus Dixon's work as he is recommended by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Commission.</p>	ET SH
7.	<p>Financial Update.</p> <p>ET reported a total of £29,898.85.</p> <p>He said that the accounts will be ready for approval by the next Board meeting. He will send them out to the trustees prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Board agreed to put together a programme to clear the pond areas in Sanquhar Wood and apply for funding from the Berryburn Windfarm Fund for this project. SH will contact Scottish Natural Heritage and DP will contact Frog Life for advice.</p>	SH, DP
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>a. Red Squirrel Project.</p> <p>DP reported that this is a Trees for Life project which involves the translocation of red squirrels into the north west Highlands in order to spread the red squirrel population and possibly increase it. Areas of current squirrel populations are being identified from which a small number will be removed and transferred. Trees for Life is asking if the FCWT is in agreement with this project and if it is will give permission to set traps in their woodlands. DP said that Scottish Natural Heritage</p>	

	<p>has no objections. SC asked whether Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Project led by Dr Mel Tonkin, has been informed as well. DP agreed to make further enquiries. This should be included in the next press release.</p> <p>b. Orchid removal. SH reported that unknown persons had removed orchids from an area in the coffin field by cutting out turf and digging out the plants. This is an illegal act and will be reported to the Wildlife Liaison Officer. This should be included in the next press release.</p> <p>c. AGM preparation. DW stated that in the Articles of Association the definition of "term of office" requires clarification. The Board is of the opinion that this means that a "term of office" can last a maximum of three years after which a trustee has to retire. He can be re-elected twice. After three terms of office he has to resign for at least one year. This motion will be put to the AGM. According to this definition ET, WM and GH will have to retire at the next AGM and will be able to put themselves forward for re-election.</p>	<p>DP</p> <p>DP</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 2nd November 2015, at the Community Centre.</p>	