

# FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre  
7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

## MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p><b>Present:</b> Graham Hilditch (chair), Donald Wright, Steve Hull, Eddie Tomkinson, Peter Graham, Dan Puplett, Wilson Metcalfe, Susan Conti (minutes)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Gareth Whymant, Gisela MacFarquhar</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015</b> Proposed by DP, seconded by PG.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ET reported new captain of 39 Engineers is Sean Buckley. He (SB) postponed the meeting until beginning of November.</li> <li>Still to get a price for the coppicing in the Muiry and Newforres.</li> <li>Fiona Chalmers has emailed regarding the Council having dumped the grass from mowing the Coffin Field onto Altyre ground. May make ground too rich. SH doubted wild flowers would grow there anyway, may get a patch of nettles. It was suggested that where a quarry bit had been dug out may be more suitable for mown grass. Too late in the season to move this year's mowing, but SH to look at quarry and see if suitable for next year's mowings. Also may dump in a Sitka plantation nearby. Altyre unlikely to object to this year's grass as we cut their side of the path at no cost. GH to reply to Fiona.</li> <li>GH replied to Sonya Mould.</li> <li>We have volunteered contribution to the maintenance cost of the brush cutter. Dava Way meeting tomorrow night so WM will report back if anything agreed.</li> <li>ET reported that once we have a registration number, we can make a formal application to the Forestry Commission for funding re Management Plan.</li> <li>Litter notices not yet put up at Sanquhar.</li> </ul>	<p>ET ET  SH GH  WM  ET ET</p>
4	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GM has ordered the trees for the replanting from Iain Moss of The Woodland Trust, total cost to us £1139 which includes guards and stakes. The Woodland Trust have met 50% of the gross cost. He has asked whether we want to plant this Autumn, or Spring 2016? Need to consult with GW, but would most likely be Spring 2016 in order to muster volunteers in time. Need to source narrow spades for plugs, and sledgehammers – may look to borrow from Trees for Life. Unfortunately, TfL would not have enough volunteers to help us. Primary schools may help, but would struggle with, eg, difficult banks. Advert in “Spotlight” for volunteers?</li> <li>Forres Cycling Club were to have held an event at the Bike Track in</li> </ul>	<p>GW</p>

October, but have asked to defer it until March 2016.

- John McMulkin Active Schools Manager at Moray Council, has been using the track on Saturday afternoons. He has asked ET if they can hold an event on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November for kids. ET has asked for the event manual which will cover, eg, litter bins, toilets, etc. May not be enough parking on our area, John McMulkin would have to ask farmer for use of adjacent Sanquhar Mains fields. He ran an event 2 or 3 years ago. ET to email him.
- Angus Dixon has spent another 2 or 3 days spraying rhododendron and has admitted that he sprayed up to the water, and that that was wrong. He will leave any further spraying until next year. SH spoke to David O'Brien of SNH who hopes to visit next year.
- DP reported that Beccy from Trees for Life has spoken to the Project Manager of SWT's Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project regarding moving two squirrels from Sanquhar to the West Coast. She has spoken to householders on St Leonard's Road with a view to trapping the squirrels in their gardens.
- DP has been in touch with Peter Douglas Darling, Wildlife Liaison Officer, who was interested in the theft of the orchids from the Coffin Field, although he cannot do anything about it now. He asked to be kept informed. He advised not to put the news of the theft into The Gazette.
- Bill, 51 Mannachie Rise, emailed regarding a big tree on the fence line. It may have been over-looked at the time of the felling because Chris Spencer had asked that sycamores nearby not be felled. SH mentioned a half-dead Sitka between Mannachie and Lochview which was becoming dangerous. Bill McRitchie has offered in the past to remove single trees for no cost, if he is allowed to keep the wood. ET will ask him to remove either or both trees. GH to get back to Bill, Mannachie, to ask him for a contribution towards the cost of felling the tree.
- Email from Robert Grant, Springfield Properties, regarding housing development. It was noted this development will mean more houses adjacent to Sanquhar and, therefore, more users of the woods. At this stage, the papers were sent out for comments and not objections.
- GM had emailed Carl Adams, Ken Glass and Tina Coffey, chairmen/secretary of residents's associations asking to pass on request for help with planting trees in Sanquhar. KG acknowledged receipt of email. TC asked for fliers and said only 3 volunteers had turned up for a recent request from her. CA said he would mention the request, but advised we may want to mail drop. He also mentioned that the three strand wire boundary fence which was removed by George Barclay has still to be reinstated. It was felt this boundary could be improved by, eg, a wooden fence.
- Two existing members, Scott Keir and Eileen Heaps, who live outwith Moray, had emailed to express regret that they could no longer continue their memberships because the new membership form states "Members must live in Moray". It was thought this requirement was part of our charitable status, and is in the Articles of Association. The Board agreed to allow these members to continue their membership if they wished, as both have ties to Forres and visit regularly. SC to email them.

ET

ET  
GH

SC

<p>5</p>	<p><b>AGM</b>  GH has booked the Forres Academy canteen for 6.45-9pm. Meeting starts 7.30pm. Board to arrive about 7pm. GM arranging refreshments. No notice in Gazette this week – if we put one in now, it would appear in the Gazette the day of the AGM. ET circulated the full set of accounts. OSCR have changed the rules – pending expenditure, etc now needs to be shown. The accountant has reduced the woodland asset by 20%. We have another 7 years to pay back the £6500. We are running at a loss of £4602 which is less than the loss of last year of £6426. We anticipate questions being asked from the floor regarding the Sanquhar expenditure of £6681. ET to investigate in preparation. Will give out only the Balance Sheet and the Profit &amp; Loss. Some full sets will be available – GH to copy.</p> <p>The accounts for the period April 2014 to March 2015 were formally approved by the Board.</p> <p>The chairman will ask for a change to the Articles of Association re a term in office to be defined as 3 years. The Board has decided on this and members need to ratify. This is prompted by OSCR who require boards to have a continuous turnover in members. For those retiring members who wish to continue, no need to reapply, they simply need to be proposed and seconded.</p> <p>GH expressed his regret at having to step down due to other commitments over the forthcoming year. However, he hopes to rejoin the Board at some future point, and will be happy to continue doing FWT's photocopying. No new members appear to have applied to join the Board, this to be confirmed once GM returns from holiday. Closing date was 29<sup>th</sup> October. DW pointed out that any issues members wish to raise, should have been tabled prior to the meeting. ET noted the AGM is held 6 months after the year end for the accounts. It was thought it closes the cycle of work the Board has done during the year.</p>	<p>ET  GH</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Muiry &amp; Newforres</b>  Recent workparty used the Billy Goat to clear the pathways. Ian Suttie is currently recovering from ill health.</p> <p><b>Sanquhar</b>  Recent workparty cleared some of the Sitkas around the bike track. Still a lot to do. Possibility of removing more adult Sitkas to prevent seed dispersal. Will depend what GW says. DP, GW and SH to investigate.</p>	<p>DP, GW,  SH</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Finance</b>  ET reported a total of £31731.98. This includes a £200 donation. Possibility of membership cards discussed. SH has an old one – will look it out. GH did create a template at one time.</p>	<p>SH</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH spoke to a member who said the Hub most unwelcoming and do not represent our interests well. However, it is a convenient “postbox” for FWT's mail. We pay £50 per year.</li> <li>● GH spoke to Donald Anderson and Brian Macdonald who have been clearing rhododendron, etc round Sanquhar Pond. They want to do more but cannot access funding as they are not a constituted body. They wondered if FCWT would be prepared to get involved? GH suggested to Brian that he come along to a FCWT meeting at some</li> </ul>	

	<p>future point. Possibility of funding for pond from Berryburn?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WM explained that he had tried to deal with the mapping and the Management Plan together. However, it had proved impractical, and he was seeking a Board decision to separate the two. (Agreed). This will speed things up and reduce costs as he can go to other organisations for funding. Originally all three woods (Sanquhar, Muiry, Newforres) were to get boards. However, there are already map display boards (albeit not good ones!) at the entrances to Muiry, Newforres and the Council car park. So focus now on getting information board and maps for Sanquhar only. WM has been investigating potential suppliers. Boards to be located at the Sanquhar Mains car park, at an original site where the previous board has been thrown in the river, at the entrances to Mannachie and Woodend which are regularly used by the public. Will cost about £1200 plus what we decide to put on the boards. WM away for next three weeks but will progress it upon his return.</li> <li>● SH mentioned clearance of part of one of the ponds. He has spoken to David O'Brien and Ian Suttie who were not concerned about clearing it (IS said it was originally a spagnum bog), but also said it would do no harm to clear part of it. ARC (Amphibian &amp; Reptile Conservation) did not reply to SH. Discussion re Grant Nicholson using his long reach digger (which he had done 10 years ago though all overgrown now) but felt it made too much of a mess of the track. Army would use even bigger machines (though D O'B happy with army). Would need to be done Sept-Nov so too late for this year. Banks, etc would need to be done too. SH to discuss with D O'Brien when he visits next year and Board will come to a decision then.</li> <li>● PG reported Aly More, 1 Woodend, had approached him to ask if FCWT would consider taking over maintenance of the amenity area between the track leading into Sanquhar Woods at the Woodend entrance and No 23 Woodside Drive. There are four amenity grounds in Sanquhar Estate, legally still owned by the developer (was Headland Homes, now Stewart Milne), but they do not maintain any of them. Sanquhar Residents Association maintains two of them, but do not want to maintain the area mentioned by A. More. ET to investigate as it is thought there may be a preservation order on the area.</li> </ul>	<p>WM</p> <p>SH</p> <p>ET</p>
9	Date of Next Meeting – 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Forres Community Centre	