

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at Forres Community Centre
7.30pm on 25th April 2016



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1.	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair), Wilson Metcalfe, Gareth Whyment, Peter Graham, Susan Conti, Steve Hull, Eddie Tomkinson (treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes) Apologies: Dan Puplett</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes. Proposed – PG Seconded – WM Actions and Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting. 2) DW has met Jamie Whittle. He confirmed that a “Term of Office” implies that 1/3 of trustees has to retire each year, and the longest serving would be retiring but can be re-elected 3 times. Therefore the duration of a “Term of Office” is determined by how long this 1/3 has served. A change of the Articles of Association is not required. He also confirmed that the Trust cannot have members who live outside Moray. However, interested individuals may wish to make donations and receive the newsletter. GM has had tick posters printed and put up at the entrances to the woodlands. ET confirmed that a meeting with CWA has taken place (see below). SH will further pursue the hoverfly project. DP reported that he has contacted the fisheries trust but has not yet received a reply. 3) GM confirmed that she has been in contact with Caroline Inckle. 5) SH confirmed that a photo opportunity has taken place during the last work party. GM confirmed that she has obtained contact details for Keith Builders and passed them on to GW. WM regarding signage (see below). 6) Management Plan (see below). 9) GW has contacted Christie’s about the burning of tree saplings and found that they were not suitable for our planting programme. GM has sent information and photos to the Gazette for publication.</p>	SH
3.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Email via webmaster from Fiona Saywell, Lochinver, asking for information about setting up a bike track. The Board agreed to pass on any advice we can. b. Email via webmaster from Lisa Miele, regarding an offer of a piece of land behind her father’s property. The Board is concerned that it might incur considerable maintenance effort and, as it is tucked away between various properties, it is of little interest to the general public. The Board agreed not to pursue this offer. DW will send a reply. c. Email via webmaster from Tom Ireland (see below). d. Email via webmaster from Karenruth Jenkins, graphic artist (see below). e. Email via DP from tsiMORAY regarding training course for trustees. ET said that trustee responsibilities discussed in this course do not apply to us as our Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee. f. Emails from a number of people commenting on the tree planting which took place in Sanquhar recently. The high number and variety of trees planted was questioned by some, but also positive comments were received. GM replied 	DW

	<p>to all.</p> <p>g. Email via SC from Moray Council, regarding fundraising seminar on 12th May. ET said he will attend. GM will forward info to DW.</p> <p>h. Email from Caroline Derbyshire, CWA (see below).</p> <p>i. Email from Penny Cousins, SFWA (see below)</p> <p>j. Email exchange with Tanya, Gazette newsdesk, regarding publication of info and photos of various activities and KBM donation towards repair of shelter.</p> <p>k. Email from Graham Hilditch, regarding meeting with Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming to discuss joint ventures. (See below).</p>	ET,GM
4.	<p>Muiry and New Forres. ET reported that a recent work party had tidied up paths following the brashing and mulching programme. He said that many positive comments had been received from walkers.</p>	
5.	<p>Sanquhar and Bike Track</p> <p>a. Work Party. SH reported that a small work party had put stakes and wire mesh on recently planted oak and hazel. The main work party had continued tidying areas in preparation for planting, and removed grass cuttings from the orchid area. 9 volunteers attended. He also carried out the newt survey with the help of Pete Minting of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Group and Manja Hannon. No great crested newts were found. But he removed 12 Palmate newts and another 23 a week later as well as a couple of frogs and one toad from drain holes in Woodside Park. Only 3 newts and 1 frog were recorded in the actual pond. He suggested that a Hibernaculum - a wood, rock and earth structure near the pond - might help their survival rate. The next work party will pull and lop hemlock saplings and remove young laurel from behind Woodend. GM will send a reminder to volunteers.</p> <p>b. Planting. GW reported that the planting is now complete and he is satisfied with the work having been carried out efficiently and satisfactorily. A few hawthorn, rowan and crab apple are left and will be planted elsewhere possibly to replace some blackthorn which were planted in the Coffin Field. GW and SH to liaise.</p> <p>c. Hut repair and fence reinstatement. GW still to contact KBM. GM will forward details.</p> <p>d. Signage. WM reported that a copy of the Articles of Association will have to be forwarded to complete the application for funding from Paths for All. DW will scan his copy and forward it to WM. WM has been in touch with the cartographer who is marking the paths and he has received a quote from an Elgin company to create the display boards.</p>	SH GM GW,SH GW,GM DW,WM
6.	<p>Management Plan. WM reported that progress has been made. A projection of on-going running costs and for specific projects will be required. GW is waiting on maps to work out a tree management plan. Ian Suttie will produce a plan for the Muiry and New Forres woods.</p>	WM,GW IS
7.	<p>Finance. ET reported a closing total of £28,174.65 for the last financial year. The current total is £27,015.45 which takes Angus Dixon's invoice into account. An invoice for the trees, stakes and guards has not yet been received. He said our membership is dropping and needs looking at. This will be on next month's agenda.</p>	DW
8.	<p>AOB.</p> <p>a. Scotland's Finest Wood Awards. A site visit has been arranged on 23rd May at 2pm. GM, DW and SH will attend. GM will ask Ian Suttie if he is available.</p>	GM,DW, SH, IS

	<p>b. Community Woodland Association conference on 1st and 2nd October 2016. ET and GM had an informal meeting with Caroline Derbyshire. Our contribution could be in the form of a presentation of our issues and an on-site visit. Further discussion will follow.</p> <p>c. Altyre meeting. DW, ET and GM attended. Sir Alastair talked about involving FCWT in his ideas for setting up an education centre in our joint woodland areas. The trustees felt that this was not a route the Trust was currently prepared to take. The Board agreed.</p> <p>d. Fire Lighting. Mr Ireland requested permission to light fires in Sanquhar Wood. The Board was assured that Mr Ireland had received appropriate training and is confident that he would act responsibly when lighting fires. However, as we are sensitive to the concerns of householders in the area and wish to discourage copycat behaviour, the Board agreed to discourage Mr Ireland from lighting fires in Sanquhar. DW will send a reply.</p> <p>e. Graphic Artist. Karenruth Jenkins is offering professional volunteer work. The Board agreed that, at present, there is no requirement. GM will reply.</p> <p>f. Web-site. WM confirmed that the re-vamped web-site should be up and running in the next few days.</p> <p>g. Appeal from the Woodland Trust for donations towards the purchase and restoration of Loch Arkaig Woodlands. As the FCWT has benefitted from receiving free and reduced cost tree saplings the Board agreed to donate £50 towards this project as a gesture of goodwill.</p>	<p>ET,GM</p> <p>DW</p> <p>GM</p> <p>ET</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting – at the Community Centre on 30th May 2016 at 7.30pm</p>	