

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams

7.30pm 30th May 2022

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Paul Kendall, Steve Hull, David Binney, David MacFarquhar</p> <p>Guest speaker Mick Drury from Forres Friends of Woods and Fields</p> <p>Apologies: Gareth Whymant</p>	
2	<p>DW welcomed Mick Drury to the meeting.</p> <p>Mick spoke about the aims and vision of Forres Friends of Woods and Fields (FFWF) of which he is a trustee. His personal interest lies in the conservation of wildlife. Kerry McInnes, who was unable to attend is their development officer. The trust owns and manages the Kennel Wood, the adjacent field and the fields to the south of the Mosset as far as Chapelton farm. They have recently received funding from Berryburn Windfarm towards the eradication of laurel and rhododendron.</p> <p>They are also in the process of removing western hemlock and semi-mature beeches from their areas. They are replanting with hazel, cherry, oak, hawthorn and blackthorn from their own tree nursery.</p> <p>The Community Woodlands Association have suggested that they, together with the Sanquhar Pond group and FCWT could benefit from a joint management plan. Mick explained that the riparian area which includes land owned by both FFWF and FCWT is of special interest and would benefit from co-operation by the two groups.</p> <p>The Kennel field is being developed into a wildflower meadow with fruit trees. The field at Chapelton farm will be used for growing fruit and vegetables and will incorporate a polytunnel.</p> <p>The Trust have received funding from Awards for All to engage a development officer – Kerry McInnes. Her tasks include the setting up of an online survey for a community consultation, the organisation of a social event in the Chapelton field on 27th August, and the formulation of an action plan.</p> <p>An excavation of the remains of the medieval chapel with the support of an archaeologist is being considered.</p> <p>DW thanked Mick for his detailed report.</p> <p>Mick then left the meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of 25th April 2022</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by DW, seconded by DM.</p> <p>Actions arising from previous Minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree safety. GW to write report. DW will liaise with GW - ongoing. • DW to make inquiries for contactor to cut grass in coffin field. 	<p>GW/DW DW</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29th April, Ewan Doig, invoice – paid • 1st May, Ian Dawson, reporting on parties taking place at bike hut. – GM responded. • 16th May, Rachael Loosemore, re Chivas volunteer day. Work for at least 20 people would have to be provided. GM responded saying that on this occasion we would not be able to accommodate as many volunteers. • Exchange with Jen Dawson, Andersons Primary School re activity day for Primary 6 on 10th June. GM will prepare a tree and shrub survey. 4 FCWT volunteers will attend plus 3 staff from the school. <p>Web</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th May, Dom Stringer, tree surgeon and forester, Altyre Forestry, providing services as a contractor, with experience in hand felling, use of tractor winches and tractor forwarder. The company offers woodland creation, management and ecological surveys. – GM responded saying that info will be put on file. • 17th May, Sheila Crosby, 43 Woodside Drive, expressing concerned about some trees at the back of their house which look dead. - GM responded saying that trees will be investigated. – SH will investigate. • 23rd May Elaine Stokes, generic Therapy support worker with the NHS, asking if we have availability for patients who are socially isolated but would potentially like to do volunteering. GM responded, sending details of our volunteering work. 	<p>GM</p> <p>SH</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM reported that on 7th May there was a work party of 4 volunteers. We removed small sitka spruce with loppers and hand saws and cut gorse in areas where heather is dominant. • The next work party will take place on 4th June.. 	<p>GM</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Sanquhar.Wood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work party report. SH reported that four volunteers pulled up or lopped numerous small Sitka spruce and dug up rhododendron that had seeded on the bank beside the path below the giant's faces. He also had two solo sessions restaking and plastic guarding various native trees planted and also another solo session deflowering laurel to prevent seeding and pulling up small sitkas. 2. Firewood collection. DW reported that 4 people came to collect firewood at the coffin field lochan. Alan Reid also salvaged wood from 6 windblown Scots pine. 3. Path maintenance in Sanquhar Wood. DW reported that he has been in contact with the community projects person at Springfield. Awaiting response. He is also making enquires regarding the upgrading of the surfaces in the Muiry and Newforres car parks. 	<p>DW</p>

	<p>4. Darnaway oak. DW reported that the planting of the oak will be delayed until autumn.</p> <p>5. Bike track maintenance. DB will try to use the brush cutter at the jumps. He reported that the orange and the blue bike tracks also need cutting back.</p>	DB
	<p>6. Litter at Bike Shelter. DB reported that he has been cleaning up litter. There hasn't been as much as previously. Some more cladding has been taken off. The notice has been removed several times. DW will redraft the notice. PK and DB will visit the site some time when there is activity. DW reported that he sent pictures of the damage to the police – no action taken.</p> <p>7. Shed behind woodside Park property. DW reported that there has been no response by the householder. DW will take further action.</p> <p>8. Boundary Policy. DW will resend the draft for trustees to comment. To be discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>9. Wildflower planting in coffin field. GM suggested the planting of wildflowers as a school activity next spring. Meadowmania sell 150 plugs at £124. They will be available in spring. GM will enquire which flowers are included.</p>	DW PK,DB DW DW/Board GM
7	<p>Communications. A number of enquires have been received on the web.</p>	
8	<p>Finance. DW reported a total of £ 27,315.86. This includes £10,000 previously held in a separate account. DW has contacted Altyre Estates' solicitor re. payment for purchase of coffin field. No response as yet.</p> <p>Payments received - £50 in membership payments £20 log donation</p> <p>Payments made - £1,825 to ECO Highland Tree services</p>	DW
9	<p>Membership. GM reported one new membership.</p>	
10	<p>AOB. GM ordered 200 free saplings of the "Wild Harvest" variety from Woodland Trust. Delivery will be in November.</p>	
11	<p>Date of next meeting. Board Meeting on 25th July 2022 via Microsoft Teams.</p>	