

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams

7.30pm 29th May 2023

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), David MacFarquhar, Steve Hull, David Binney, Gareth Whyment, Paul Kendall</p> <p>Apologies: Graham Shewan</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 24th April 2023 The minutes were proposed by GW, seconded by DW.</p> <p>Actions arising from previous Minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree safety report. GW is finalizing the report. 	GW
3	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Email</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28/4 email from GM to Garry McCartney, Forres Gazette, stories and pictures re Andersons' Primary activity day and path improvement with TESCO and co-op money. • 10/5 from Sheila Crosby, 43 Woodside Drive, re concern about recently planted trees which are close to deer fence. GM replied saying that our next volunteer work parties will remove these. The shrubs are cultivated garden shrubs which probably self-seeded. They are non-native species, not the kind we plant. And we don't plant them as close to neighbouring gardens as these ones are. • 12/5 from Amazon smile – closing down their donating scheme. We are eligible to receive a one-time bonus donation, equivalent to six months of donations (based on 2022 accruals) to help with the transition. • 15/5 from Easyfundraising, total funds raised £20.37 (not paid out) • 17/5 email from DB, re request for advice on planting of tree by local MSP representative to fulfill a pledge made to the Environmental Horticultural Organisation at an event at the Scottish Parliament. The tree is being supplied by Christies Elite. Trustees advised that oak would be the best choice and we can provide a location if required. • 21/5 from Simon Flemington expressing interest in volunteering - GM responded • 21/5 from Abigail Marchent expressing interest in volunteering – GM responded – can't manage Saturdays • 28/5 email from GM to Charlie Watt, bowling club, info and picture of bench erected with Chris Stoves memorial money. 	

4	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GM reported that on 6th May a work party of 2 removed some small rhododendrons and planted ca 20 trees in open areas. 	
5	<p>Sanquhar Wood.</p> <p>1. SH Work Party Report.</p> <p>29/4 - 3 volunteers dug up rhododendrons and cut and pulled up small sitka and hemlock.</p> <p>1/5 – 1 volunteer restaked trees and removed some guards.</p> <p>2/5 - As above.</p> <p>9/5- 1 volunteer dug up rhododendron etc.</p> <p>13/5 – 1 volunteer, helped by Mick Drury and Jim Knox of FFWF, dug up several giant hogweed on flood storage area near river bank to stop seeding down stream on FFWF, FCWT and SLG land.</p> <p>19/5 - As above but also dug up one on our river bank with just Mick Drury this time. Weren't able to dig up all of them so cut down the rest to delay flowering and seeding. Mick will contact Benromach to notify them.</p> <p>23/5 – 2 volunteers, midweek work party clearing smallish rhododendron and sitka.</p> <p>26/5 – 1 volunteer cleared 2100 small sitka seedlings and small saplings from woods. Noticed lots of oak and pine seedlings too but overwhelmed by sitka.</p> <p>27/5- 4 volunteers (2 new) clearing smallish rhododendrons and small hemlock and sitka. Taking care to avoid any nesting birds.</p> <p>2. Litter. DB reported that there hasn't been much litter at the hut, although there had been some broken glass.</p> <p>3. Path repair. GM reported that the rough surface has compacted and is easier to walk on.</p> <p>I was felt that a finer surface should be considered for the future.</p> <p>4. DW will arrange a meeting with contractor to discuss further action re rhododendron and laurel treatment. It was felt that spraying is not very effective and, in future, shrubs should be cut and roots treated with glyphosate.</p> <p>Volunteers will continue to dig out small shrubs.</p> <p>5. GM reported that one bench has been installed in coffin field. 2 or 3 more benches could be placed in Sanquhar Wood. Trustees to make suggestions as to location.</p>	GM
6	<p>Communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW reported that he is still trying to get in touch with Canary Dwarf re payment for web hosting. 	
7	<p>Finance.</p> <p>Total in bank £ 17,181.37</p> <p>Payments made</p> <p>£280 to Jon Meldrum contractor for bench</p> <p>Payments received</p>	

	<p>£ 152 11 membership payments, of these payments including donations (£10, £25, £50) £8.41 from Amazon Europe (see correspondence)</p>	
8	<p>Membership. 1 membership removed 4 reminders sent, all responded 11 payments recived (including 2 new)</p>	
9	<p>AOB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DW reported that accountant requires details from some directors for Companies House. • GM suggested to engage the wood carver who created the dragon on Cluny Hill to do something similar in Sanquhar Wood. Suggested locations – Giants’ Heads or near Benromach bench. GM will contact wood carver. 	GM
10	<p>Date of next meeting. Board Meeting on 29th May 2023 via Microsoft Teams.</p>	