

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 29th January 2024

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), David MacFarquhar, Steve Hull, Gareth Whymant, Paul Kendall, David Binney, Graham Shewan</p> <p>Apologies: none</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 27th November 2023 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 report. GW and DW finalizing the report – ongoing. 	GW/DW
3	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>WEB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17/1/2024 Michaela Paterson, asking for info about FCWT as she is moving to Forres in the near future and is interested in Woodlands. GM responded. <p>EMAIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/12/23 Robin Grant, UK MTB Trail Alliance, reporting on progress and meetings. DB will update on any developments. • 22/1/24 Nigel Campbell, Trustee, The Northern Meeting Charity, make small donations (max £2,500) to local charities and would like to consider our charity. GM responded and will put together a quote for the tree carving project. 	DB GM
4	<p>Muiry and Newforres. DB will use brushcutter to cut beside paths in Muiry Wood.</p>	
5	<p>Sanquhar Wood.</p> <p>1. SH Work Party Report.</p> <p>8/12/23 Surved for invasive alien conifers for contractor to fell 1 vol. 9/12/23 As above. 1 vol. 16/12/23 Split guards on trees behind Mannachie Rise as getting a bit tight. 1 vol. 29/12/23 checked woods for damaged trees following storms 1 vol. 31/12/23 As above 1 vol. 5/1/24 Showed the contractor trees needing attention. 1 vol. 6/1/24 Sowed Field Scabious seeds and Black Knapweed seeds after preparing area of ground 1 vol. 27/1/24 Volunteer work party clearing small invasive Sitka etc to east of bike hut. 3 vols.</p>	

27/1/24 checked progress of work by contractor on trees needing attention 1 vol.

2. GM Work Party Report.

2/12/23 4 volunteers dug out rhododendron and cut laurel near Mannachie/Loch View entrance

6/1/24 4 volunteers dto.

1 volunteer went back later to treat laurel stumps with glyphosate as temperature was too low for treatment to be effective on day of work party.

3. Maintenance of jumps. DW reported that he contacted MacRitchie regarding use of flail. No response so far. Will follow up. Otherwise work would have to be carried out by contractor.

DW

4. Laurel and Rhododendron Eradication.

GM reported no contact with contractor. Will ask for up-date.

GM

5. Safety of trees in area behind Mannachie.

6. GW reported that he has carried out an inspection. The trees are safe and do not pose a risk at present. However, he proposes that they should be felled when the next thinning programme takes place to comply with the Trust's policy of keeping a 25m buffer zone. The same applies to the area behind Woodend. The board agreed.

7. Unsafe trees along burn. GW surveyed trees along burn which is bordering on FFWF land. GW reported that there are no unsafe trees in that area and it is not used by walkers. SH pointed out that FFWF's concerns lie more with providing more light to the shores of the burn to encourage biodiversity. The board decided not to take any action for the moment.

8. Benches.

GM reported that 2 locations have been agreed with contractor.

Quote £450 for 2 benches.

Date of construction to be arranged.

GM

9. Title Deeds.

DW reported that he examined the title deeds for Sanquhar Wood. The FCWT boundary on the south side of Sanquhar Wood is on the north side of the track. The track itself and the trees on the south side of it are owned by Altyre Estates. Mutual obligations need to be clarified.

DW

10. Housing development on Mannachie Road.

DW reported that planning application can be viewed on the Moray Council website. It comprises ca 40 units including affordable housing close to FCWT woods. DW will forward a map. Possible response by FCWT to be considered.

DW

11. Litter at shelter.

DB reported that he picked up some rubbish. GS reported that he also saw someone else picking up rubbish from the shelter.

12. Storm damage.

SH reported that contractor has dealt with some of the storm damage. More needs to be done. GM will contact contractor.

13. Maintenance of nesting boxes.

SH and PK will carry out maintenance this Saturday. DW will forward

SH/PK/
DW/GM

	maps and what3words locations. GM will forward up-dated map. 14. GS reported that he filled muddy dips on Sanquhar Wood path with gravel.	
6	Communications. WM continues to manage web site. More information should be put on facebook.	
7	Finance. Total in Bank £ 16,668.39 Out 12/12/23 Gordon Scott, Accounts £240.00 19/12/23 Kevin MacLean £240.00 2/1/24 CWA annual membership £30.00 9/1/24 Companies House, fee £13.00 11/01/24 GMacFarquhar, highlighter paint £12.00 In 17 membership payments totalling £325.00, of these, donations are included of £100, £35, £25 Monthly payments of £40 by one donor. DW will set up an annual donation of £50 to FACT for providing mailing address.	DW
8	Membership. GM reported a total of 110 memberships. 4 memberships have been deleted. No other membership payments outstanding.	
9	AOB. None.	
10	Date of next meeting. Board Meeting on 26th February 2024 via Microsoft Teams.	