

# FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Meeting held via Teams  
7.30pm 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p><b>Present:</b> Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Steve Hull, David MacFarquhar, David Binney, Paul Kendall</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Graham Shewan, Gareth Whyment</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b> The minutes were proposed by DM, seconded by SH.</p> <p><b>Actions arising from previous Minutes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tree safety report.</b> GW and DW finalizing the report – pending.</li> <li>• <b>Overhanging oak</b> at Woodside Park entrance – GW to inspect.</li> <li>• <b>Condition of bike tracks</b> – GS to inspect.</li> </ul>	<p>GW/DW</p> <p>GW</p>
3	<p><b>Correspondence.</b> <b>EMAIL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/6/24 Angus Dixon, to treat foliage of the laurel and scattered rhododendrons in July 2024, would be £320.00(+VAT).</li> <li>• 11/06/24 PK, WildThings, Wild Things will be running a series of afterschool sessions in Sanquar woods, one for Primary aged children on Monday afternoons at the south-western end of the woods at the little dell/clearing near the bike hut (map ref NJ 037 574), and one for secondary school aged kids on thursdays, at the north-east end around map ref NJ 045 5800. As usual we have all risk assessments in place and public liability insurance. This work is being done with youngsters through the Army Welfare Service, and when the summer holidays arrive we will be out on the same days of the week as in term time but from 10.30-ish-3.30pm.</li> <li>• 12/06/24 Danielle Quist, Forest bathing event, date changed from July 6th, to August 4th 10 - 12.30pm. GM forwarded info to PK for facebook.</li> <li>• 14/06/24 Steve Smirthwaite, MTBO, seeking permission for a Mountain Bike Orienteering training day on Wednesday 3rd June 2026. This event is to allow competitors to warm up on the day before the World Masters MTBO Championships 2026 in Moray. Dogs will not be allowed, and participants will act in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The event is being organised and managed through the national BMBO body who cover liability insurance.</li> </ul> <p>Up to 150 participants expected with only about 20% of them being in the area at any one time. They would be spread out over 4-5 hours during the day. Most competitors to be in the area for about 15 minutes as they transit to the Dava Way and Altyre Estate. At the last event there were 80 competitors out over about an hour period and all proceeded without incident.</p>	<p>PK</p>

	GM responded requesting a reminder nearer the time and to ensure that appropriate warning signs for other users of the wood will be set up.													
4	<b>Muiry and Newforres.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No work party report.</li> </ul>													
5	<b>Sanquhar Wood.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SH Work Party Report.</b> 8/6/24 cut bracken around young planted trees. 3 vols. 15/6/24 as above. 1 vol.</li> <li><b>GM Sanquhar Work Party Report.</b> 4 volunteers (1 new) continued with digging out and lopping rhododendron in Sanquhar.</li> <li><b>Buffer Zone.</b> GM discussed felling of Western hemlock and Douglas fir at Woodend and Mannachie with Angus Dixon. AD suggested that felling license should be acquired first to give sawmills a clearer idea of what will become available. GM to arrange felling license with AD.</li> <li><b>Repair of post and shelter.</b> GS reported by email that he has repaired the floor of the shelter and replaced the rotted post at the Mannachie entrance. He bought required wood. DW to refund GS.</li> <li><b>Maintenance of Jumps.</b> DW will contact AD again re cutting back growth at jumps.</li> <li><b>Brush Cutter.</b> DB reported that he was using brush cutter when it broke down again. Waiting for repair to continue with cutting bracken in coffin field.</li> <li><b>Grass cutting at coffin field.</b> DW to make further enquires to find contractor.</li> </ol>	GM    DW  DW  DB  DW												
6	<b>Communications.</b> No news.													
7	<b>Finance.</b> <table> <tr> <td><b>Total in Bank</b></td> <td><b>£ 16,771.10</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>In</b></td> <td>14 membership payments (incl. £50 donation)</td> <td>160.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Monthly donation</td> <td>40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Out</b></td> <td>none</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Total in Bank</b>	<b>£ 16,771.10</b>		<b>In</b>	14 membership payments (incl. £50 donation)	160.00		Monthly donation	40.00	<b>Out</b>	none		
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8	<b>Membership.</b> Total 110 memberships. 14 memberships were renewed. 2 second reminders sent.													
9	<b>AOB.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>24/06/24 Email From Mick Drury, FFWF</b> We at Forres Friends are looking at a grant application to the Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund, and I'm writing to explain a little about the proposal, hoping that FCWT can support it in principle.  The idea would be to take a wider view of the land and work that we share as neighbours, also including the Sanquhar Loch group, Moray Co and potentially Gordon and Macphail.</li> </ul>													

Initial work would be to look at existing management plans to see where common objectives lie; to look at what the priorities might be for each group; how there might be ways to share resources or increase volunteering; and what funding streams might be applicable (the grant would include some finance for specialist fundraising advice).

The fund's main focus is to look at potential improvements for nature, through involving people and local communities. The work would identify key habitat hotspots, priority species and collaborative ways to tackle increasing issues with invasive non-native species.

I'd be grateful for your initial response on this. note that the application deadline is tight so please reply by July 2nd. I'm just looking for a 'thumbs up' at the moment, i.e. that FCWT thinks this is a good idea, however there would be no commitment to get involved at this stage.

DW responded in support.

- **Toun Mercat** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

GM reported that the stall at the Toun Mercat was well attended with a number of people making enquiries and trying out the quizzes.

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**Date of next meeting.**  
**Board Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024 via Microsoft Teams.**