

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 24th February 2025

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	Present: Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Steve Hull, David MacFarquhar, Paul Kendall, Gareth Whymant, Graham Shewan Apologies: David Binney	
2	Minutes of 27th January 2025 The minutes were proposed by DM, seconded by DW. Actions arising from previous Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree safety report. DW to finish the report - pending.• Overhanging branches from oak at Woodside Park. GW surveyed. GW contacted tree surgeon to carry out surgery.• Tree obstructing satellite reception at 49 Mannachie Rise. GM to instruct contactor to fell the tree.	DW GW GM
3	Correspondence. WEB 30/01/2025 Scottish Wildlife Trust, Abigail Low, staff member for the north east team of Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, regarding a squirrel sighting from within the boundaries of the Sanquhar Woodlands. A member of the public reported an odd looking squirrel in the woodlands on the 11/01/25. Requesting for staff member of the SSRS team to put up posters in Sanquhar Woodlands to alert visitors to keep an eye out for any potential grey squirrels in the area. GM responded welcoming their plan and suggested also to put up posters in Muiry and Newforres woods. Information will also be sent out to members and put on facebook and website. 06/02/2025, Alison Jeffries, recently moved to Mannachie Rise, back garden backs onto the woods. Keen to know what is currently in place in the event of fires breaking out. Hasn't come across signage/phone numbers or other potential safeguards. GM responded, informing of policy of keeping a barrier of ca 25m between private properties and the woods where no large trees will be planted. With regard to fires breaking out, the public is advised to call emergency services 999 or 112. Email 31/01/2025 Scottish Forestry, re. felling license, completed the initial assessment of Felling Permission Application, details will be displayed on the Public Register for a period of 28 days to allow any interested party to comment. Details of application can be viewed on the Public Register. Application will remain at the consultation stage until 28th February 2025. Before the permission is approved any comments from public will be	

	<p>taken into account.</p> <p>If no material issues are raised in the consultation stage, felling permission will be approved.</p> <p>8/2/2025 Scottish Forestry, James Scott, re felling. On visiting the areas to be felled he noted that both areas are very popular with members of the public and he met many dog walkers whilst out on site. He strongly suggests that users of the wood and Dava Way are fully informed about the felling and restock proposals prior to the commencement of operations and that alternative routes are proposed should we need to close footpaths. Early engagement with members of the public gives us the opportunity to tell our story, receive feedback and adjust our operational plan as required.</p>	
4	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence replacement at Newforres Wood. DW reported that the neighbouring farmer is planning to clear away the old fence and prepare fence line for new fence shortly. He quoted a cost of £5 to £7 per metre of fence. There are no grants available for fencing or hedging. • GM reported that hedging plants are available free from the Woodland Trust. However, there is a broad strip of gorse along much of the boundary in place. • DW has contacted contractor re resurfacing car parks. 	DW
5	<p>Sanquhar Wood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SH Work Party Report. 9/ 2/25 Work with bird nest boxes. 2 vols. 22/2/25 Work party clearing invasive alien conifers. 5 vols. 24/2/25 Sowed Ox eye daisy seeds in coffin field. 1 vol. 16/2/25 Work with bird nest boxes in Newforres and Muiry woods. 2 vols. 2. GM Sanquhar Work Party Report. 1/3/25 continued thinning of area at small lochans. 5 vols. 3. Buffer Zone. Felling permission received. See correspondence from Scottish Forestry. GM will draft a letter to neighbouring householders and newsletter. 4. Bird Boxes. DW reported that a further 3 treecreeper boxes and 2 bat boxes are ready for putting up. SH requested more metal plates for the bird boxes. DW will arrange to get them. 5. Bench at bike jump. GS and GW will replace broken part of the bench. 6. Sitka spruce on slope near burn. The felling of these will now be left until the end of the nesting season. 7. Broken notice board at bike track. DW will contact AJ Engineering to ask for replacement of posts. 	<p>GM SH/PK</p> <p>DW</p> <p>GS/GW</p> <p>DW</p>
5	<p>Communications. PK will add DW and GM as administrators of facebook.</p>	PK
7	<p>Finance.</p> <p>Total in bank - £ 16,451.22</p>	

	<p>In Membership payments total £37.00 + £8 from unknown doner.</p> <p>Out 19/2/25 FACT donation £50.00</p> <p>DW will make further enquiries re bank charges.</p>	DW
8	<p>Membership. GM reported 2 reminders sent, 4 payments received.</p>	
9	<p>DW reported that a potential new trustee has come forward. DW and GM have arranged a meeting. The Board of Trustees are in favour of accepting him.</p>	
10	<p>Date of next meeting. 24th March 2025 by Microsoft Teams.</p>	