

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams

7.30pm 31st March 2025

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Donald Wright (chair, treasurer), Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes), Steve Hull, David MacFarquhar, David Binney, Gareth Whyment, Graham Shewan</p> <p>Apologies: Paul Kendall</p> <p>DW welcomed Mr Wilson Rennie (WR) who joined the Board of Trustees.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 24th February 2025</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by GS, seconded by GW.</p> <p>Actions arising from previous Minutes.</p> <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 – pending. • Tree obstructing satellite reception at 49 Mannachie Rise. GM reported that the tree has been felled. 	<p>DW GW</p>
3	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>WEB</p> <p>26/3/25 Sam Poskitt, Environmental Social Scientist, James Hutton Institute, request for survey. GM will investigate.</p> <p>Email</p> <p>27/2/25 James Scott, Scottish Forestry, instructions for preparation to felling</p> <p>28/2/25 Sally Will, Scottish Forestry, received felling permission</p> <p>28/2/25 James Scott, Scottish Forestry,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information on communication with public prior to felling • procedure re TPO area – Angus Dixon will do <p>28/2/25 Nicole Merrilees, reporting 2 men cutting up and removing birch near small lochans where thinning was carried out by Kevin McLean and volunteer party, spoke to men and took photos. GM reported to police. Result - Kevin Maclean and brother removed the timber after felling.</p> <p>3/3/25 Letter drop at 47 – 53 Mannachie Rise, informing residents of tree felling plan in autumn.</p> <p>5/3/25 residents at 53 Mannachie Rise, GM received phone call, followed by visit to property. Residents not happy about felling of area behind their house. They say the trees are directly behind their house no 53 and any wind blow would not reach no 51, the property of the complainant. From their observation they feel that the trees would not be affected by storms. They are concerned about the effect of wildlife which they observe regularly – squirrels, badgers, bats and birds.</p> <p>10/3/25 Mick Drury, FFWF received an award from the Moray Climate Action Network. He is asking if we can share any biological records, for all of our woodlands and also, for Sanquhar in particular, a large scale map if</p>	<p>GM</p>

	<p>possible and any stand type mapping that we have.</p> <p>Their aim is to create a habitat map of the wider landscape area and collate wildlife records, providing the basis for some evaluation and suggested priorities going forward. We will, receive a copy of the report.</p> <p>GM responded. Mick acknowledged receipt of information.</p>	
4	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence replacement at Newforres Wood. DW reported that the neighbouring farmer has cleared part of the area for replacing fence. There has been no further contact with the farmer. • Car par repair. GM reported that the contractor has finished the car park repairs. WR confirmed that surface looks good. • Sitka spruce stand. GW and GM surveyed area of dense sitka growth. GW suggested a thinning rather than clear felling. The timber would be unlikely to yield any income in case of clear felling. The tinnings could be offered for firewood. Exiting possible by car park and open area in centre. The Board agreed. GW will mark the trees to be felled once nesting season is over. 	<p>DW</p> <p>GW</p>
5	<p>Sanquhar Wood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SH Work Party Report. 2/3/25 - Sowed garlic mustard and Field scabious seeds in coffin field - 1 Vol. 22/3/25 - Cleared invasive Sitka seedlings and small saplings - 5 Vols. 23/3/25 - Put up tree creeper boxes and bat boxes - 2 Vols. 30/3/25 - Used pole saw to remove small high branches shading bat boxes – 1 Vol. 2. Bird Boxes. SH reported that he and PK have cleaned out all the nest boxes in Sanquhar, Muiry and Newforres woods. All but three had been nested in last year, and even the 'empty' boxes had evidence of being used for roosting. Several boxes were also repaired, with the addition of metal plates around the nest-holes of boxes without these, to dissuade great spotted woodpeckers breaking in to eat eggs or chicks. A dozen new nest boxes were also put up across the three woods. 3. GM Sanquhar Work Party Report. 1/3/25, 1 new volunteer, total 5 vols. continued clearing round small lochans. 2 vols 4 hours of re-treating small growth of laurel. 4. Buffer Zone – felling behind Mannachie. Following conversations with neighbouring householder (see correspondence) and re-visiting area GM suggested that the felling in this area should be postponed due to concerns regarding wildlife there. Also, a number of mature trees belonging to the Dava Way area might be exposed to wind damage. GM and GW will re-visit the area. 5. Bench at bike jump. GS reported that the wood has rotted too much for a repair. DW will contact Benromach to ask for donation towards a new bench. 6. Broken notice board at bike track. DW and GS reported that AJ Engineering have constructed new frame and helped to put it in place. DW will send a thankyou note. 	<p>GM/GW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>

	<div>7. GM reported that contractor has felled the sycamore behind Mannachie and a large hanging Scots pine at Woodend.</div> <div>8. GM reported that a member of the public asked if he could purchase timber for firewood. GM gave permission to remove thinnings at lochan and the Scots pine timber at Woodend. A donation of £150 has been received, calculated at £50 per ton.</div>	
5	Communications. DW has been reinstalled as administrator of facebook. DW said that more information needs to go on the web. GM will initiate.	GM
7	Finance. Total in bank - 16,446.22 In 3/3/25 donation/membership £30.00 17/3/25 donation for timber £50.00 25/3/25 donation for timber £100.00 Out 12/3/25 Kevin Maclean, felling £200.00 DW reported that a business savings account could yield some interest. The Board agreed to open a 32-day notice account. DW will set it up.	DW
8	Membership. GM reported 1 reminder sent. No overdue memberships.	
9	Date of next meeting. 28 th April 2025 by Microsoft Teams.	