

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 26th January 2026

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Paul Kendall chair (PK), Andrew McGhee treasurer (AM), Gisela MacFarquhar minutes (GM), Steve Hull (SH), David Binney (DB), Wilson Rennie (WR), David MacFarquhar (DM), Euan Stewart (ES)</p> <p>Apologies: Gareth Whyment (GW), Graham Shewan (GS)</p> <p>GM reported that Mr Donald Wright has handed in his resignation as chair. He will continue to be a trustee although he won't be able to attend meetings for now.</p> <p>PK has agreed to chair meetings.</p> <p>AM is proposed as treasurer by DM, seconded by PK</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 24th November 2026</p> <p>Proposed as accurate by DB, seconded by AM.</p> <p>Actions arising from previous Minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Safety Report. On behalf of GW, GM reported that he has completed the report and will forward documents to GM. GW suggested that in future what3words could be used to record issues with individual trees by what3words. The Board agreed as this method would allow others to record any issues they come across at any time. • Bench at bike jump. No response from Benromach. GM to approach Keith Builders Merchants. • Information boards. On behalf of GS, GM reported that he has cleaned up the information boards and attached address stickers and QR codes. 	<p>GM/GW</p> <p>GM</p>
3	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>WEB</p> <p>1/12/25 Richard Moore, looking to volunteer. GM responded.</p> <p>8/12/25 Stephany Arroyo Arce, North East Grey Squirrel Eradication Coordinator, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (SSRS), update on the scent detection team, plan to conduct survey 16/12. The team will include two SSRS staff members, along with the handler and dog. They will be sharing findings with us.</p> <p>11/1/26, Tahlia Wu, undergraduate student at the University of Edinburgh, completing honours dissertation, research focuses on community woodland restoration. Request to take part in a short interview. GM responded.</p> <p>Email</p> <p>24/11/25 to 18/1/26 Rob Parkinson and David Ritchie of Moray Orienteering Club, seeking permission for the club to hold an event on Saturday 10th January 2026. Took place on 17/1/26.</p> <p>All the arrangements as previous.</p> <p>Mountain bike orienteering event planned for September.</p> <p>19/12/25 Paul Masson, Cycle Therapy, bike track inspection (see item 5d).</p> <p>14/1/26 Sam Moore, Treewise Forestry, cancelled felling contract (see item 5c)</p> <p>17/1/26 Mick Drury, FFWF, oak saplings no longer required as felling is cancelled.</p>	

	<p>19/1/26 GM cancelled order of tree saplings from Woodland Trust.</p> <p>19and20/1/26 GM contacted Ranald McConnachie, McConnachie Land and Forestry Services, recommended by Euan Stewart, re. laurel treatment (see 5f)</p>	
4	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sitka thinning at Newforres. GW has marked the sitka spruce in Newforres due for felling. b. ES has surveyed Scots pine in Muiry Wood. He reported a thinning would be advisable but not urgent. The amount of timber would be too small for selling. If the felling was combined with other felling in Sanquhar it might yield some income. The Board decided to postpone the felling. c. Open heath areas and paths in Muiry and Newforres. The billygoat is no longer available for rough work on gorse. GM will ask Ranald McConnachie if he has equipment to deal with it. 	GM
5	<p>Sanquhar Wood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SH Work Party Report. SH cancelled the work party as no volunteers were available. b. GM Work Party Report. 24/1/26 cleared gorse off area on bike track and further tidied bike jumps. 4 volunteers. c. Planned Felling. Sam Moore, Treewise Forestry, cancelled felling contract. ES will ask Altyre Sawmill if they would be interested. ES pointed out that our current felling license does not include the beech in the area behind Woodend. This will have to be rectified. ES will contact Scottish Forestry to find out if they will let us amend the current permission to include the beech and Hemlock regeneration or whether they want a new submission. GM to ask Logie Timber if they would be interested in the timber. d. Bike Track Maintenance. On 14th January GM and Paul Masson walked the entire track and jumps areas. PM explained in great detail what the current status was and what should be addressed. There is very little needing to be done apart from some gorse cutting and replacement of a couple of sign post. He emphasised that the tracks and jumps are in excellent condition and are unlikely to require any repair work for some time. What little needs to be done can be done by volunteers. PM provided a sample certificate for inspections of the tracks. He also provided a certificate to GM which qualifies her as a trained inspector. A maximum of two inspections per year will be sufficient. The main issue is to keep vegetation under control and to check for puddles forming. He said, for legal reasons it is important to keep a signed and dated record of all inspections. GM will complete inspection form and forward to trustees. e. Coffin Field Maintenance. PK reported that Scotia Seeds advised him that before sowing wildflowers the ground has to be cleared of grass to expose bare soil, or, the minimum of preparation would be to cut the grass very short and scarify. This would have to be done by a contractor as well as the sowing of the seeds. 	<p>ES</p> <p>ES</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Companies House. All current trustees have received their Trustee Identity Verification. b. H&S Management Plan. The Boad discussed the updated Risk Assessment. GM will carry out a couple of further adjustments. GM and SH will then send them out to volunteers for signing. c. 5-year Management Plan. GM said that review is not due before 2027. Update to be started towards the end of 2026. 	<p>GM GM/SH</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Date of next meeting. 26th January 2026 by Microsoft Teams.</p>	