

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 23rd February 2026

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Present: Paul Kendall, chair for this meeting (PK), Andrew McGhee, treasurer (AM), Gisela MacFarquhar, minutes (GM), David Binney (DB), Wilson Rennie (WR), David MacFarquhar (DM), Euan Stewart (ES) Gareth Whyment (GW), Graham Shewan (GS)</p> <p>Apologies: Steve Hull (SH)</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 26th January 2026 Proposed as accurate by DM, seconded by DB.</p> <p>Actions arising from previous Minutes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS had been approached to put himself forward as deputy chair. This was discussed at the meeting. However, no decision was taken. Subsequently, GS withdrew his offer although GM had received the approval from all trustees. 2. Tree Safety Report. GW will confirm at next meeting if all actions on the report have been carried out. 3. Volunteer Risk Assessment. GM reported that she has made further adjustments to the risk assessment. PK suggested in addition, that volunteer leaders must be aware if a volunteer uses an epipen and where it is kept. Also, volunteer leaders should make a note of the nearest access point and the WhatThreeWords location or map reference where the work party is taking place in case an ambulance needs to be called. GM will inform SH. 	<p>GW</p> <p>GM</p>
3	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Email 28/1/26 emails sent to Peter Graham, Graham Hilditch, Bill Ferguson, Mr&Mrs Brown, neighbouring households at Woodend and Mannachie, re cancellation of felling, assuring that we are trying to find a solution which may take some time. 29/1/26 response from Bill Ferguson, Very kind of you to get back to us with such a comprehensive update continue to be concerned about safety. 30/1/26 Nicole Merrilees, inquiring about progress of felling. GM responded. 3/2/26 Andy Rockall, Community Woodlands Association, CWA has been approached by SSEN Transmission who are seeking sites on which they can support community woodlands to deliver biodiversity net gain. SSEN Transmission has asked that CWA make first contact to enquire about interest to explore the possibility of developing a project that SSEN Transmission may fund to improve biodiversity. GM responded, suggesting wildflower meadow</p>	

	6/2/26 Andy Rockall replied, project is too small, looking for 50ha sized area.	
4	<p>Muiry and Newforres.</p> <p>GM reported that she asked Ranald McConnachie for a quote to have the gorse along paths cut. No response as yet.</p> <p>GS and PK suggested that this could be done with trimmers. GS will purchase two sets of blades and GS and PK have agreed to do the strimming together.</p>	GS/PK
5	<p>Sanquhar Wood.</p> <p>a. SH Work Party Report. SH and PK cleaned out the bird nesting boxes in Sanquhar Wood. The boxes in the Muiry and Newforres Woods will be done next Sunday. Next year they will remove any boxes which are not being used. One box was used as a wasps nest.</p> <p>b. GM Work Party Report. 14/2/26 finished tidying area on bike jumps and removed small rhododendron on the south side near the flood alleviation. 4 volunteers.</p> <p>c. Planned Felling. ES reported that Altyre Sawmills are interested in carrying out the felling and purchasing the timber. GM will send a message to Scottish Forestry informing them a) of the delay with a possible new date in October, b) of the change in the application to include beech in the Woodend area as well as self-seeded Western Hemlock to the south and c) the inclusion of thinning other areas in Sanquhar. She will ask if the current felling permission can be adjusted or if a new felling application is required.</p> <p>d. Bike Track Maintenance. GM has completed inspection form and forwarded to trustees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the summer months bracken has to be cut back along the tracks. • GS has agreed to repair signposts. • GW reported a hollow appearing next to the track near the jumps area. He will inspect it and advise on remedial action. </p> <p>e. Bench at bike jump. GM reported that KBM will fund materials for a simple bench and contractor Jon Meldrum quoted £150 for construction of 2 benches. The board considered that a picnic bench would be more appropriate. ES will email a draft letter to Balfour Beattie for funding for a picnic bench.</p> <p>f. Wildflowers in Coffin. Due to current financial constraints the Board has decided to delay further action until funding becomes available. In the meantime GM will ask for a quote for having ½ acre prepared for wildflower sowing.</p> <p>g. Laurel and Rhododendron treatment. McConnachie quoted a total of £31,757.55 during a 5-year treatment plan. GM will approach relevant funding organisations like Moray West Windfarm, TSI Moray, Finnerne Windfarm fund etc. AM will contact SSENT and Balfour Beattie.</p> <p>h. Setting up WhatThreeWords. In order to enable easier access to tree safety issues any observations will be recorded by WhatThreeWords and reported to GM who will keep a register.</p>	<p>SH/PK</p> <p>ES</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GS</p> <p>GW</p> <p>ES/GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>AM</p> <p>GM</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>Finance.</p> <p>26th January to 23rd February 2026 on 26th Jan 2026</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Opening bank balance</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£870.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income -</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Memberships</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£78.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Members' donations</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Other donations</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Easy fundraising</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">HMRC charities</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£241.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Transfer from savings account</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10,094.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outgoing -</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">FACT payment</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing bank balance on 23rd February 2026</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11,272.12</td> </tr> </table>	Opening bank balance		£870.83	Income -			Memberships		£78.00	Members' donations		£21.00	Other donations		£0.00	Easy fundraising		£16.32	HMRC charities		£241.24	Transfer from savings account		£10,094.73	Outgoing -			FACT payment		£50.00	Closing bank balance on 23rd February 2026		£11,272.12	
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<p>7</p>	<p>Membership.</p> <p>GM reported that she sent out 3 reminders and 2 second reminders. 1 reminder remains outstanding. 2 memberships deleted When sending out subscription reminders GM will include a note suggesting to members to set up a standing order.</p> <p>Membership Total: 74 memberships, of these 39 are family memberships and 35 are single memberships , totalling 105 members.</p> <p>Ways to increase membership was discussed. A letterdrop was proposed for the new housing area to the east of Mannachie Road. GM will draft a letter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GM</p>																																	
<p>8</p>	<p>AOB.</p> <p>GS reported that he tested the QR code which is now attached to the Sanquhar Wood boards. He found that there is no access to the membership and payment page. PK will check out the QR code. DB will enquire from the Dava Way group how their QR code functions. GM will contact Canary Dwarf.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PK DB GM</p>																																	
<p>9</p>	<p>Date of next meeting. 30th March, 2026 by Microsoft Teams.</p>																																		