

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 27th April 2026

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	Present: Paul Kendall, chair for this meeting (PK), Andrew McGhee, treasurer (AM), Gisela MacFarquhar, minutes (GM), David Binney (DB), David MacFarquhar (DM), Gareth Whymant (GW), Graham Shewan (GS), Steve Hull (SH), Wilson Rennie (WR), Euan Stewart (ES) Apologies: none	
2	Minutes of 30th March 2026 Proposed as accurate by DB, seconded by GS. Actions arising from previous Minutes. a. Tree Safety Report. GM instructed the contractor Kevin McLean to fell the dead trees. He will require access via the gate at the shelter. The lock on this gate requires a key which is no longer available. GM instructed the contractor to cut the lock and GM will purchase a replacement lock. b. Bike track maintenance. GW has inspected a hollow next to the track near the jumps area. He will try to partially fill it.	GM GW
3	Correspondence. Email 7/4/2026 Darren Hamilton, Social Impact Coordinator, Balfour Beattie to arrange in person meeting. This was arranged for 21st April. (See 5f.) 17/4/2026 Will Burnish, Operations & Environment, Moray Council, re Chapelton Bridge, stating that it is the responsibility of FCWT to carry out repairs, with attachment of an Agreement between the Moray Council and Chapelton Trust (Alexander Gordon Cumming), dated 28/4/2009. (see 5f.) Mr Burnish suggested a site visit. 24/4/2026 to Alex Ross, Berryburn Fund, to inform of McConnachie quote and negotiations with Balfour Beattie. Requesting to hold on to remaining grant of £2800.	
4	Muiry and Newforres. a. Gorse cutting along paths. GS reported that he has purchased blades for the trimmers. GM will meet with GS to point out the area to be trimmed. GS and PK will carry out the trimming coming Wednesday.	GM/GS/PK

	b. Border fence with neighbour. GW confirmed that the current cost of fencing is ca £7 per meter. GM and GW met up with farmer Mr J Dean to discuss payment. Mr Dean presented an invoice for the installation of ca 40% of the fence which amounted to ca £2800, half of which would have to be our share. Mr Dean intimated that the remaining fencing job would amount to more than that as prices have been rising. Mr Dean stated that dogs occasionally run into his field while cows are grazing there. GM contacted Finnerne Development Trust to ask for funding. Awaiting response. WR intimated that he may have some funds from a legacy at his disposal which could be used for this purpose.	GM WR
5	Sanquhar Wood. a. SH Work Party Report. 25/4/26 - Removed small saplings and seedlings of Sitka spruce and Douglas fir and the occasional laurel seedling and some rubbish - 3 volunteers. b. GM Work Party Report. 4/4/26 - Cut and treated laurel behind Woodside Drive in area where replanting had taken place ca 8 years ago. c. Planned Felling. ES reported that he has completed a new felling application including thinning areas and excluding the TPO area. GM will now submit it to Scottish Forestry. The start date is set for after 1st October. Altyre Estate is interested in contracting the felling. d. Bench at bike jump. GM contacted KBM to confirm donation of materials. It is not certain whether the donation is for one or two benches. GM has instructed Jon Meldrum, the contractor, to construct the benches. e. Funding for Wildflowers in Coffin Field and Laurel and Rhododendron treatment. AM and GM reported that had they had an in person meeting on 21st April with Darren Hamilton, Social Impact Coordinator. He confirmed that Balfour Beattie would provide some assistance, most likely in the form of labour and some equipment for - Cutting Laurel and rhododendron behind Woodside Drive to stump level which would then be treated by contractor or volunteers. - Clearing area at footbridge and then proceed as above. - Wildflower meadow – seeds could be provided. - The planned felling Coordination with Balfour Beattie at Forres Academy and SSEN a further possibility. f. Chapelton Bridge. (see email 17/4/2026 Will Burnish) AM and GS stated that the wooden surface is showing signs of rot in several places and needs replacing but the structure of the bridge is sound. It might be possible to carry out repairs with the help of volunteers. The 39Engineers could be requested to do the job. GM will email Mr Whittle, solicitor, to ask for clarification of the legal situation regarding the trust's liability. PK will meet Mr Whittle to discuss the matter. The 39 Engineers could be approached to do the job.	GM ES GM AM GM PK

6	Finance AM. April 2026 Opening bank balance £11,272.47 29th March 2026 Memberships and donations £66.00 No outgoings £0.00 Closing bank balance £11,338.47 27th April 2026	
7	Membership. GM reported that 4 membership payments were received. One included a donation.	
8	AOB. a. Letterdrop at Mannachie. GM reported that 9 volunteers offered to help with the letterdrop. GM will work out the number of households at Mannachie. GM will then order printing at a local shop. Delivery will be after the Scottish election. b. Address and QR code stickers for information Boards. GS reported that the newly attached address stickers are fading and the QR code is faint and hard to see as it is printed white on clear background. GS will enquire where to get more suitable stickers.	GM GS
9	Date of next meeting. 25th May, 2026 by Microsoft Teams.	