

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 25th May 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 MacFarquhar (DM), Gareth Whymant (GW), Graham Shewan (GS), Euan Stewart (ES) Apologies: David Binney (DB), Steve Hull (SH), Wilson Rennie (WR)	
2	Minutes of 27th April 2026 Proposed as accurate by AM, seconded by GW. Actions arising from previous Minutes. a. Tree Safety Report. GM reported that the dead trees have been felled and recorded on Safety Report. The lock on the gate at the bike shelter has been replaced. b. Hollow on bike track near the jumps area. GW to fill the hollow area – ongoing. c. Address and QR code stickers for information boards. GS will enquire where to get more suitable QR code and address stickers.	GW GS
3	Correspondence. WEB 1/5/2026, Sheila Crosby, Woodside Drive. Recovering from injury, can't walk far, finds paths into the woods hard to negotiate with walker, likewise for wheelchair users or prams. GM replied – all abilities path is costly, requires fundraising, will discuss at Board meeting. See item AOBb. 17/5/2026 Stephen Amos, Following a recent fatal tragedy when Grandson lost his life looking at ways to commemorate his life with a lasting tribute. Asking for advice on the possibility of planting commemorative tree(s) as a permanent and lasting tribute. GM responded, to be discussed at Board meeting. See item AOBc. Email 26/4/2026 to Ian Chorlton, Finnerne Development Trust, requesting funding support for fencing at Newforres Wood. 12/5/2026 Jan Chorlton, Finnerne Trust recommend to the board to contribute to the costs. Outcome expected w/c 25th May. See 4b.	

4/5/2026, George Alexander, former Trustee, re Chapelton Bridge, suggests to respond to Will Burnish to query the legal document that he attached to his letter as it is an Interim Minute of Agreement between Moray Council and Trustees of the Sir Alexander Gordon Cumming 2004 Chapelton Trust and FCWT is not a party to this legal agreement. Mr Alexander has no recollection of seeing such a document during his time as trustee.

Offering help re discussion with Moray Council as to what repairs would be required. His son, Graham, at AJ Engineering has experience in such matters and he suggests that there are better alternatives to simply replacing wood with wood.

15/5/2026 Susan Copeland, found the rubbish bin overflowing and rubbish scattered around the area in Newforres Wood.

GM responded. AM cleaned up.

22/5/2026 Andi Sides, Scottish Forestry.

Suggests measures in advance of the consultation phase to pre-empt queries and ease any concerns e.g.

- letter drop to the houses that ‘back on’ to the areas where operations will take place
- erect large-print notices with simple maps to explain what is proposed and what measures there will be, during operations
- advise the community council of plans
- liaise with the Dava Way Association regarding activity adjacent to or along the Dava Way, proposed requests for closure
- advise Moray Council Access Officer of proposals and seek advice on responsibilities regarding public access etc (notification of path closure / diversion etc)

GM acknowledged message.

24/5/2026 Steve Smirthwaite, Mountain bike Orienteering, reminder of event on Thursday 10th September. Start will be near the car park on the south side and the finish at the Forres Academy sports field.

Asking when footbridge over the Mosset will be reopened as they hope to use this bridge for access into the woods.

GM responded, outcome of repair works uncertain.

25/5/2026 Jamie Whittle, R&R Urquhart, re Chapelton Bridge. See item 5f.

Has not been able to trace a Deed of Servitude between Altyre and the FWCT having been entered into. Recollects that matter stems from bridge having been built by the Council when the flood scheme was built and FCWT were keen to use it post-construction of the flood scheme.

He cannot see a final version of that deed having been signed off.

Sir Alastair at Altyre said that the Estate are happy to provide some larch cut to size if they are provided with the measurements.

	There may also be scope to ask Tulloch of Cummingston for assistance as they are working nearby at Chapelton and the Estate has a working relationship with them. He suggested to PK that much of the above depends on whether FCWT wish to have a bridge in place, and if so, a Deed of Servitude should be finalised. As R&R Urquhart have acted for FCWT before and they could, if instructed, potentially act for both Altyre and FCWT.	
4	Muiry and Newforres. a. Gorse cutting along paths. GS and PK reported that they have carried out the strimming at the centre path in Muiry Wood. They will arrange to trim the paths in Newforres Wood. b. Border fence with neighbour. GM reported that she contacted Finnerne Development Trust to ask for help with funding. She received a positive response. See email 12/5/2026 Ian Chorlton, Finnerne Trust.	GS/PK GM
5	Sanquhar Wood. a. SH Work Party Report, no update. b. GM Work Party Report, 2nd May, cutting and treating laurel behind Woodside Drive and removing tree guards. 5 vols. c. Planned Felling. ES reported that the felling permit is now in place. GM reported on email from Andi Sides, advising on informing public about planned felling. See email on 22/5/2026 Andi Sides, Scottish Forestry. ES will produce maps for display. d. Bench at bike jump. GM reported that she is trying to arrange a meeting with contractor to decide on location of benches. e. Funding for wildflowers in coffin field and laurel and rhododendron treatment. AM reported a delay in response from Balfour Beattie. Will send reminders. f. Chapelton Bridge. GM will arrange an on-site meeting with Will Burnish and trustees. See email 25/5/2026 Jamie Whittle	ES GM AM GM
1	Treasurer's Report. AM May 2026 Opening bank balance £11,338.47 27th April 2026 Income Memberships and donations £30.00 Easy fundraising £0.00 Outgoing Wright's, Saw blades £19.35 CWA, subscription £40.00 Wright's, Padlock £15.99 Viking, stationery £15.54 Copy shop, letter printing £55.00	

	Closing bank balance £11,222.59 25th May 2026	
7	Membership. GM reported that 2 membership payments were received, none outstanding.	
8	AOB. a. Letterdrop at Mannachie. GM reported that 400 letters have been delivered to the new Mannachie area by volunteers. b. All Ability Access. See web message 1/5/2026, Sheila Crosby. The trustees stated that there are some paths in Sanquhar Wood which should be suitable for wheelchairs and prams, e.g. track from Sanquhar mains entrance. Vegetation could be removed during work parties near barriers to widen entrance space. However, paths on north side (Woodside) are not suitable for all abilities. Funding for accessible paths to be explored. c. Commemoration. See web message 17/5/2026 Stephen Amos. In principle, trustees support the idea of planting trees in commemoration of a deceased person. However, memorial plaques are not desired as we aim to keep the woods in a natural state. A group of trees could be planted in one of the areas where felling will take place later this year. Family members could be invited to participate in the planting. A certificate could be created with exact location of the trees. GM to communicate with Mr Amos. d. Ways to make it easier for public to make a donation. - Set up a Just Giving site. GM to explore. - GM will ask Wils Metcalfe to find out from Canary Dwarf how potential donors could access QR code.	GM GM GM GM
9	Date of next meeting. 29 th June, 2026 by Microsoft Teams.	