

FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 31st August 2026

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	Present: Euan Stewart (ES) chair for this meeting, Gisela MacFarquhar (GM) minutes, David MacFarquhar (DM), Graham Shewan (GS), Steve Hull (SH) Andrew McGhee, treasurer (AM), Gareth Whyment (GW) Apologies: David Binney (DB) joined later, Paul Kendall (PK) joined later, Wilson Rennie (WR)	
2	Minutes of 29th June 2026 Proposed as accurate by ??, seconded by ??. Actions arising from previous Minutes. a. Hollow on bike track near the jumps area. GS will investigate – ongoing. b. Address and QR code stickers. GS has attached them to the information boards. GM will attach them to information boards in Muiry and Newforres. c. Gorse cutting along paths in Newforres Wood. GS will see what's needing done.	GW GM GS
3	Correspondence. Email 2/7/2026 Andy Sides, Scottish Forestry, The consultation period has now closed for the Felling Permission at Sanquhar Wood. Four responses have been received and I now draw your attention to these. With the site being heavily used by a variety of sectors, the advice and direction of the council access officer will be very useful. 3/6/26 Hector Bryden, Outdoor Access and Countryside Officer, Core paths and Rights of Ways benefit from specific legal protections; therefore, the local authority must be consulted whenever these routes are likely to be impacted. As these paths are located across Scotland, it is recommended they should be incorporated into management or felling plans. 26/6/26 Julie Ballantyne, Principal Asset Programme Technician MC, no concerns re. route of removal of timber 18/6/26 Arooba Muzma, Economic Growth & Development, drew attention to take account of Tree Preservation Order.	

	3/7/26 Sally Will, Scottish Forestry, final approval of felling permission. 7/7/26 Wilson Rennie, confirmed transfer of legacy of £1500. 21/7/26 Ranald McConnachie, confirmed planned spraying of area behind Woodside Drive 23/7/26 and 17/8/26 GM to Scott Warren, SSE, reminder about footbridge repair options 27/7/27 Nicole Merrilees, Woodside Park, dead oak branch fallen into garden. GM received quote from Alex, Forres Tree Services, £432.00. Awaiting quote from ECO Highland Tree Services (meeting on Wednesday.) 13/8/26 Sandra Mitchell, Berry Burn Community Fund, confirmed payment of expenses for laurel treatment. 14/8/26 Altyre Forestry Office (forwarded by ES), quote for felling I can offer the following rates, which are per tonne and nett of vat. Spruce log - £28 Scots Pin Log - £28 Douglas Fir Log - £27.50 Hardwood - £22.50 Chipwood (all species) - £5.00 9/8/26 Mick Drury, FFWF, brief report on the riparian woodland strip that we co-own along the Mosset. "This is the most interesting part of the wider Sanquhar Woods from a biodiversity point of view. Relatively undisturbed, it has several good features including a range of ancient woodland flora and old coppice of various species." The report suggests some limited management works, principally to control the spread of beech and lighten up some stretches of the burn itself. Their freshwater ecologist friend, Mark Bradfield, is doing some surveys of the burns and ponds locally, including the ponds within Sanquhar Woods. His report is yet to come.	
4	Muiry and Newforres. a. Gorse cutting along paths. See item 2.	
5	Sanquhar Wood. a. SH Work Party Report. 25/7/26 Cut bracken around young planted native trees. 3 Vols. 29/8/26 Cut bracken around young planted native trees. 2 Vols. b. GM Work Party Report. 1/8/26 Finished cutting back bracken along bike tracks. Dug out, or cut and treated rhododendrons on steep slope above Mosset burn. 4 vols. c. Laurel and rhododendron eradication. Balfour Beatty work party. GM reported that the work party was very successful. On 2nd July a group of 9 Balfour Beatty employees, 2 SSE employees and 3 FCWT volunteers spent the day cutting back laurel behind Woodside Drive. The group worked very hard and clearly enjoyed the physically challenging outdoor work. McLean's Bakery supplied hot pies for lunch. The group were keen to come back for another session.	

	Spraying. McConnachie sprayed that area on 23rd July. He confirmed that the work done by the Balfour Beatty group speeded up his work considerably. d. Planning further strategy for laurel eradication. GM stated that further funding applications are now required. GM will apply to the Berryburn Fund in due course, concentrating on limited areas in order to reduce the total amount to be applied for. The remaining funds from BerryBurn could be used to purchase glyphosate? Other options for funding to be explored. e. Planned Felling. Quote received from Altyre Estates (see email 14/8/26) The quote was unanimously accepted. Preparatory measures now to be taken - Arrange contract with Altyre Estates - Establish date of operations. - Design posters for entrances to paths. - Letter to residents. - Info to Dava Way group. - Publicity (Gazette, facebook) - Contact Outdoor Access and Countryside Officer, Moray Council f. Bench at bike jump. Contact with KBM and contractor - pending. g. Coffin Field. ES reported that farmers are not interested in taking grass from the coffin field as it contains too much bracken, ragwort and dog poo. GM reported that contractor Ian Innes cut and bailed the grass and deposited it in the south corner of the field on 23 August. SH reported that some wildflowers are thriving. He will sow more yellow rattle. h. Chapelton Bridge. No progress. Ross Warren, SSE, one of the volunteers attending the work party on 2nd July informed GM that SSE might be able to get involved. GM sent reminders to him on 21st July and 14th August. As yet no confirmation. ES will contact Social Impact Co-ordinator at Balfour Beatty, Forres Academy. i. Mick Drury, Mosset Report. (see email 9/8/26) requesting selective felling along burn. GM will arrange an on-site meeting. j. Bike Jumps. GS reported that there is a lot of gorse and birch growing in spite of the glyphosate treatment. GM will investigate. k. Strimming in preparation for Mountain Bike event. Carried out by ES, GS and PK.	GM GS/GM ES ES ES GM GM GM GM GM SH GM ES GM GM														
1	Treasurer’s Report. AM July and August 2026 <table><tr><td>Opening bank balance</td><td>£11,442.81 on 28th June 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Memberships and donations</td><td>42.00</td></tr><tr><td>Legacy contribution</td><td>1500.00</td></tr><tr><td>McConnachie - spraying</td><td>-420.00</td></tr><tr><td>Accountant</td><td>-720.00</td></tr><tr><td>McConnachie - spraying</td><td>-2294.40</td></tr><tr><td>Berryburn community fund</td><td>2294.40</td></tr></table>	Opening bank balance	£11,442.81 on 28th June 2026	Memberships and donations	42.00	Legacy contribution	1500.00	McConnachie - spraying	-420.00	Accountant	-720.00	McConnachie - spraying	-2294.40	Berryburn community fund	2294.40	
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	Gisela - marker paint -8.56 Bank service charges -1.50 Closing bank balance £11,834.75 on 30th August 2026 AM reported that he is forwarding bank statements and invoices to the accountant in preparation for the AGM. GM stated that clarification is required re public liability for trustees who are over 80. AM will inquire.	AM
7	Membership. 1 member passed away. 13 reminders sent.	
8	AOB. a. Ways to make it easier for public to make a donation. - Set up a Just Giving site. AM/GM - GS reported that the QR code sticker for the FCWT website is now on the information boards. It will lead to the donations button, once this is in place. - Wilson Metcalfe reported to GM that Canary Dwarf have confirmed that it is possible to set up a donations button with QR code for potential donors. b. Purchase/hire of brush cutter. The trustees agreed that to purchase a replacement for the Billy Goat does not make financial sense. DB reported that he has used a rechargeable strimmer which appears to be very efficient and powerful and would serve our purpose. GS will make further enquiries. DB will enquire if the Billy Goat which we share with the Dava Way volunteers has been repaired.	GM GS DB
9	Date of next meeting. 28th September, 2026 by Microsoft Teams.	