FCWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting held via Teams
7.30pm 28th September 2026

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
1	**Present**: Paul Kendall (PK) chair for this meeting, Andrew McGhee (AM) treasurer, Gisela MacFarquhar (GM) minutes, David MacFarquhar (DM), Graham Shewan (GS), Steve Hull (SH), Gareth Whymant (GW) David Binney (DB) **Apologies:** Wilson Rennie (WR), Euan Stewart (ES)	
2	**Minutes of 29th June 2026** Proposed as accurate by AM, seconded by GS. **Actions arising from previous Minutes.** **Hollow on bike track near the jumps area**. GS unable to locate site. He will contact GW.	GS/GW
3	**Correspondence.** **2/9/26 Sam Mercer,** found 2 shot gun cartridges discarded in woods behind the pond. **GM replied following advice from ES**. Nobody should be discharging a gun on our property without express permission and mitigations in place. Members of the public should be encouraged to report this to the police as it would be illegal. **3/9/26 Ally Mayhew, Groves Forestry,** The Altyre Estate Long Term Forest Plan with objectives and management techniques for the estate woodlands is due for renewal. As FCWT is identified as a stakeholder, we are invited to engage with the process and raise any comments or concerns. Any feedback received will be incorporated in subsequent plan. **GM replied** asking for the scoping document. ES will view document. **31/8/26 GM sent email to SGRPID**, Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate, re. funding information for treatment of invasive species, automatic response received. **4/9/26 Steve Smirthwaite, MTBO** mailed the relevant risk assessment, insurance and rescue plan for the event at Sanquhar on Thursday 10th September. **4/9/26 Ewan Doig, Ecohighland**, quote for crown lifting of oak at Woodside Park £720. **4/9/26 GM to Alex Sills, Forres Tree Services**, accepting quote. Will carry out work on 20/10. **6/9/26 Kevin Robertson**, interested in working on improving bike jumps. He states that the jump line is severely worn. They have lost the lips to enable safe jumps. The land around has a lot of rocks so is not as smooth as it used to be. He wishes to discuss with FCWT to gain approval to look into	ES

	how the area can be regenerated. **GM responded**. Meeting with AM, GW and GM to be arranged. **4/9/26 GM to Garry McCartney, Forres Gazette,** sent article about Balfour Beattie volunteer party. Article published 15 September. **10/9/26 Jamie Murphy, Social Impact Advisor, Balfour Beatty**, sent apologies for the delay in responding. Hopes to respond during week of 21st September. **18/9/26 GM to McConnachie,** re. gorse and birch not treated on bike jumps. McConnachie responded, will look into this. **18/9/26 GM to Nature Restoration Fund** (NRF), enquiry re. funding for eradication of invasive species. Reply received on 22/9/26 The Nature Restoration Fund is currently closed - there are no further deadlines planned at present. Guidance for other sources of funding can be found on their website and the SCVO funding pages. **18/9/26 GM to Neighbourhood ECO Fund.** GM sent expression of interest Reply received 21/9/25 with Expression of Interest form, will be in touch if anything else is needed. **22/9/26 Zurich insurance to AM**. Zurich Insurance requesting more details re. bike track inspections and maintenance. **AM responded.**	AM/GW/ GM
4	**Muiry and Newforres.** **Gorse cutting along paths.** GS used the strimmer. GS and PK will arrange a date to do some more.	GS/PK
5	**Sanquhar Wood**. **a. SH Work Party Report.** SH reported that due to health issues he didn't organize a work party last month. Instead, he carried out some work on his own. 10/9/26 Cut grass in patches at edge of Coffin Field near east tree island. 11/9/26 Cleared cut grass and raked ground near east tree island. 13/9/26 Sowed yellow rattle seeds and some musk mallow seeds east tree island. 19/9/26 Cut grass patches west tree island. 20/9/26 Raked grass patches, west tree island. 25/9/26 Sowed yellow rattle seeds and some field scabious and a few red campion west tree island and a few other places. b. **GM Work Party Report.** 5/9/26 Cut back and treated rhododendron on steep slope above burn. Then continued on large area on the other side of the path. 7 volunteers. **c. Laurel and rhododendron eradication.** • GM explored **more funding options**, (see GM email to SGRPID, NRF and Neighbourhood ECO Fund) • GM ordered 3 containers of glyphosate from Arigem. • PK advised that a record of glypgosate use should be kept to avoid possible questioning from authorities. GM will set up a record sheet. • **Spraying.** McConnachie sprayed an area of dense growth of rhododendron above the Mosset burn on upside of path. d. **Planned Felling.** In the absence of ES, GM reported no further correspondence with	GM

	Altyre Sawmills. Putting out information to neighbouring residents, Dava Way Association and general public put on hold.	ES/GM
	e. **Bench at bike jump.** GM reaffirmed KBM funding offer. Sent message to Jon Meldrum, contractor, to request installation of benches. As yet no response. Possibility of trustees doing the job was discussed. No decision taken.	GM
	f. **Chapelton Bridge.** GM received message from Jamie Murphy on 10/9/26 with possible date (see emails).	GM/ES
	g. **Mick Drury, Mosset Report.** An on-site meeting took place with Mick, AM, GS and GM. Mick took us to the areas where he thought that more light would benefit the burn, thus creating space for more development of local plant species, invertebrates and spawning sites for fish. Mick stated that there have been sightings of otters, badgers and fish in that area. The trees to be cut initially would be mostly small and easily manageable with hand saws and loppers. We suggested to do this during a joint work party. A provisional date of Sat Feb 20th was suggested by Mick.	GM
	h. Bike Jumps. • GM reported that McConnachie re-sprayed the bike jumps where gorse and birch had survived from the previous spraying. • DB reported that he removed some litter left at the bike jump area. The possibility of providing a litter bin was discussed and decided against as it would encourage people to leave all their litter there. This would then increase the amount of litter which we would have to dispose of. An occasional litter picking will take place instead, and a sign should be put up asking people to take their litter home.	GM
1	**Treasurer's Report. AM** **September 2026** Opening bank balance 11834.75 on 30th August 2026 Memberships and donations £83.00 Donation from Moray Mountain Bike Orienteer £100.00 Agrigem Glyphosate -£205.53 Berryburn Community Fund, refund for glyphosate £205.53 Closing bank balance £12,017.75 28th September 202 • AM has informed Zurich that a. Bike trails will be inspected annually by Paul Masson. b. An interim inspection will take place 6 months later by GM. c. During the remaining months an occasional inspection will take place by volunteers. AM will now set up payment to Zurich. • AM found no evidence of any issues arising re public liability for trustees who are over 80.	AM
7	**Membership.** GM reported that of 13 reminders sent, 5 still are outstanding. Second reminders were sent, one membership cancelled.	
8	**AOB.** **a. GM to circulate management plan.** To be discussed at the next board meeting.	GM

	b. AGM. • GM to put notice in Gazette and facebook. • GM will prepare a chair's report which PK will read out. **c. Purchase/hire of brush cutter.** GS will make further enquiries re. options for brush cutter or strimmer. **d. Billy Goat.** DB reported that the Billy Goat is now repaired and fully functioning. He will forward the invoice for our share of the cost to GM, who will then set up payment. e. PK reported that Wild Things were having a children's birthday party in Sanquhar woods with a small fire in a fire bowl up off the ground (not a bought barbq) and someone, presumably a passerby in the woods phoned the fire brigade without speaking to my colleague in charge of the group first. A single firefighter came out to the woods, and he was met by one of the birthday child's parents who also works in the fire service and assured that there was no danger or risk of fire. PK stated that in these situations WildThings have proper safeguards in place and all necessary precautions are taken.	GM GM GS DB GM
9	**Date of next meeting.** 26th October, 2026 by Microsoft Teams. **Date of AGM.** 12th November 2026 by Microsoft Teams.	