

4.10	Ref 7.3.4: PM reported that he has attached laminated information sheets to DW information boards advising DW users to report path problems via email feedback@davaway.org.uk . PB is to see if there is anything on the DW website advising DW users how to report path problems.	PB
4.11	Ref 7.3.5: PM reported that he has valued the redundant gates and fittings and will dispose of them appropriately.	
4.12	Ref 8.2: (see Item 10.2 below)	
4.13	Ref 9.1: (see Item 12.1 below)	
4.14	Ref 9.2: (see Item 12.2 below)	
4.15	Ref 9.3: (see Item 12.3 below)	
4.16	Ref 10.1.1: (see Item 13.1.1 below)	
4.17	Ref 10.1.2: (see Item 13.1.1 below)	
4.18	Ref 11: (see Item 7 below)	
5	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>	
5.1	A balance of £9,307.85 is in the account. (Includes £6,080.00 from the Big Lottery Fund for the Lynmore project)	
5.2	Significant Income: None.	
5.3	Significant Expenditure: None.	
5.4	Outstanding items: None.	
6	<u>Correspondences</u>	
6.1	SNH – Estimating the costs of improving and managing existing LDR. Note: NT represents the Dava Way at the SNH LDR Managers' Forum . Note: A definition for Scotland's Great Trails, previously known as Long Distance Routes (LDR), may be found at para 9 of the SNH document 'Establishing And Promoting A Network Of Longer Distance Routes In Scotland – Project Proposals'.	
6.1.1	NT summarised the content of the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) email: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government has designated the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) as a national development priority in the latest National Planning Framework (NPF3). • The aim is to develop a strategic network of well-maintained long-distance paths and trails through Scotland; focusing on making best use of existing path networks – Scotland's Great Trails, the National Cycling Network and the Scottish Canal Network – and seeking to close key gaps, upgrade connecting routes, build on local core path networks, and link with public transport. • Project led by SNH, along with Sustrans and Scottish Canals. • SNH have produced the NWCN Project Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Para 4 – Objective 2. "Promote improvements to the quality of the existing walking and cycling routes and links in the NWCN, and identify and agree with key partners funding mechanisms to maintain these assets properly". ○ * Box 2 – Key Deliverables. "For improvements to existing routes and links, we will work with the lead body and other partners to scope the scale and costs of work required." ○ * Box 2 – Key Deliverables. "We will develop the case for on-going funding to maintain and improve existing assets and explore with key partners funding options for this." ○ Table 1. National priorities to be implemented over 5 years at estimated cost of £25 million; possibly funded from wide range of public, Lottery, European and private sources. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Para 10 – Funding. “New funding will also be required for improving the quality of existing routes and links, as well as for maintaining the whole network to the agreed standard. Based on current practice on existing Long Distance Routes, it is estimated that in the region of £2 million additional funding a year will be needed to maintain the entire network. We propose to look at this important issue in more detail as part of this project, develop the case for on-going funding to maintain and improve existing assets, and also explore funding mechanisms for this.” ● The SNH email requests summary information from the DWA to progress two tasks in the NWCN Project Plan (see * in list above). ● Information requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Top three major improvements needed on the Dava Way; estimated cost, brief description and geographical location. ○ Other major improvements needed on the Dava Way. ○ Current annual route management costs. ○ Aspirational annual route management costs. ● SNH will collate the information provided from all LDR managers in order to quantify the overall funding needs for LDR until 2020. <p>6.1.2 NT provided examples of costings received from other groups and referred to the LDR Costs document discussed at the LDR Managers’ Forum. PB and PM provided examples of costs associated with recent DW improvement projects.</p> <p>6.1.3 The three major improvements to be submitted and their estimated costs were discussed. The following major improvements were selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lynemore Bypass - £100,000.00 ● Route to be brought up to cycle standard - £600,000.00 ● Drainage improvements - £300,000.00 <p>6.1.4 There was some discussion on what costs should be included in annual route management costs, e.g. repairs to flood damage, personal expenses, etc. PB is to provide NT with an annual route management cost based on historic expenditure records.</p> <p>6.1.5 NT is to submit a return to SNH by 29th May 2015.</p> <p>6.2 Other No correspondence received by any other committee members.</p>	PB NT
7 7.1 7.2	<p><u>Cycle Survey Report</u></p> <p>PM reported that four people took part in the annual cycle survey 14th May 2015. The Path condition is generally very good North of Dava and future improvements works should be focused towards the Grantown end.</p> <p>The following tasks were completed in addition to the survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lubricated gates and padlocks. ● Treated some of the oak benches. ● Renewed notices on information boards and in the Half-Way Hut. ● Removed a large spike protruding from the path. ● Repainted Jess the dog. ● Delivered the Ghost Train Walk letters to local residents. 	
8 8.1 8.2	<p><u>Forres Academy Activity Days</u></p> <p>PM reported the cancellation of an activity day planned for 19th May 2015.</p> <p>PM added that an activity day at the Breathing Space, Dunphail is planned for 20th May 2015.</p>	PM

9	<u>Improvement Projects (Major and Minor)</u>	
9.1	Lynmore Improvement Project	
9.1.1	PM reported that he and PB held a site meeting with Murray Swapp on 28 th April 2015. COAT will now carry out a feasibility study and advise the DWA on the next steps.	
9.1.2	PB stated that Murray Swapp proposed using the Sustrans standard path width of two metres. Agreed unanimously.	
9.2	Bantrach Improvement Project	
9.2.1	PM reported that the Bantrach Cutting survey was completed on 28 th April 2015. PB reported that he has prepared a Bill of Quantities to cover the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean out drainage ditches in the cutting. • Clean out the cut-off drainage ditch above the banking at the south end of the cutting. • Remove accumulated dead timber from the slopes of the cutting. • Remove accumulated organic material from the path centreline within the cutting. 	
9.2.2	PB queried whether the affected section of the Dava Way should be closed to the public while works are in progress. He proposed that a diversion route be implemented along the track from Bogeney to Bridge of Newton, re-joining the Dava Way just south of the Divie Viaduct. Agreed unanimously. PB is to add the requirement for route diversion signs to the Bill of Quantities.	PB
9.2.3	NT noted that the next deadline for the receipt of applications for funding from the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is 20 th July 2015. Early submission is essential to allow for rejection and resubmission before the deadline. PB is to obtain three contractor estimates for the work listed in the Bill of Quantities for the committee to discuss prior to making an application for funding.	PB
9.3	General Improvements and Repairs	
9.3.1	PM reported the following new improvement/repair task: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dava summit sign is faded and requires replacement. 	
9.3.2	PM reported the following progress with improvement/repair tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballast infill and surface smoothing of deep ruts progressed between Heatherbells and Dava. • Surface smoothing progressed at Bogeney. • Pile of scrapings at Dava depleted; used for surface smoothing. • Drainage works progressed South of the Bantrach cutting and North of Heatherbells. 	
9.3.3	PM proposed the following tasks as priorities for improvement/repair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut back undergrowth South of Lynmacgreggor to enable rough cutter to be used for verge maintenance . • Improve path drainage for the section by Huntly's Cave. • Replace loose/rotten hinge post for gate at Drumine North. • Reseat the concrete drainage channel at Sluggan/Poldow Burn. • Install removable/lockable bollard at the Breathing space. • Use up the pile of path dressing sand at the Breathing Space. • Chip the brash at the Breathing Space and complete a general tidy-up of the area. 	
	Agreed unanimously; PM to include tasks listed above in upcoming monthly/mini work parties.	PM

10	<u>Maintenance Program</u>	
10.1	PM did not report any new maintenance tasks.	
10.2	PM reported the following progress with maintenance tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergrowth cut back between the Half Way Hut and the cutting where the drainage channel was cleared. • Undergrowth cut back between AJ's Bridge and Cowgreens. • Undergrowth cut back South of the Divie Viaduct. • Undergrowth cut back at the Dava Diversion. 	
10.3	PM proposed the following task as priority for maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cutting, particularly at the Lynmore Bypass. <p>Agreed unanimously; PM to include task listed above in upcoming monthly/mini work party.</p>	PM
11	<u>Arrangements for Next Work Party</u> PM reported that the next working party will be held on Saturday 13 th June 2015. PM will be distributing details of this event and requesting volunteers in due course.	PM
12	<u>Health and Safety</u>	
12.1	a) <u>Strimmer and Rough-Cutter Training</u> PM reported that the following power tool training will take place at Treewise in Kellas: Strimmer training on Thursday 4 th June 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Mitchell • Wils Metcalfe • Trevor Thornley • Malcolm Campbell • Alex Ross (reserve) Rough Cutter and DR Strimmer training on Saturday 6 th June 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Barron • Wils Metcalfe • Doug Hartley • Alex Ross • Trevor Thornley (reserve) 	
12.2	b) <u>Risk Assessments</u> PB reported that the committee sub-group met on 27 Apr 2015. A draft risk assessment has been prepared for the rough cutter. Risk assessments for the remaining power tools will be drafted following the power tool training.	PB, PM & RR
12.3	c) <u>First Aid</u>	
12.3.1	MC is to compile a list of items to be included in the emergency backpacks and ascertain their cost. MC said that he is also sourcing suitable containers for storage of supplementary items. NT reported that the Moray Way Association have a number of spaces available on a First Aid course to be run over the 5 th and 6 th June 2015. PM is to circulate an email to Dava Way volunteers to ascertain if any of them are interested in attending this course.	MC
12.3.2		PM

13	<u>Events</u>	
13.1	Ghost Train 2015	
13.1.1	Concern was again expressed over the current lack of bookings for the Ghost Train Walk, in comparison to previous years at this point. NT has submitted an article to the local papers to raise awareness of the event. MC reported that he has not been approached as yet by the senior scouts who expressed an interested in volunteering to help with the Ghost Train Walk as part of their community award.	
13.1.2	NT is to contact the Strathspey Herald and confirm if they ran his article. MC is to contact the Northern Scot and see if they ran NT's article. RR is to contact Kinloss Barracks and assess their interest in taking part.	NT MC RR
13.2	Moray Walking Festival	
13.2.1	PM reported that he is also concerned about low bookings for the Moray Way Five Day Challenge. A 50 seat coach has been booked, though the Moray Walking Festival organisers will cover the cost.	
13.2.2	RR reported that preparations for his events are all in hand.	
14	<u>Reported Incident</u> The details of an incident between a walker and a local resident were discussed. It was unanimously decided that the incident is nothing to do with the DWA. PM is to inform both parties accordingly.	PM
15	<u>AOCB</u>	
15.1	PM noted that the 10 th anniversary of the formation of the Dava Way falls on 18 th September 2015. NT noted that 2015 is also the 50 th anniversary of the closure of the railway along which the Dava Way is routed. PM suggested that such information could be used to promote the Dava Way and the Ghost Train Walk. PM proposed that David Binney should be invited to add a suitable statement and graphic to the DW website. PM also proposed that an article he has prepared should be offered to local newspapers. Agreed unanimously.	PM
15.2	RR enquired if maps could be made available to the committee so members could point out locations along the Dava Way that were under discussion. TT offered to bring his tablet to meetings, loaded with suitable maps.	TT
15.3	RR reported that that the footfall counter at Dallas Dhu is performing well. He noted that between 15 th Mar 2015 and 11 th May 2015 there have been no fewer than 3941 walkers and 482 cyclists on that section of the DW.	
15.4	PB proposed that, as the DWA stocks have been depleted, a delivery of 20 tonnes of planings should be ordered from Leiths at a cost of £350.00. Unanimously agreed.	
16	Date of the Next Meeting: 19:30 16 th June 2015 at The Hub.	

Meeting Closed: 21:50