

4.22	Ref 12.4.2: (See Item 12.5.2 below)	
4.23	Ref 12.4.3: (See Item 12.5.3 below)	
4.24	Ref 12.4.4: (See Item 12.5.4 below)	
4.25	Ref 12.4.5: (See Item 12.5.5 below)	
4.26	Ref 12.4.6: (See Item 12.5.6 below)	
5	Treasurer's Report	
5.1	PB reported that a balance of £7538.59 is in the DWA account.	
5.2	Significant Income: £ Nil	
5.3	Significant Expenditure: £ 322.15 to Pete Mitchell; refund of expenses 2020. £ 545.62 to Leiths; sub-base and quarry dust to Moss-Side (Peathillock) £ 247.20 to Leiths; sub-base to Clashdhu. £ 104.40 to MC; reimburse for replacement Lynmore counter battery. £ 366.71 to Zurich; DWA public liability insurance.	
5.4	Anticipated Income: £ Nil	
5.5	Anticipated Expenditure (from DWA funds): £ Nil	
5.6	Anticipated Expenditure (covered by external funding): £ Nil	
6	Correspondences	
6.1	To the Secretary	
6.1.1	Rather Be Cycling MC reported that he received an email from influential cyclist Gav McDonald of Rather Be Cycling saying how much he enjoyed riding the Dava Way (DW), and that he is spreading the word.	
6.2	Other Correspondence (Nothing to report)	
7	Feedback	
7.1	Footfall Counters TT reported the following readings: Dunphail – 21/06/17 to 09/06/21 10,198 (17,271 – 7073) Lochenoun – 13/11/15 to 09/06/21 18,686 (18,752 – 66) Lynmore (not read) RR reported the following readings: Dallas Dhu – 15/03/15 to 30/05/21 149,495 walkers (286,814 – 137,319) 22,677 cyclists (30,200 – 7,523)	
7.2	Other ; email, Facebook, etc. (Nothing to report)	
8	Dava Way Merchandise	
8.1	Sales and Stock	
	Companions (NT) 237	Badges (MC) 16
	Companions (NS) 80	

9	<u>Dava Way Path Works and Projects</u>	
9.1	Unplanned Work Since Last Meeting	
9.1.1	PM reported that on 06/06/21 he cut the grass from Dallas Dhu to Rafford Bank.	
9.1.2	PM reported that on 07/06/21 he, PB and TT cut the grass from Clashdhu to Peathillock, and the short section north of Longley. Some undergrowth cutback was completed south of the Drumine Crossing, but there is still a short section to be progressed. The mower accessible grass at the Dunphail Breathing Place was also cut but strimming of other areas there still need to be done.	
9.1.3	RR reported that herbicide spraying has been carried out at the Lynmore Bypass, the Dunphail Bypass and north to the Balvlair Crossing, the Mannachie Avenue access ramp and steps, and the Dallas Dhu access ramp and steps.	
9.1.4	TT reported that he has carried out the annual condition survey of the DW; Grantown-on-Spey to Dava on 16/05/21, Dava to Dunphail on 22/05/21 and Dunphail to Forres on 30/05/21. A report for each section has been circulated to the DWA Trustees, along with photos showing problems found. The annual maintenance of gates, oiling of benches, etc still needs to be carried out at some point.	
9.2	Planned Work Since Last Meeting	
	Ref 9.3.1: PB reported that the following tasks were carried out by the 9 volunteers at the work party held on 08/05/21 at Peathillock; action closed:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditching works and mud scraping in preparation for resurfacing; 10 tonnes of spoil removed from cutting. • Drainage investigation and improvements progressed. 	
9.3	Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties	
9.3.1	TT proposed that the next work party, scheduled for 12/06/21, should continue the drainage and resurfacing works in the Peathillock Cutting. Agreed unanimously. PM will not be available, so TT/PB will run the work party as directed by PM.	PM/TT/PB
9.3.2	Ref 9.3.2: Action held over. PM or NS will treat the oak benches with teak oil when possible.	PM/NS
9.3.3	Ref 9.3.3: PB reported that the material stockpiles at Clashdhu and Moss-side Farm have been replenished. Action closed.	
9.4	Signage	
9.4.1	Ref 9.4.1: PB reported that the brown tourism signage for Grantown-On-Spey town centre has been collected and is ready for installation. NS and MC proposed that they should install the signage on their next link visit to Grantown Grammar School. Agreed unanimously. PB will supply NS and MC with the signage and instructions for its installation. NS and MC will install the signage.	PB/NS/MC
9.4.2	Ref 9.4.2: NS reported that the plaque commemorating DWA volunteer Bill McRitchie has been manufactured, and he has installed it on the bench at the viewpoint north of the Squirrel Neuk Bridge. Action closed.	
9.4.3	NS reported that the fingerpost at the bottom of the steps at Sanquhar Mains Bridge has rotted at the base. NS has removed the fingerpost for refurbishment and will reinstall it onto a galvanised steel base.	NS
9.4.4	PM noted that the fingerpost at Rafford Station needs replacing and proposed manufacturing the replacement in oak. TT suggested that the replacement of fingerposts be carried out as part of the wider path upgrade plans, to be discussed under Item 12.4.	

9.5	Tooling and Equipment (Nothing to report)	
9.6	DWA Rebranding (joint project with FDT) Ref 9.7.3: NS reported that he has informed Pery Zakeri, Development Manager at the Finderne Development Trust (FDT), of the DWA Trustees' approval for use of the new logos designed by Yellow Cherry Digital (YCD).	
9.7	DWA Website Development (joint project with FDT)	
9.7.1	Ref 9.8.4a: NS reported that he has received written confirmation that the FDT are paying the full cost for development of the website, as detailed in the estimate. Action closed.	
9.7.2	Ref 9.8.4b: MC reported that he has carried out preliminary research into the costs for hosting and ongoing support from alternative providers and is confident that these costs can be reduced by changing provider at the end of the contract with the YCD. Action closed.	
9.7.3	Ref 9.8.5a: NT reported that he has received written confirmation that the DWA will have full control of the website once its development has been signed off by the FDT. Action closed.	
9.7.4	Ref 9.8.5b: Action ongoing. NS, NT, and MC will liaise with FDT and YCD regarding the development of the new website. NS reported that development of the new website is proceeding. The basic framework and look have been established. The DWA Trustees will be invited to cast a critical eye over the website once its development is nearing completion.	NS/NT/MC
9.8	DW Information Boards Replacement (joint project with FDT) (Nothing to report)	
9.9	Dallas Dhu Access Ramp Improvements Ref 9.10: Action held over. MC will assume the role of Project Manager for the Dallas Dhu Ramp Improvements Project, finalise the design specification and develop a project plan, research approximate costs, seek an Approval in Principle from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Altyre Estate and identify funding sources. MC reported that the Planning and Consents team (of HES) are content with the principle of the proposals. MC is awaiting a response from Altyre Estate.	MC
10	<u>Health and Safety</u>	
10.1	Review of DWA Health and Safety Management System Ref 10.1: Action held over. PB will approach his work colleague and ask if he is willing to provide H&S advice to the DWA.	PB
10.2	First Aid Kits	
10.2.1	The DWA first aid kits are held by MC, PB and PM. The completeness and serviceability of each kit was confirmed.	
10.2.2	MC noted that the DWA first aid kit contents are due a check of expiry dates. MC, PB and PM will check the contents of their first aid kits.	MC/PB/PM
10.3	Injury Reports and Incidents (Nothing to report)	
10.4	First Aid Training Ref 10.4: Action held over. NS will arrange Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) training for four DWA trustees/volunteers at one of the following providers:	NS

	Provider	Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)	Outdoor First Aid (2 or 3 days)
	Outfit Moray	£65 per person	£130 per person
	ACE Adventures	£50 per person	£165 per person
	Moray College	£85 per person	£ 220 per person
	Moray Firth Training Group	£95 per person	£290 per person
11	<u>Dava Way Publicity</u>		
11.1	Local, Regional and National Publications Ref 11.1: Action held over. MC will submit an article about the work of the DWA and the contribution made by Bruno Cawley, now that Bruno's memorial plaque has been installed. The article will be expanded to cover the recent deaths of DWA members Bill McRitchie and Hugh Kidd, and the recent award of £1,000 from the Tesco Community Grants scheme.		
11.2	DW Facebook Group (Nothing to report)		
11.3	DW Website (Nothing to report)		
12	<u>Funding Opportunities</u>		
12.1	Tesco Bags of Help		
12.1.1	Ref 12.1: MC reported that the DWA have been awarded £1,000 under the Tesco Community Grants scheme, successor to Tesco Bags of Help. Action closed.		
12.1.2	NS reported that claiming the grant is proving difficult. The grant scheme is managed by the Groundwork charity, and they have not responded to his attempts to contact them by phone or email. MS proposed that enquiries should be made via the manager of the local Tesco store. Agreed unanimously. MS will contact the manager of the local Tesco store and ask if they can investigate the matter further.		
12.1.3	NS asked what equipment the grant should be spent on. TT proposed that a backpack leaf blower should be purchased to clear leaf fall and cut grass from unbound path sections, thus reducing the mulching that encourages weed growth. The Husqvarna 570BTS is highly rated and MacGregors Industrial Supplies (MIS) are official Husqvarna suppliers. Prices currently range from £525 to the RRP of £749. Agreed unanimously. PB will obtain a price for a 570BTS from MIS, for comparison with online. PM proposed that any residue should be used to purchase user replaceable spares for existing equipment, such as blades for the ride-on mower. Agreed unanimously. PM will compile a list of items to be purchased, once the amount remaining from the grant is known.		
12.2	Money for Moray		
12.2.1	Ref 12.2: Action held over until Covid-19 restrictions lifted. The Money for Moray (MfM) organisers will contact all successful applicants in due course, to inform them when and how the showcasing of projects and the voting process will happen. NT will showcase the project for the DWA.		
12.2.2	NT suggested that funding of some type should have been made available from the MfM scheme by now. NT will contact MfM for an update.		
12.3	Berry Burn Community Fund		
12.3.1	Ref 12.3: NS reported that Grant Nicolson at Feakirk is the only local option he found for hiring a mini digger with operator. Action closed.		

MC

MS

PB

PM

NT

NT

12.3.2	<p>TT noted that the recent condition survey has identified numerous sections of the DW requiring at least some digger work to achieve any meaningful long-term improvement. There are currently three options for this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contractor; engage Grant Nicolson to carry out digger works. 2. Plant hire; hire a digger from National Tool Hire Shops. 3. Self-owned; purchase a suitable mini digger. <p>TT proposed that the relative costs, pros and cons of each of these options should be fully researched. A mini digger could be hired for a week at £449 to trial its effectiveness when operated by inexperienced DWA volunteers. A mini digger could be purchased for £25k to £30k; potentially funded by a £10,000 grant from the Berry Burn Community Fund, with the remainder funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Agreed unanimously. TT will research the merits of the three options, and the viability of hiring a mini digger for a week.</p>	TT
12.4 12.4.1	<p>Improving Public Access</p> <p>TT reported that funding for path improvements may be available from the Rural Payments and Services: Improving Public Access (IPA) fund. The deadline for the 2021 scheme is 30/06/21 but, according to advice from the Scottish Government, further funding schemes should be available up to 2024. Annual schemes are open for applications between March and June. Funding is provided for itemised capital items and standard costs, but the criteria to be met are extensive. Some criteria applicable to the DWA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a core path. • Should be as accessible as possible and suitable for use by walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, and wheelchairs/mobility scooters. • Must be fit for purpose, designed to last, be safe to use and low maintenance. • Must have adequate drainage to prevent water-based damage. • Must be surfaced either with a dust unbound and compacted surface (e.g., whin dust, granite dust) or with a semi-bound surface. Surfaces such as tarmac or concrete are not eligible. • Not for motorised use; use as a vehicular, quad, tractor, forest or farm track is not eligible. • Applications must provide evidence in the form of a supporting document, showing whether a planning application is required or not. • If you are not the landowner, then you must submit evidence that you have an agreement in place for the works to take place and be maintained for the required period (5 years from the date of final payment by RPID). This requirement could be met by having a Path Agreement with each landowner. <p>TT noted that any project(s) submitted for funding under the IPA scheme would be subject to Construction (Design and Management) Regulations. As the DWA Trustees do not have the appropriate qualifications and experience, TT proposed that the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS) should be engaged to manage the project(s), as was the case for the Lynmore Bypass project. Agreed unanimously.</p>	TT
12.4.2	<p>TT will produce a DW Upgrade Project Plan based on the Paths for All: Lowland Path Construction Guide, and the Dava Way Path Upgrade Proposal produced by OATS in 2017. TT noted that the Community Paths Team at Paths for All offer free advice, support, training and funding to develop and deliver Community Path projects. He will seek their advice when producing the DW Upgrade Project Plan.</p>	TT

12.4.3	MC will contact OATS to enquire if they would be willing to take the DW Upgrade Project Plan forward as Project Manager and Principal Designer, and provide an estimate of the costs involved for such services.	MC
12.4.4	NS will ask the Funderne Development Trust (FDT) whether they would be willing to fund the OATS costs.	NS
12.5	Other Sources of Funding	
12.5.1	Ref 12.4.1: NS reported that there are currently no appropriate funding sources on the Funding Scotland site, but he will continue to monitor the site periodically. Action closed.	
12.5.2	Ref 12.4.2: Action held over until Covid-19 restrictions lifted. MC will apply for funding from the Scottish Forestry Community Fund when the scheme is up and running again.	MC
12.5.3	Ref 12.4.3: Action held over until Covid-19 restrictions lifted. PB will submit a bid for funding to the Keith Builders Merchants (KBM) funding scheme, the KBM Charity Fund , to purchase materials to repair/replace the handrails at the Mannachie Avenue Ramp.	PB
12.5.4	Ref 12.4.4: NS reported that the ScotWays Small Grants Scheme may be a suitable source for future match funding. The scheme awards grants between £500 and £1,500 for up to 50% of the total budget of a project. This may be a suitable source for future match funding. Action closed.	
12.5.5	Ref 12.4.5: NS reported that there are currently no appropriate funding sources on the Groundworks site. Action closed.	
12.5.6	Ref 12.4.6: NS reported that the SportScotland Cycling Facilities Fund is not a suitable source of funding for DWA projects. Action closed.	
13	AOCB	
13.1	Gatepost Replacement PM reported that there are now two locations where rotted gateposts require replacement. PM proposed that he should purchase two galvanised steel gateposts and carry out the appropriate modifications to enable self-closing. Agreed unanimously. PM will purchase and modify two gateposts ready for installation.	PM
14	Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 14/07/21, venue TBN .	

Meeting Closed: 21:20



Neil Sinclair
Chairman
Dava Way Association