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| 4.25 | Ref 13.1: PM reported that he has ordered the galvanised steel gateposts. They should be delivered shortly. Action closed. | |
| 5 | <u>Treasurer's Report</u> | |
| 5.1 | PB reported that a balance of £7010.54 is in the DWA account. | |
| 5.2 | Significant Income: £ Nil | |
| 5.3 | Significant Expenditure: £ 585.00 to MacGregors Industrial Supplies; purchase of leaf blower. £ 108.00 to Yellow Cherry Digital; purchase of website documentation. | |
| 5.4 | Anticipated Income: £ Nil | |
| 5.5 | Anticipated Expenditure (from DWA funds): £ Nil | |
| 5.6 | Anticipated Expenditure (covered by external funding): £ Nil | |
| 6 | <u>Correspondences</u> | |
| 6.1 | To the Secretary | |
| 6.1.1 | <u>Incidents at Dava</u> MC reported that he received an email from a lady equestrian highlighting the risks to riders posed by routing them along the A940 at Dava. The lady and another rider were staying at the Dava Schoolhouse and on their outward journey the owner kindly walked with them to slow oncoming traffic. On the return journey, trying to avoid the A940, they decided to try walking their horses along the walkers' route at Dava but came to a point that was too narrow for their horses to get through and had to retrace their steps. When walking back along the A940 one vehicle passed so close as to make her horse rear. The lady also reported that "a very unfriendly and aggressive" man was patrolling the walkers' path and ordered them to go via the road. She also reported seeing the same man "take a stick to an elderly gentleman on a bicycle who had inadvertently taken the wrong way [along the walkers' route]". PM reported that there have been similar comments in posts made by equestrians, and cyclists, on the Friends of the Dava Way Facebook group. Previous communications from Dava residents have also highlighted the problem of cyclists and equestrians using or attempting to use the walkers' route, even though the appropriate routes are clearly signposted. TT noted that the Dava Bypass is a high priority project that will hopefully be resolved as part of plans to upgrade the Dava Way (see Item 12.4). | |
| 6.2 | Other Correspondence (Nothing to report) | |
| 7 | <u>Feedback</u> | |
| 7.1 | Footfall Counters MC reported the following readings: Dunphail – 21/06/17 to 09/07/21 10,538 (17,611 – 7073) Lochenoun – 13/11/15 to 12/07/21 19,503 (19,569 – 66) Lynmore (not read) | |

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| 7.2 | <p>Dallas Dhu – 15/03/15 to 09/07/21 152,818 walkers (290,137 – 137,319) 23,452 cyclists (30,975 – 7,523) Other; email, Facebook, etc. (Nothing to report)</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 8.1 | <p><u>Dava Way Merchandise</u> Sales and Stock</p> <table data-bbox="244 421 1246 517"> <tr> <td>Companions (NT)</td> <td>124</td> <td>Badges (MC)</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Companions (NS)</td> <td>73</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Companions (NT) | 124 | Badges (MC) | 16 | Companions (NS) | 73 | | | |
| Companions (NT) | 124 | Badges (MC) | 16 | | | | | | | |
| Companions (NS) | 73 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 9.1 9.2 9.2.1 9.2.2 9.2.3 9.2.4 9.2.5 9.2.6 9.3 9.3.1 | <p><u>Dava Way Path Works and Projects</u> Unplanned Work Since Last Meeting (Nothing to report)</p> <p>Planned Work Since Last Meeting</p> <p>Ref 9.3.1: TT reported that the following tasks were carried out by the 8 volunteers at the work party held on 12/06/21 at Peathillock; action closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfaced 80 metres of path surface; sub-base and quarry dust. • Scraped a further 80 metres of trackbed in preparation for resurfacing at the next work party; spoil left in situ at side of track. • Ditch cut to divert water from private water supply into stone chute leading to culvert; water no longer eroding slope of cutting. <p>9.2.2 PB reported that on 16/06/21 he, Wils Metcalfe, MC and TT cut/strimmed the grass from Balvlair Crossing to the Divie Viaduct and strimmed the grass areas at the Dunphail Breathing Place.</p> <p>9.2.3 PM reported that on 16/06/21 he cut the grass sections north and south of Dallas Dhu.</p> <p>9.2.4 PM reported that the following tasks were carried out by the 9 volunteers at the work party held on 10/07/21 at Peathillock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scraped the remaining trackbed all the way to the Peathillock Bridge in preparation for resurfacing. • Resurfaced 400 metres of path surface; sub-base and quarry dust. <p>It was noted that this huge achievement was down to mechanisation; two 4x4s with tipping trailers, a compact tractor with front loader kindly provided by Jim McKay was used to scrape mud and accumulated natural off the trackbed, a full-size tractor with front loader kindly loaned by local farmer Davie Nicolson was used to load sub-base and quarry dust into the tipping trailers. There was a general consensus that the use of mechanisation at future work parties should be encouraged whenever possible.</p> <p>9.2.5 PB reported that on 13/07/21 he, Alex Ross, RR, MC and TT cut grass and carried out vegetation cutback between the Clashdhu Crossing and AJ's Bridge.</p> <p>9.2.6 PM reported that on 13/07/21 he recut the grass between the Clashdhu Crossing and Longley Crossing.</p> <p>Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties</p> <p>9.3.1 PM proposed that the next work party, scheduled for 14/08/21, should be split and carry out the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM to lead a work party to complete resurfacing works at Peathillock; use up stockpile at Moss-side, then use stockpile at Clashdhu. • PB to lead a work party to carry out vegetation cutback and grass cutting between the Dragoon Crossing and Dulicht Bridge. | | | | | | | | | |

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| 9.3.2 | Agreed unanimously. PM will make the necessary arrangements. Ref 9.3.2: Action held over. PM or NS will treat the oak benches with teak oil when possible. | PM |
| 9.3.3 | RR reported that the handrail at the Mannachie Avenue Ramp has been extensively vandalised and needs to be repaired or removed. There was some discussion around what the most appropriate action would be, but it was eventually decided that the handrail should be made safe for now pending a decision on whether to remove it, repair it or replace it. MC/RR will organise a mini work party to make safe the remaining structure. | PM/NS |
| 9.3.4 | PB proposed that the next vegetation mini work party, scheduled for 20/07/21 should focus on vegetation cutback and grass cutting at the Rafford Bank. Agreed unanimously. PB will make the necessary arrangements. | MC/RR |
| 9.4 | Signage | PB |
| 9.4.1 | Ref 9.4.1: Action held over. PB will supply NS/MC with the brown tourism signage for Grantown-On-Spey town centre and instructions for its installation. NS and MC will install the signage. | PB/NS/MC |
| 9.4.2 | Ref 9.4.3: MC reported NS has refurbished the fingerpost at the bottom of the steps at Sanquhar Mains Bridge and has reinstalled it on a galvanised steel base. Action closed. | |
| 9.5 | Tooling and Equipment PB reported that the oldest of the four DWA strimmers (Stihl FS85) would no longer start. Following a quick discussion with the other DWA Trustees by email, he took the strimmer to MacGregor Industrial Supplies (MIS) so they could check it over and provide an estimate for its repair. MIS have stated that it will need a new carburettor, total cost £150; an equivalent new strimmer would cost about £400. PB proposed that the existing strimmer is repaired. Agreed unanimously. PB will ask MIS to go ahead with the repair. | PB |
| 9.6 | DWA Rebranding (joint project with FDT) MC reported that the Dava Way rebranding project has been completed. | |
| 9.7 | DWA Website Development (joint project with FDT) Ref 9.7.4: MC reported that the development carried out by Yellow Cherry Digital (YCD) is now complete and the new DWA website is up and running. Action closed. Some donations have already been received through the website, using the Stripe payment system, along with completed Gift Aid forms. The website will continue to evolve over time as more content is added. | |
| 9.8 | DW Information Boards Replacement (joint project with FDT) (Nothing to report) | |
| 9.9 | Dallas Dhu Access Ramp Improvements | |
| 9.9.1 | Ref 9.9: 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 he is still awaiting a response from the Altyre Estate. He has also been in contact with Murray Swapp, Access Projects Manager at the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, to see if he could take on the design and construction of the ramp. Unfortunately, Murray is already fully committed to a major project that will take at least two years to complete. | MC |

| 9.9.2 | NT reported that he has submitted a bid for funding to the Places Called Home scheme. Grants between £1,000 and £5,000 are available. If successful, the grant will be used to fund the design and construction of the new ramp. NT will monitor bid progress. | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10 | Health and Safety | PB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.1 | Review of DWA Health and Safety Management System | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.1.1 | Ref 10.1: PB reported that his work colleague is willing to provide H&S advice to the DWA but sees this as more of a winter project. Action closed. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.1.2 | PB will contact his colleague again at the end of September to ask how he wishes to proceed with the project. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | Ref 10.2.2: Action held over. MC will check his records to identify those DWA first aid kit items that are due to expire, order replacements then distribute them to PB and PM so they can refresh the contents of the first aid kits they hold. | | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Provider</th> <th>Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)</th> <th>Outdoor First Aid (2 or 3 days)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Outfit Moray</td> <td>£65 per person</td> <td>£130 per person</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACE Adventures</td> <td>£50 per person</td> <td>£165 per person</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moray College</td> <td>£85 per person</td> <td>£ 220 per person</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moray Firth Training Group</td> <td>£95 per person</td> <td>£290 per person</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | 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 |
| 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 | Dava Way Publicity | MC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.1 | Local, Regional and National Publications | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.1.1 | 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.1.2 | MC will contact the local Tesco store to ask if they would like to participate in publicity around the leaf blower, purchased with some of the money received from the Tesco Community Grants scheme. | | MC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.2 | DW Facebook Group PM reported that the Friends of the Dava Way Facebook group now has 701 members. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.3 | DW Website (Nothing to report) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 12 | <u>Funding Opportunities</u> | |
| 12.1 | Tesco Bags of Help | |
| 12.1.1 | Ref 12.1.2: MS reported that he spoke to the manager of the local Tesco store and ascertained that an incorrect URL was being used for the Groundworks website. Action closed. | |
| 12.1.2 | NS will contact Groundworks and arrange for the £1,000 grant to be paid into the DWA account. | NS |
| 12.1.3 | Ref 12.1.3a: PB reported that he obtained a price of £585 including VAT to purchase a 570BTS from MIS. A decision to go ahead with the purchase through MIS was made with the other DWA Trustees by email and the purchase made. Action closed. | |
| 12.1.4 | Ref 12.1.3b: Action held over. PM will compile a list of user replaceable spares for existing equipment, such as blades for the ride-on mower, to be purchased, once the amount remaining from the grant is known. PM proposed that the purchase of roll up men at work tripod signs be included. Agreed unanimously that PM should compile a list of items that he considers should be purchased with the £415 remaining. | PM |
| 12.2 | Money for Moray | |
| 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 | NT has ascertained that the Money for Moray (MfM) is no longer operating. Actions closed. | |
| 12.3 | Berry Burn Community Fund | |
| 12.3.1 | Ref 12.3.2a: TT reported that he has researched the merits of the three options for carrying out digger works and identified the following: | |
| 12.3.1 | Option 1 – Engage contractor to carry out digger works. | |
| 12.3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro – minimal DWA volunteer hours expended beyond identifying the works required and paying the bill. • Pro – experienced operator. • Cons – cost; £4975.20 for 400 metres of digger works in Auchearn Cutting, to scrape the path surface and remove material at the base of a slumped slope to uncover an existing railway drainage pipe. | |
| 12.3.1 | Option 2 – Hire-in digger for operation by volunteers. | |
| 12.3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro – cost; see Item 12.3.2 below. • Con – requires commitment from DWA volunteers for hire period. • Con – weather may be poor during hire period. • Con – inexperienced operators. | |
| 12.3.1 | Option 3 – Purchase digger for operation by DWA volunteers. | |
| 12.3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro – always available for use by DWA volunteers. • Pro – operators become more experienced with increased use. • Con – cost; initial purchase, insurance, maintenance. • Con – machine needs to be stored in a secure location. | |
| 12.3.2 | Action closed. | |
| 12.3.2 | Ref 12.3.2b: TT reported that he has researched hiring a mini digger and found several companies that all appear to operate in a similar way, acting as an agent for syndicated hire companies local to the site where the equipment is to be used. Some arrange the ‘hired-in equipment insurance’ for you, with others directing you to the JCB Short Term Hired in Plant Insurance website so you can arrange your own cover. | |
| 12.3.2 | Brandon Hire Station (Trustpilot 4.5) | |
| 12.3.2 | HSS Hire (Trustpilot 4.4) | |
| 12.3.2 | Mammoth Hire (Trustpilot 4.5) | |
| 12.3.2 | National Tool Hire Shops (Trustpilot 4.4) | |

Example weekly hire costs (National Tool Hire Shops)

0.8T Micro Digger

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|------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Hire (week) | £ | 399.99 |
| Hired in equipment insurance | £ | 50.00 |
| Delivery | £ | 0.00 |
| Damage waiver | £ | 0.00 |
| VAT | £ | 90.00 |
| Total | £ | 539.99 |

1.5T Mini Digger

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Hire (week) | £ | 449.99 |
| Hired in equipment insurance | £ | 50.00 |
| Delivery | £ | 0.00 |
| Damage waiver | £ | 0.00 |
| VAT | £ | 100.00 |
| Total | £ | 599.99 |

A deposit of £500 is taken when the hire is booked; this is refundable in full if the digger is returned clean and undamaged, "Upon safe return and successful inspection of the equipment...".

Delivery is "...between 8am and 5pm on the first day of your hire" and collection is "between 8am and 5pm on the end date of your hire (or within a maximum of 5 days after the end date)", so we could possibly end up with only 5 usable days out of a 7-day hire period.

Two forms of ID must be presented at delivery: photo ID, such as a driving license or a passport, and proof of address, such as a utilities bill.

We will be responsible for the care of the equipment while we have it.

We must give the hirer reasonable notice of the required collection date, "...which shall include at least five (5) working days' notice from the end of the Hire Period"; confirm the date at time of booking.

TT added that he could not get an answer on the following from the hirer's customer services agent:

What bucket(s) is the machine is supplied with; ditching/grading, digging?

Is there any limitation on running hours?

Is the digger to be returned with full tank of fuel?

If the hire trial is successful, would our organisation be considered for a Trade Account? (Hire cost is discounted for Trade Account customers)

Action closed.

12.3.3 TT proposed hiring-in a micro digger for one week as a trial. RR suggested that having a trial in winter was not a good idea and proposed that this item should be looked at again in Spring 2022. Agreed by majority.

In February/March 2022, TT, PB and PM will identify digger works suitable for a week-long trial, arrange a work party and hire-in a digger.

TT/PB/PM

12.4 **Improving Public Access**

12.4.1 Ref 12.4.2a: TT reported that he has contacted Fiona Cuninghame at NatureScot and she has confirmed the following with regard to the Rural Payments and Services: [Improving Public Access](#) (IPA) fund:

- It is not currently known whether an IPA, or similar, scheme will be open for funding applications next year.
- Any section of the Dava Way used by farm/estate vehicles is excluded from IPA funding.

- A Path Agreement may exceed the requirements for a 'contractual licence' between the landowner and DWA; required under the IPA 'Occupancy of land' criteria.
- IPA funding is limited to those items listed under [capital items and standard costs](#). Funding for anything else will need to be found elsewhere. This includes:
 - Vegetation removal and tree felling.
 - Slope/rock face stabilisation and drainage reinstatement (except open ditches and new pipe culverts).
 - Reclaiming the full width of the trackbed; to provide grass or cinder verges for ease of maintenance and for use by horse riders as an alternative to damaging quarry dust path.
 - Earthworks to create/upgrade ramps.
 - Installation of bridge balustrades or handrails.

TT noted that Fiona Cuninghame did offer him the opportunity to submit a late application to the IPA, but he was not able to do this because the DWA does not currently have any 'shovel ready' projects to hand.

12.4.2 Ref 12.4.2b: TT reported that the production of a DW Upgrade Project Plan is progressing, based on the [Paths for All: Lowland Path Construction Guide](#) and the Dava Way Path Upgrade Proposal (DWPUP) produced by OATS in 2017. He has identified the following potential projects:

Bridge Balustrades Project – to install balustrades on the existing railway bridges where there is a drop height greater than 1 metre and where there is no parapet, or the existing parapet has been assessed in the 2017 DWPUP as being too low.

Dava Bypass Project – to create a new route to bypass the Dava settlement, that is safe and appropriate for all path users and acceptable to the residents.

Dunphail Project – to upgrade the route infrastructure between the Divie Viaduct and the Balvair Crossing just north of Dunphail. The works will stabilise the slopes in two earth cuttings and improve the drainage, widen the path corridor, and resurface the existing unbound path laid in 2014.

North Project – to upgrade the route infrastructure between the Drumine Crossing and Mannachie Rise in Forres. The works will improve the drainage in the rock cutting adjacent to Clashdhu, widen the path corridor and lay an unbound path surface, with an adjacent cinder/grass horse strip created where possible. The North Project includes the following sub-projects:

Dallas Dhu Ramp Improvement Sub-Project – to replace the current ramp and steps with one that is accessible to people with disabilities.

AJ's Bridge Replacement Sub-Project – to replace the current narrow pedestrian bridge with one that is accessible to horse riders and disability scooters.

Gallow Hill Cutting Sub-Project – to reopen the earth cutting between Squirrel Neuk Bridge and the south end of the Rafford Embankment, as an alternative to the current 'rooty rollercoaster'. The existing routing

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| | <p>was implemented in 2005 due to the proximity to the railway cutting of a protected species, along with concerns over the flooded state of the cutting and the resources required to clear fallen trees and accumulated natural. The protected species self-relocated elsewhere on the Estate some years ago, so it is now possible to reopen the cutting and make the northern sections of the Dava Way fully accessible to all users.</p> <p><i>South Project</i> – to upgrade the section of the Dava Way between Dulicht Bridge at Grantown-on-Spey and the Dragoon Crossing at the south side of the Dava Moor. It will include works at the Lynmore Bypass, to improve drainage and to resurface the existing unbound path laid in 2016.</p> <p><i>Signage Project</i> – to replace the ageing fingerposts and waymarkers installed between 2005 and 2007.</p> <p>TT noted that one of the requirements for the IPA application is a document to show how your project(s) integrate with other projects and existing facilities in the local area, the ‘big picture’; existing/aspirational path networks, community/tourism facilities, etc. Examples could include the path proposed by Logie Estates to link the Dava Way with Logie Steading, the path suggested by Edinkillie Church to link the church car park to the Dava Way (historic path), the possibility of upgrading the toilets at Edinkillie Village Hall and opening them to the public, etc.</p> <p>TT has written to the Community Paths Team at Paths for All to ask for clarification and guidance on bridge balustrade design, slope stabilisation options, cost/benefit of heritage drainage reinstatement, options for digger works and vegetation control, options for the management of projects and bringing together funding from different sources. An acknowledgement has been received from John Duffy in the Community Paths Team and TT has been told to anticipate a full response shortly. TT has also written to Caroline Fyfe at NatureScot to ask several questions relating to best practice examples by other path organisations where railway infrastructure is a major factor.</p> <p>TT will continue the production of the DW Upgrade Project Plan.</p> <p>12.4.3 MC suggested that he and MS should update the DWA Strategic Business Plan to include a funding strategy. Agreed unanimously. MC and MS will develop a funding strategy for the DW Upgrade Project Plan.</p> <p>12.4.4 Ref 12.4.3: TT reported that he has written to the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (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 noted that he has already spoken with Murray Swapp at OATS re the Dallas Dhu Ramp (see Item 9.9.1 above). Murray acknowledged that he has received the email from TT and would love to manage the DWA project, but he is fully committed for the next two years. TT noted that the contact details for other organisations providing project management are listed on the PfA website and these could be investigated if required. Action closed.</p> <p>12.4.5 Ref 12.4.4: NS will ask the Finnerne Development Trust (FDT) whether they would be willing to fund the Project Manager and Principal Designer costs.</p> <p>12.5 Other Sources of Funding</p> <p>12.5.1 Ref 12.5.2: 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.</p> | <p>TT</p> <p>MC/MS</p> <p>NS</p> <p>MC</p> |
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| 12.5.2 | Ref 12.5.3: PB reported that funding from the Keith Builders Merchants (KBM) Charity Fund is no longer available. Action closed. | |
| 13 13.1 | <u>AOCB</u> Creative Scotland Grant NT reported that an artist in residence has been employed by the Moray Way Association using funding from Creative Scotland's Culture Collective. The artist will be working in the medium of sound. PM suggested that sound effects for the DW Ghost Train Walk would be useful, but NT said he was not sure whether the artist would be doing that sort of thing. | |
| 13.2 | Irresponsible Toileting PM reported that he has been contacted by James Simpson at Longley Farm about human excrement found at locations alongside the Dava Way. TT suggested adding a post to the Friends of the Dava Way Facebook group with a link to appropriate guidance. Agreed unanimously. TT will provide PM with a link to appropriate guidance. PM will post this information to the Facebook group. | TT/PM |
| 14 | Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 11/08/21, venue TBN. | |

Meeting Closed: 21:15



Neil Sinclair
Chairman
Dava Way Association