



4.27	Ref 8.5	(See Item 8.5 below)	
4.28	Ref 10.1.1:	(See Item 10.1.1 below)	
4.29	Ref 10.1.3:	(See Item 10.1.2 below)	
4.30	Ref 10.2:	(See Item 10.2 below)	
4.31	Ref 11.1:	(See Item 11.1 below)	
4.32	Ref 11.2:	(See Item 11.2 below)	
4.33	Ref 11.3.2:	(See Item 11.3 below)	
4.34	Ref 12.1.1:	(See Item 12.1.1 below)	
4.35	Ref 12.1.2:	(See Item 12.1.2 below)	
4.36	Ref 12.2.1:	(See Item 12.2.1 below)	
5	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>		
5.1	PB reported that a balance of £11,667.36 is in the DWA account. Unrestricted Funds: £ 7,583.11 Restricted Funds: £ 84.25 Places Called Home; for Dallas Dhu Ramp project. £ 4,000.00 Money for Moray; for Dallas Dhu Ramp project.		
5.2	Significant Income: £ Nil		
5.3	Significant Expenditure: £ 229.48 Zurich Insurance; DWA liability insurance. £ 169.99 NS; reimbursement for pressure washer purchase.		
5.4	Anticipated Income: £ Nil		
5.5	Anticipated Expenditure (from DWA funds): £ Nil		
5.6	Anticipated Expenditure (covered by external funding): £ Nil		
5.7	Donations via the GiveWP-Stripe process since last meeting: £ 66.95		
5.8	PB added that the DWA received a donation of £53.44 from the <a href="#">Easyfundraising</a> scheme.		
5.9	Ref 5.8: Action held over. NS will purchase appropriate additional materials to the value of £84.25 (or more) to complete the manufacture of a replacement information board frame for Dallas Dhu; see Item 7.4.3 below.		NS
6	<u>Correspondences</u>		
6.1	<b>To the Secretary</b> (Nothing to report)		
6.2	<b>Other Correspondence</b> (Nothing to report)		
7	<u>Dava Way Path Works and Equipment Maintenance</u>		
7.1	<b>Unplanned Work Since Last Meeting</b>		
7.1.1	PB reported that on 17/07/24 he and PM carried out vegetation cutback and grass cutting between Lynmore and Lynmacgregor.		
7.1.2	PM reported that on 01/08/24 he progressed cutback of encroaching Rhododendron above Squirrel Neuk Bridge, as part of preparations for the upcoming SGN work party.		
7.1.3	PM reported that on 05/08/24 he, PB and TT completed the Rhododendron cutback and strimmed the bracken above Squirrel Neuk Bridge, in preparation for the upcoming SGN work party.		

<p>7.1.4</p> <p>7.1.5</p> <p>7.1.6</p> <p>7.1.7</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.2.1</p> <p>7.2.2</p> <p>7.2.3</p> <p>7.2.4</p>	<p>RR reported that on 06/08/24 and 07/08/24 he carried out vegetation cutback between the Mannachie Ramp and Dallas Dhu.</p> <p>PB reported that on 12/08/24 he completed vegetation cutback both sides of the estate track between Squirrel Neuk Bridge and the top of the rise.</p> <p>NS reported that on 12/08/24 he and MC completed the installation of the replacement information board frame at the BBC Breathing Place.</p> <p>RR reported that on 12/08/24 he inspected the bird boxes around the Rafford Bridge. One required reinstallation.</p> <p><b>Planned Work Since Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Ref 7.3.1a: PM reported that the works below were carried out at the work party held 13/07/24. Action closed.</p> <p>Dunphail Bypass to Auchearn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strimmed back encroaching undergrowth.</li> <li>• Cleared concrete drainage channel and cross drain sumps.</li> <li>• Located drainage pipe access points, cleared silt and rodded drainage pipes.</li> <li>• Investigated blocked culvert at south end of this section, cleared debris and installed temporary repair.</li> <li>• Reinstated drainage ditches along Dunphail Bypass.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting between Balvlair Crossing and Laurels Bridge Dunphail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated the cause of path surface erosion due to flooding and identified solutions.</li> </ul> <p>PM reported that the works below were carried out at the work party held 10/08/24.</p> <p>Bantrach Cutting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleared 600m of drainage ditch of silt and vegetation, with 5 tonnes of arisings removed.</li> <li>• Offlets dug to drain dips and puddles, which were then filled using 1.8 tonnes of sub-base.</li> </ul> <p>Lynmore Bypass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out weed control spraying.</li> <li>• Removed accumulated organic matter from between the footway planks of the two wooden bridges.</li> </ul> <p>Dullicht Bridge to Lynmacgregor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mowed grass on path and verges.</li> </ul> <p>Lynmore to Dragoon Crossing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mowed grass on path and verges.</li> </ul> <p>BBC Breathing Place, Dunphail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressed installation of replacement information board frame.</li> </ul> <p>Ref 7.3.1b: MC reported that he notified the relevant estate managers about the works to be carried out. Action closed.</p> <p>Ref 7.3.5: MC reported that on 07/08/24 7 volunteers from Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) cleared a 50-metre section of blocked ditch adjacent to the estate track above the Squirrel Neuk Bridge, scraped accumulated mud from the track surface and laid 25 tonnes of sub-base topped off with quarry dust. The volunteers carried out the works as part of the SGN <a href="#">Community Action Programme</a>. NS has sent a letter thanking the volunteers and MC has submitted an article for publication in the Forres Gazette. Action closed.</p>	
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7.3	<b>Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties</b>	
7.3.1	PM proposed that the following works be carried out at the full work party to be held on 14/09/24: Bantrach Cutting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete clearance of silt and vegetation from ditches.</li> </ul> Aucheorn Cutting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strim back encroaching undergrowth, in preparation for clearing silt and vegetation from ditches.</li> </ul> Balvlair Cutting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strim back encroaching undergrowth, in preparation for clearing silt and vegetation from ditches.</li> </ul> Agreed unanimously. PM will make the necessary arrangements.	PM MC
7.3.2	MC will notify the relevant estate manager(s) of the works to be carried out. Ref 7.3.2: Action held over. PB will contact the relevant estate manager and request an on-site meeting to discuss options to resolve the flooding issues that have resulted in erosion of the path surface between Balvlair and Dunphail. PB noted that, when this topic was discussed previously, the Estate Manager suggested that the existing ditches in the cutting were the cause of the problem. PB suggested that ditch maintenance should be completed prior to arranging the on-site meeting, so it can be clearly demonstrated that the existing ditches are not the cause of the problem. PM stated that maintenance of these ditches is scheduled for a future full work party.	PB
7.3.3	Ref 7.3.3: Action held over. PM or NS will treat the oak benches with teak oil when possible.	PM/NS
7.3.4	Ref 7.3.4: Action held over. NS will inspect the damage to the nose of the Redcoat sculpture and see what can be done to repair it.	NS
7.3.5	PM reported that the gate posts at Muir of Logie and Drumine Crossing have rotted at the base and need to be replaced, ideally with galvanised steel ones. PM has in stock one galvanised post already modified, and another one requiring modification.	
7.3.5.1	PM will modify the second post and arrange a mini work party to replace the gate posts at Muir of Logie.	PM
7.3.5.2	PB will order qty 4 new galvanised steel gateposts.	PB
7.3.5.3	PM will modify a new post/posts and arrange a mini work party to replace the gate post(s) at Drumine Crossing.	PM
7.4	<b>Signage</b>	
7.4.1	Ref 7.4.1: Action held over. PB will tabulate a bill of materials and obtain a total cost for fixing waymarker signs to lamp posts and street signs, to replace the wooden waymarker posts between the Tolbooth and Mannachie Avenue.	PB
7.4.2	Ref 7.4.3: Action held over. NS will manufacture qty 4 new information board frames to replace ones identified as being beyond repair. NS reported that there is only one frame still requiring replacement, located at the Clashdhu Crossing.	NS
7.4.3	Ref 7.4.4: Action held over. NS will manufacture a new information board frame to the standard design for installation at the Dallas Dhu Ramp (see Item 5.9 above).	NS
7.4.4	Ref 7.4.5: Action held over. NS will manufacture a new information board frame to the standard design and arrange for its installation adjacent to the Dullicht Bridge.	NS

7.5	<b>Tooling and Equipment</b>	
7.5.1	<p>Ref 7.5.1: Action held over. MC and NS will submit an application for <a href="#">RadioBeam People and Bicycle Counter</a> (RBBP) funding to the <a href="#">Berry Burn Community Fund</a>.</p> <p>MC reported that he has been in contact with the local RBBP supplier, Chambers Electronics in Inverness, and they have quoted £2920 incl. VAT for a single counter, or £5790 for two. The next application deadline for the Berry Burn Community Fund is in mid-September. MC noted that the application would be more likely to be successful if the DWA were willing to cover some of the RBBP cost from their existing funds and asked how much that should be. PB noted that some major purchases will be happening soon and suggested that DWA expenditure may need to be carefully controlled for a while. RR asked why the RBBP are so expensive. MC responded that they are an item subject to low volume production, and that increases development and production costs. TT noted that Strava offer their <a href="#">Strava Metro</a> dataset free to “organizations that plan, own or maintain infrastructure” and maybe this would offer a cost-effective way to obtain data on usage of the Dava Way (DW). After further discussion it was decided that:</p>	MC/NS
7.5.1.1	MC will offer a £500 contribution from DWA funds towards the cost of the RBBP, to be installed at Dallas Dhu, when submitting the application to the Berry Burn Community Fund.	MC
7.5.1.2	MC will seek advice from Sustrans about alternative RBBP suppliers, counter options and their relative costs, and use of the Strava Metro data.	MC
7.5.2	Ref 7.5.2: Action held over. NS will see if he can identify what is causing the malfunction of the Dallas Dhu counter. If the device cannot be repaired, NS will remove counter and pressure pad and return them to the Access Officer at Moray Council.	NS
7.5.3	Planning for the future purchase of a <a href="#">compact tractor</a> :	
7.5.3.1	Ref 7.5.3.1 and 7.3.5.2: MC reported that he and NS have had discussions with representatives of the Altyre Estate, one result of which is an offer to the DWA to store tools and equipment at an agreed location. PB noted that the contents of the ISOs will need to be insured. Actions closed.	
7.5.3.2	PM will research the cost of a second ISO container, and options for the delivery of this and his own container to the agreed location.	PM
7.5.3.3	PB will research options/costs for insuring the stored tools and equipment.	PB
7.5.3.4	Ref 7.5.3.3: MC reported that the representatives of the Altyre Estate have agreed provisionally with the DWA proposal to clear the cutting between Rafford Bank and the Squirrel Neuk Bridge. A detailed proposal will need to be submitted prior to commencing works. Action closed.	
7.5.4	Ref 7.5.5: NS reported that he has purchased the pressure washer. Action closed.	
7.5.5	PB noted that the pressure washer proved its worth at the recent full work party, but the battery duration limited what could be achieved. NS reported that the same company is offering additional batteries at £55 each and proposed that an additional battery should be purchased. Agreed unanimously. NS will purchase an additional pressure washer battery.	NS
7.5.6	Ref 7.5.6: Action held over. PM will organise an ad hoc work party for tool maintenance and repair.	PM
8	<b><u>Project Reports</u></b>	
8.1	<p><b>DW Information Boards Content Refresh Project</b></p> <p>Ref 8.1: Action held over. NS will arrange for the installation of the printed information boards.</p>	NS



8.2	NS reported that there is now only the information board panel adjacent to Dullicht Bridge to do. However, this will first require the manufacture and installation of the new information board frame (see Item 7.4.4 above).	
8.2.1	<b>Dallas Dhu Access Ramp Improvement Project</b> Ref 8.2.1: Action held over. MC will write to the Altyre Estate to request their written confirmation that they are the owner of the embankment and obtain their permission for the proposed works.	MC
8.2.2	MC reported that he has written to Altyre Estate and has received a verbal confirmation that they own the section of the embankment adjacent to the Dallas Dhu distillery. MC is still waiting on their written response. Ref 8.2.2: Action held over. PM will submit a full Planning Application for the ramp works.	PM
8.2.3	MC reported that Altyre Estate have spoken very positively about the DWA decision to go for the 'in-house' solution to improving the Dallas Dhu Ramp and are keen to see it implemented. MC proposed that the DWA should proceed with the works while the planning application is in progress.	PM
8.2.4	Agreed. PM will schedule the works to be carried out at a mini work party. PM noted that the plant insurance for his digger has expired and will need to be renewed if his digger is to be used for the digger works required at Dallas Dhu, and other locations on the DW. TT noted that it would probably be cheaper for the DWA to purchase annual plant insurance for PM's digger rather than hire plant and pay for plant insurance on an ad hoc basis. TT proposed that the DWA pay for annual plant insurance for PM's digger, subject to cost. Agreed unanimously. PM will obtain a quote for insurance and circulate it to the DWA Trustees for approval.	PM
8.3	<b>Dava Bypass Project</b> Ref 8.3: Action held over. PB reported that he has invited representatives of the two affected estates to an on-site meeting to be held 22/08/24 or 23/08/24. Having obtained estate agreement to the proposed route, PB will then hold a further meeting with the Dava Residents Association and individual Dava resident Mrs Coutts.	PB
8.4	<b>Ghost Train Walk 2025 and DWA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project</b>	
8.4.1	Ref 8.4.1: Action held over. MC will produce a road map of milestone tasks leading to the 2025 event.	MC
8.4.2	Ref 8.4.2: Action held over. MC will contact Karen Cox at OutfitMoray to discuss how best to approach potential corporate sponsors.	MC
8.4.3	Ref 8.4.3: Action held over. DWA Trustees to come up with ideas to celebrate the September 2025 20-year anniversary of the DWA formation.	All
8.5	<b>DWA Information Leaflet Refresh Project</b> Ref Ref 8.5: Action held over: TH will produce a revised DWA information leaflet, to look like the information boards.	TH
9	<u>Health and Safety</u>	
9.1	<b>First Aid Kits</b> The DWA first aid kits are held by MC, PB and PM. The completeness and serviceability of each kit was confirmed.	
9.2	<b>Injury Reports and Incidents</b> (Nothing to report)	
10	<u>Business Planning</u>	
10.1	<b>DWA Strategic Business Planning</b>	
10.1.1	Ref 10.1.1: Action held over. DWA Trustees to read and comment on the revised DWA Strategic Business Plan and draft budget forecast covering the potential projects to be carried out 2024-2025.	All

10.1.2	Ref 10.1.3: Action held over. MC and MS will update the DWA Strategic Business Plan to include a funding strategy to meet the budget forecast.	MC/MS
10.2	<b>Trustee Membership and Supporter Roles</b> Ref 10.2: Action held over. The DWA Trustees will investigate ways to improve the recruitment and retention of DWA volunteers/members. There was some further discussion of potential options, but no clear way ahead. Options to be discussed further at the next meeting.	All
10.3	<b>Succession Planning</b> (Nothing to report)	
11	<u>Funding</u>	
11.1	<b>Places Called Home</b> Ref 11.1: MC proposed that the action be closed, and NT confirmed that there has been no contact from the Places Called Home organisers to request a progress report. Agreed. Action closed.	
11.2	<b>Money for Moray</b> Ref 11.2: MC proposed that the action be closed, and NT confirmed that there has been no contact from the Money for Moray organisers to request a progress report. Agreed. Action closed.	
11.3	<b>Other Sources of Funding</b> Ref 11.3.2: PM reported that a Husqvarna 525iLK at £914 would last about 50mins with a 9.4AH battery, though extra batteries could be purchased. Alternatively, a Husqvarna BLi950X at nearly £2,000 with a 31.1AH battery would last over 2.5 hours. Action closed.	
12	<u>Social Media and Publicity</u>	
12.1	<b>DWA Website</b>	
12.1.1	Ref 12.1.1: TT reported that TH has added a link and details of the DWA Easyfundraising scheme to the DWA website. Action closed.	
12.1.2	Ref 12.1.2: PM reported that he has provided TH with a report and photos for the January work party, and these have been uploaded to the DWA website. Action closed.	
12.2	<b>DWA Facebook Group</b>	
12.2.1	Ref 12.2.1: Action held over. PM will research how the DWA <a href="#">Easyfundraising</a> scheme might be advertised via periodic posts on the DWA Facebook group.	PM
12.2.2	PM reported that the <a href="#">Friends of the Dava Way</a> Facebook group now has 1,892 members.	
12.3	<b>Local, Regional and National Publications</b> (Nothing to report)	
12.4	<b>External Websites and Social Media.</b> (Nothing to report)	
13	<u>AOCB</u>	
13.1	MC reported that the DWA have been provided with a stall at the <a href="#">Grant Park 100</a> event, which will take place 24/08/24. MC will make the arrangements for the stall; helpers for the day, gazebo with panels, tables, displays, merchandise and forms on which potential DWA volunteers may enter their contact details.	MC

13.2	NT noted that there are only a handful of copies of the DWA Companion remaining. He proposed that these should be sold off at £1 each. Agreed unanimously. NT will advertise the remaining companions at reduced cost.	NT
13.3	RR noted that the triangular area at the top of the Mannachie Avenue Ramp is an untidy tangle of vegetation. He proposed that it should be cleared to ground level to make it more presentable. Agreed unanimously. RR will organise a mini work party to carry out the necessary works.	RR
13.4	MC noted that RR is the only DWA volunteer who holds a licence for spraying weeds and suggested that an additional volunteer should obtain the licence. RR stated that he received his training via the Invasive Non-Native Species Control scheme run by the <a href="#">Findhorn Nairn and Lossie Rivers Trust</a> . When he did the training about 7 years ago the cost was £400 for the course and £200 for the assessment. Something to have a think about.	
14	NS noted the scheduled date for the next meeting as 10/09/24. However, the meeting would not be quorate due to absence for various reasons, so it was decided that a meeting would not be held in September. Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 08/10/24, at Forres Lawn Tennis Club, Albert Street, Forres, Moray, IV36 1PR.	

Meeting Closed: 20:50



Neil Sinclair  
Chairman  
Dava Way Association