

4.16	Ref 8.3.1.2: (See Item 8.3.1.1 below)	PM
4.17	Ref 8.3.1.3: (See Item 8.3.1.2 below)	
4.18	Ref 9.1.3: (See Item 9.1.2 below)	
4.19	Ref 10.1: (See Item 10.1 below)	
4.20	Ref 12.1.1: (See Item 12.1.1 below)	
4.21	Ref 13: (See Item 13 below)	
4.22	Ref 14.1: Action held over. PM will make arrangements for a cycle survey of the DW, to be completed prior to the start of the tourist season.	
4.23	Ref 14.2: (See Item 8.4 below)	
4.24	Ref 14.3: MC reported that TH has reviewed the content of the DWA Dropbox and discarded/archived items as appropriate. Action closed.	
5	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>	
5.1	PB reported that a balance of £6,501.78 is in the DWA account. Unrestricted Funds: £ 6,501.78 Restricted Funds: £ Nil	
5.2	Significant Income: £ Nil	
5.3	Significant Expenditure: £ Nil	
5.4	Anticipated Expenditure (from DWA funds): £ ~150.00 to MIS or other; purchase of replacement rough cutter blade.	
5.5	Anticipated Income (from external funding): £ Nil	
5.6	Anticipated Expenditure (covered by external funding): £ Nil	
5.7	Donations via the GiveWP-Stripe process since last meeting: £ Nil	
6	<u>Correspondences</u>	MC
6.1	To the Secretary	
6.1.1	MC reported that he received a request from the Scottish Womens Institute (SWI) in Elgin to provide an evening presentation on the 02/04/26. MC provided the presentation and the SWI made a £20 donation to the DWA.	
6.1.2	MC reported that he has received a request from the St Lawrence Church Group to provide a presentation on the DW to them in May. MC will provide the presentation.	
6.1.3	MC reported that the Grantown Grammar School Junior Rangers would like to carry out a work party on 27/04/26 in an area just north of the Huntly's Cave Cutting. They propose to clear vegetation from around the trees they planted in 2025 and install a wooden bench. MC will liaise with the teacher organising the event and confirm with Seafield Estates that permission has been given for the bench installation.	
6.2	Other Correspondence (Nothing to report)	MC
7	<u>Dava Way Path Works and Equipment Maintenance</u>	
7.1	Unplanned Work Since Last Meeting	
7.1.1	RR reported that he has sprayed the path edges at the Dunphail Bypass, Lynmore Bypass and Mannachie Ramp.	

7.1.2	PB reported that on 17/03/26 he and TT cleared accumulated leaf fall from a section of the DW and adjacent concrete channel south of the Sluggan Burn.	
7.1.3	PB reported that on 24/03/26 he and TT completed the clearance of accumulated leaf fall from the section of DW and adjacent concrete channel south of the Sluggan Burn.	
7.1.4	PM reported that on 26/03/26 he, TT, Al Hughes and Tom Summerscales used the mini-digger to clear out the borrow pit south of the Sluggan Burn, then removed a sizeable portion of the spoil remaining from the recent ditch clearance work party in the Auchearn Cutting.	
7.1.5	PM reported that on 31/03/26 TT cleared leaf fall from the majority of the Dunphail Bypass and adjacent ditches.	
7.1.6	PM reported that on 31/03/26 he and Greg MacAulay felled and cleared a large windblown tree from the BBC Breathing Place at Dunphail.	
7.1.7	PM reported that on 01/04/26 he, TT and Al Hughes removed the remaining ditch spoil from the Auchearn Cutting and extracted the remaining felled timber from the windblown tree at Dunphail.	
7.1.8	PM reported that on 06/04/26 TT completed the clearance of leaf fall from the Dunphail Bypass through to the junction of the DW and BBC Breathing Place access path.	
7.1.9	PM reported that on 08/04/26 TT completed the clearance of leaf fall from the section of the DW adjacent to the BBC Breathing Place, then cleared leaf fall from the BBC Breathing Place itself in preparation for the upcoming work party.	
7.2	Planned Work Since Last Meeting	
7.2.1	Ref 7.3.1: PM reported that the following works were carried out at the full work party held 14/03/26: Auchearn Cutting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut back gorse/whins and cleared minor ditch on west side of cutting. • Removed spoil. Mannachie to Dallas Dhu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topped off sub-base with quarry dust. Action closed.	
7.2.2	PM reported that the following works were carried out at the full work party held 11/04/26: Dunphail BBC Breathing Place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windblown tree brash and branches removed and processed ready for chipping. • Brash and branches chipped at the picnic area to refresh the ground under the benches. 	
7.3	Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties	
7.3.1	PM proposed that the following works be considered priorities for the full work party to be held 09/05/26: Auchearn Cutting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut back gorse/whins at south end of cutting. • Complete clearance of minor ditch on west side of cutting using digger. • Rod drainage pipes on west side of cutting. • Clear accumulated silt from drainage pipe grill at north end of cutting. • Clear ditch on east side of cutting if possible. • Remove spoil. Agreed unanimously. PM will make the necessary arrangements.	
7.3.2	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	PM

7.3.3	that have resulted in erosion of the path surface between Balvlair and Dunphail. Dependent on the adjacent ditches having been cleared. Ref 7.3.3: Action held over. NS will treat the oak benches with teak oil when possible.	PB 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	Ref 7.3.5: MC reported that he has spoken to the previous owner of Castle Grant East Lodge and they have confirmed that the Castle Grant Halt Bridge was sold to them by Network Rail for £1. Maintenance of the Category A listed bridge (LB349) is thus the responsibility of the current owner. Action closed.	
7.4	Signage	
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 7.4.2: 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
7.4.3	NS reported that the information board adjacent to the Rafford Bridge needs to be refurbished. NS will refurbish the information board adjacent to the Rafford Bridge.	NS
7.4.4	Ref 7.4.4: Action held over. NS will repair the damaged Dunphail fingerpost and arrange for its reinstallation.	NS
7.5	Tooling and Equipment	
7.5.1	Ref 7.5.1: Action held over. PB will invoice the Forres Community Woodland Trust (FCWT) for the recent repairs to the rough cutter.	PB
7.5.2	PM reported that two sets of loppers broke at the recent work party, are beyond repair and require replacement. Two spring tine rakes are also needed, and replenishment of the Glyphosate stock. PB will purchase the appropriate replacement tools and Glyphosate.	PB
7.5.3	PB reported that he has identified an alternative source for a replacement Billy Goat rough cutter blade. PB will place an order with them and cancel the one with MacGregor Industrial Supplies.	PB
8	Project Reports	
8.1	Dava Bypass Project	
8.1.1	Ref 8.1.1: Action held over. PB will seek specialist advice from Paths for All re path design constraints regarding private water supplies.	PB
8.1.2	Ref 8.1.2: PB reported that he and TT met Tom Brinicombe, Ourack Wind Farm developer Vattenfall representative, on 16/03/26. PB observed that there appeared to have been little progress since the November meeting, including discussion with landowners about the proposed Dava Bypass route. Detailed proposal papers should be made available to the Community Liaison Group, of which the DWA is a member, in about 3 months. Vattenfall are aiming to deliver a Pre-Start Planning Conditions Report within 8 months, though this would appear to be a challenging deadline based on progress to date. One positive note from the meeting is that the shared private water supply serving the Dava community (other than the Coutts) should not be impacted by the development. Action closed.	
	Note: There are three planning constraints for works affecting the DWA – Constraint 23. The development of an Outdoor Access Plan to secure public access rights during and after wind farm development.	

<p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> <p>8.3.1</p> <p>8.3.1.1</p> <p>8.3.1.2</p> <p>8.4</p>	<p>Constraint 24. The development of a scheme to improve and enhance the Dava Way.</p> <p>Constraint 28. The development of a scheme for the provision of off-site road works at Castle Grant, including full details of the works affecting the Dava Way.</p> <p>Dava Way Counter Project Ref 8.2: Action held over. TH will obtain the appropriate components and build a test counter device (see Reddit article) as a winter project, with assistance from NS as required.</p> <p>Ghost Train Walk 2027 COTAG feedback: Ref 8.3.1.2: Action held over. PM will update the DWA emergency maps. Ref 8.3.1.3: MC stated that he will enquire if gates can be left unlocked for the duration of the event as part of his regular discussions with landowners (see Item 4.1 above). Action closed.</p> <p>Compact Tractor Purchase Project Ref 14.2: TT, PB and PM to form a sub-committee to finalise the specification for the tractor, draft a detailed business case and draft a bid to the Berry Burn Community Fund (BBCF). The first meeting of this sub-committee will take place on 21/04/26.</p>	<p>TH/NS</p> <p>PM</p> <p>TT/PB/PM</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.1.1</p> <p>9.1.2</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p>	<p><u>Health and Safety</u></p> <p>First Aid Kits The DWA first aid kits are held by MC, PB and PM. The completeness and serviceability of each kit was confirmed. Ref 9.1.3: MC reported that the charity Kierans Legacy have confirmed that the Scottish Government have announced a scheme to provide funding to organisations like the DWA so they can purchase a defibrillator for mobile use. However, the funding has not been released yet. A suitable defibrillator will cost about £1,000. MC will monitor the situation and apply for funding when it becomes available.</p> <p>Training PM suggested that he research mini-digger training options, to improve operator skills and gain certification. PM will investigate the availability and cost of mini-digger operator training courses.</p> <p>Injury Reports and Incidents (Nothing to report)</p> <p>Documentation Review (Nothing to report)</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>PM</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p>	<p><u>Business Planning</u></p> <p>DWA Strategic Business Planning Ref 10.1: Action held over. A subcommittee comprising MC, PM, TT and AC will review the DWA Strategic Business Plan and draft a budget forecast and funding strategy covering the next five years.</p> <p>Trustee Membership and Supporter Roles (Nothing to report)</p> <p>Succession Planning (Nothing to report)</p>	<p>MC/PM/TT & AC</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><u>Funding</u> AC suggested positioning a sign and collection pot on work parties, to encourage path users to contribute to the maintenance of the path they are enjoying. Something to have a think about.</p>	

12	<u>Social Media and Publicity</u>	
12.1	DWA Website Ref 12.1.1: Action held over. TH, NS and MC will form a sub-committee to review the DWA website pages.	TH/NS/MC
12.2	DWA Facebook Group (Nothing to report)	
12.3	Local, Regional and National Publications (Nothing to report)	
12.4	External Websites and Social Media. (Nothing to report)	
13	<u>DWA Annual Dinner</u> Ref 13: Action held over. NS will make the necessary arrangements for a DWA annual dinner/barbecue later in 2026. NS reported that he is considering holding a barbecue at the BBC Breathing Place, as there is ample parking and access to toilets and drinking water.	NS
14	<u>AOCB</u>	
14.1	PM suggested that the windblown tree at NJ 047 543, blocking access across the next overbridge north of Squirrel Neuk Bridge, should be reported to Altyre Estate. MC will report the location of the tree to Altyre Estate.	MC
14.2	AC requested contact details for Danny and Jamie Bryceland, so he can confirm to which locations they have already distributed DW leaflets. MC will provide AC with the contact details.	MC
15	Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 12/05/26, at the Royal British Legion, Sanquhar Road, Forres, IV36 1DG.	

Meeting Closed: 21:00



Neil Sinclair
Chairman
Dava Way Association