



4.16	Ref 7.5.3: (See Item 7.5.3 below)	
4.17	Ref 8.1.1: (See Item 8.1.1 below)	
4.18	Ref 8.2: (See Item 8.2 below)	
4.19	Ref 8.3.1.1: (See Item 8.3 below)	
4.20	Ref 8.4: (See Items 8.4.1, 8.4.2 and 8.4.3 below)	
4.21	Ref 9.1.2: (See Item 9.1.2 below)	
4.22	Ref 9.2: (See Item 9.2 below)	
4.23	Ref 10.1: (See Item 10.1.1 below)	
4.24	Ref 12.1: (See Item 12.1 below)	
4.25	Ref 13: (See Item 13 below)	
4.26	Ref 14.1: Action held over. MC will report the location of the windblown tree at NJ 047 543, blocking access across the next overbridge north of Squirrel Neuk Bridge, to Altyre Estate.	MC
4.27	Ref 14.2: MC reported that he has provided AC with contact details for Danny and Jamie Bryceland. Action closed.	
5	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>	
5.1	PB reported that a balance of £6,591.01 is in the DWA account. Unrestricted Funds: £ 6,591.01 Restricted Funds: £ Nil	
5.2	Significant Income: £ 300.00 individual donation from TH.	
5.3	Significant Expenditure: £ ~300.00 to MIS and other; purchase of replacement rough cutter blades.	
5.4	Anticipated Expenditure (from DWA funds): £ Nil	
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: £ 45.00	
6	<u>Correspondences</u>	
6.1	<b>To the Secretary</b>	
6.1.1	MC reported that he has received an email from Karen Cox of Outfit Moray informing the DWA that the 2026 <a href="#">Cairngorm to Coast</a> event will take place on 23/05/26.	
6.1.2	MC reported that he has received an email from Adam Streeter-Smith, Recreation and Access Manager at the Cairngorms National Park Authority, inviting the DWA to a meeting for community path groups, to be held in Kingussie on 13/06/26. MC will represent the DWA at this meeting.	MC
6.2	<b>Other Correspondence</b> NS reported that he has written to Andrew Cruickshank, thanking him for the wood he donated to Grantown Grammar School to construct the benches recently installed on the DW. (See Item 4.5 above)	
7	<u>Dava Way Path Works and Equipment Maintenance</u>	
7.1	<b>Unplanned Work Since Last Meeting</b>	
7.1.1	RR reported that he has sprayed the path edges at the Mannachie Ramp and has prepared the BBC Breathing Space picnic benches for painting.	

7.1.2	PB reported that on 16/04/26 he carried out lopper maintenance and changed the blade on the rough cutter.	
7.1.3	PM reported that on 21/04/26 he and Greg MacAulay felled and cleared windblown trees along the Dunphail Bypass.	
7.1.4	TT reported that on 23/04/26 he cleared leaf fall from Squirrel Neuk Ramp.	
7.1.5	PM reported that on 29/04/26 he, PB, TT, Al Hughes, Doug Hartley, Howard Davenport and Tom Summerscales used the mini digger to clear out a section of the ditch between Laurels Bridge and Balvlair Crossing.	
7.1.6	NS reported that on 29/04/26 he retrieved the information sign adjacent to the Rafford Bridge, ready for refurbishment.	
7.1.7	PM reported that on 06/05/26 he and Greg MacAulay felled and cleared a large windblown tree in the Auchearn Cutting.	
7.1.8	PM reported that on 07/05/26 he and TT carried out maintenance of his tipper trailer, replacing the hydraulic oil reservoir and the isolator switch.	
7.1.9	PB reported that on 09/05/26 he and TT carried out vegetation cutback on the access track to Balvlair Crossing.	
7.1.10	PM reported that on 12/05/26 he carried out maintenance of the chipper, replacing the cutting blade and starting cord.	
7.2	<p><b>Planned Work Since Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Ref 7.3.1: PM reported that the following works were carried out at the full work party held 09/05/26:</p> <p>Dava.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 20 tonnes of sub-base stockpiled at Dava was uploaded to trailers as the turning area was required for vehicle operations in connection with extensive tree works in the surrounding woodlands.</li> <li>• The uploaded sub-base was used to infill wheel ruts and potholes on the west side of the path between Dava and the Heatherbells cutting.</li> </ul> <p>Action closed.</p>	
7.3	<p><b>Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties</b></p>	
7.3.1	<p>PM proposed that the following works be considered priorities for the full work party to be held 13/06/26:</p> <p>Auchearn Cutting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut back gorse/whins at south end of cutting.</li> <li>• Complete clearance of minor ditch on west side of cutting using digger.</li> <li>• Rod drainage pipes on west side of cutting.</li> <li>• Clear accumulated silt from drainage pipe grill at north end of cutting.</li> <li>• Clear ditch on east side of cutting if possible.</li> <li>• Remove spoil.</li> </ul> <p>Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>PM will make the necessary arrangements.</p>	PM
7.3.2	<p>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. Dependent on the adjacent ditches having been cleared.</p>	PB
7.3.3	<p>Ref 7.3.3: Action held over. NS will treat the oak benches with teak oil when possible.</p>	NS
7.3.4	<p>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.</p>	NS

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 7.4.2: 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	Ref 7.4.3: Action held over. NS will refurbish the information board adjacent to the Rafford Bridge. NS reported that the board has been refurbished, ready for reinstallation.	NS
7.4.4	Ref 7.4.4: Action held over. NS will repair the damaged Dunphail fingerpost and arrange for its reinstallation. NS reported that the fingerpost has been repaired, ready for reinstallation.	NS
7.5	<b>Tooling and Equipment</b>	
7.5.1	Ref 7.5.1: Action held over. PB will invoice the <a href="#">Forres Community Woodland Trust</a> (FCWT) for the recent repairs to the rough cutter.	PB
7.5.2	Ref 7.5.2: PB reported that he managed to refurbish two sets of loppers. He has purchased one additional pair of loppers, two spring tine rakes and has replenished the DWA Glyphosate stock. Action closed.	
7.5.3	Ref 7.5.3: PB reported that he placed an order with for a rough cutter blade with the alternative supplier. However, the one ordered from MacGregor Industrial Supplies had arrived before he was able to cancel it, and the one from the alternative supplier arrived almost immediately. As a result, the DWA now has a spare rough cutter blade for future use. Action closed.	
8	<b>Project Reports</b>	
8.1	<b>Dava Bypass Project</b>	
8.1.1	Ref 8.1.1: Action held over. PB will seek specialist advice from <a href="#">Paths for All</a> re path design constraints regarding private water supplies.	PB
8.1.2	PB reported that he is awaiting details from Tom Brincombe, Ourack Wind Farm developer Vattenfall representative, re the formation of the Community Liaison Group. 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. Constraint 24. The development of a scheme to improve and enhance the Dava Way. 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.	PB
8.2	<b>Dava Way Counter Project</b> Ref 8.2: Action held over. TH will obtain the appropriate components and build a test counter device (see <a href="#">Reddit article</a> ) as a winter project, with assistance from NS as required.	TH/NS
8.3	<b>Ghost Train Walk 2027</b> Ref 8.3.1.1: Action held over. PM will update the DWA emergency maps.	PM
8.4	<b>Compact Tractor Purchase Project</b>	
8.4.1	Ref 8.4a: TT reported that the tractor sub-committee (TT, PB and PM) met on 21/04/26 and drafted a specification for the tractor and implements. Action closed.	
8.4.2	Ref 8.4b: Action held over. The tractor sub-committee will draft a detailed business case for the tractor and implements.	TT/PB/PM

8.4.3	<p>Ref 8.4c: Action held over. The tractor sub-committee will submit a bid for match funding to the Berry Burn Community Fund (BBCF).</p> <p>TT reported that the specification was emailed to six tractor dealerships with a request for them to provide a quote. Several of the dealerships stated that a 26hp tractor would be insufficient to drive a side-arm flail appropriate for gorse and broom mulching, and these dealerships recommended more powerful machines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netherton Tractors (Nairn) £82,620.00 incl. VAT John Deere 38.2hp tractor with McConnel hammer blade flail.</li> <li>• HRN Tractors (Insch) £53,143.20 incl. VAT Kubota 35hp tractor with Winton 0.8m Y-blade flail.</li> <li>• Ravenhill Tractors (Elgin) £41,500.00 incl. VAT New Holland 40hp tractor with 1m hammer blade flail.</li> <li>• Double A Tractors (Inverurie) (no quote provided to date) John Deere 38.2hp tractor</li> </ul> <p>Two dealerships maintained that a 26hp tractor would be sufficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blacktrac Tractors (Wellingborough) £30,938.16 incl. VAT Solis 26hp tractor with a Femac 1m hammer blade flail.</li> <li>• Scott Telford Tractors (Aberdeen) (no quote provided to date) Solis 26hp tractor with Winton 0.8m Y-blade flail.</li> </ul> <p>The deadline for submitting a bid to the BBCF was midnight 03/05/26, to allow the bid to be vetted by the fund and omissions and improvements to be fed back prior to the final deadline of 11/05/26. Many of the provided quotes exceeded the £40k notional budget, and there was confusion over the advice re appropriate tractor power, so on 01/05/26 it was decided to postpone bid submission until the next round; bid to be submitted to the BBCF by midnight 06/09/26, final bid deadline 14/09/26.</p>	TT/PB/PM
8.4.4	<p>The tractor sub-committee met again on 05/05/26. They confirmed that, according to the manufacturer's own <a href="#">website</a>, a Solis 26hp tractor would be powerful enough to drive a Femac 1m hammer blade flail. However, considering the concerns expressed by many of the dealerships and the possibility of excessive wear and tear on the DWA equipment, it was decided that it may be prudent to carry out the initial removal of well-established stands of broom and gorse using more robust equipment, or hand tools. The DWA equipment would then manage the new growth. MC will ask the Estates, and LA Access Officers, if they would be willing to help the DWA by using their equipment or contractors to remove the more well-established stands of broom and gorse. Costs could be shared or bartered against DWA improvements to estate tracks and drainage.</p>	MC
8.4.5	<p>TT stated that the Double A Tractors salesman had offered a site visit to advise on appropriate equipment, should he be in the area.</p>	
8.4.6	<p>TT suggested that the Solis 26hp tractor and Femac 1m side-arm flail combination would appear to be the best fit for DWA needs. There was some discussion of the pros and cons associated with each Solis dealership re tractor maintenance, support, flail suitability, etc. Purchasing the tractor from Scott Telford Tractors and the flail from Blacktrac Tractors appeared the most suitable solution, but a final decision will be made once funding has been secured.</p>	
8.4.7	<p>PM reported that he has contacted Altyre Estate to obtain their written agreement to opening up the cutting north of the Squirrel Neuk bridge. He is awaiting their response.</p>	PM
8.4.8	<p>PM reported that he has contacted the Finderne Development Trust to enquire if they would fund the tractor operator training. Response awaited.</p>	PM

9	<u>Health and Safety</u>	
9.1	<b>First Aid Kits</b>	
9.1.1	The DWA first aid kits are held by MC, PB and PM. The completeness and serviceability of each kit was confirmed.	
9.1.2	Ref 9.1.2: Action held over. MC will monitor the Scottish Government scheme to provide funding to organisations like the DWA and apply for funding when it becomes available.	MC
9.2	<b>Training</b>	
	Ref 9.2: Action held over. PM will investigate the availability and cost of mini-digger operator training courses.	PM
9.3	<b>Injury Reports and Incidents</b>	
	(Nothing to report)	
9.4	<b>Documentation Review</b>	
	(Nothing to report)	
10	<u>Business Planning</u>	
10.1	<b>DWA Strategic Business Planning</b>	
10.1.1	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.	MC/PM/TT & AC
10.1.2	MC and PB will refer to historic spending by the DWA and draft a budget forecast based on this information.	MC/PB
10.2	<b>Trustee Membership and Supporter Roles</b>	
	(Nothing to report)	
10.3	<b>Succession Planning</b>	
	(Nothing to report)	
11	<u>Funding</u>	
	NS reported that a charity collection box has been obtained and marked up appropriately. The box will be made available on work parties to encourage donations from path users.	
12	<u>Social Media and Publicity</u>	
12.1	<b>DWA Website</b>	
	Ref 12.1: Action held over. TH, NS and MC will form a sub-committee to review the DWA website pages.	TH/NS/MC
12.2	<b>DWA Facebook Group</b>	
	PM reported that the Facebook group Friends of the Dava Way now has 2809 members. The associated Facebook page has 180 followers.	
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>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
	NS proposed holding a barbecue at the BBC Breathing Place at the work party scheduled for 13/06/26. Agreed unanimously.	
14	<u>AOCB</u>	
14.1	TT reported that he has come across an app that may facilitate data capture of the DW inventory against GPS coordinates. He will investigate further when time allows.	

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Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 09/06/26, at the Royal British Legion,  
Sanquhar Road, Forres, IV36 1DG.

Meeting Closed: 21:05



Neil Sinclair  
Chairman  
Dava Way Association