

THE DAVA WAY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held 9th June 2026

Venue: Royal British Legion, Sanquhar Road, Forres, IV36 1DG.

Meeting Opened: 19:00

Item	Minute	Action By
1	<u>Welcome:</u> Neil Sinclair chaired the meeting and welcomed members.	
2	<u>Present:</u> Malcolm Campbell (MC), Neil Sinclair (NS), Paul Barron (PB), Pete Mitchell (PM), Robbie Roberts (RR), Trevor Thornley (TT). Andrew Calder (AC)(guest). <u>Apologies:</u> Michael J Sutherland (MS), Tim Heaps (TH).	
3	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th May 2026</u> The minutes of the previous Dava Way Association (DWA) BoT meeting were read and accepted without change. Proposed: MC Seconded: RR	
4	<u>Matters Arising from the previous meeting</u>	
4.1	Ref 4.1: MC reported that the Railway Ramblers thoroughly enjoyed their May ramble along the Dava Way (DW). They have donated £100 to the DWA as a thank you. Action closed.	
4.2	Ref 4.2: MC reported that he contacted Dave MacLeod and John Cudworth to confirm the ramblers request to walk on the station platforms. Action closed.	
4.3	Ref 4.3: Action held over. PM will arrange for a cycle survey of the DW, to be completed prior to the start of the tourist season.	PM
4.4	Ref 4.4: Action held over. MC will provide a presentation on the DW to the St Lawrence Church Group in June.	MC
4.5	Ref 4.26: MC reported that he has contacted Altyre Estate to report the location of the windblown tree at NJ 047 543, blocking access across the next overbridge north of Squirrel Neuk Bridge. Action closed.	
4.6	Ref 6.1.2: Action held over. MC will represent the DWA at the Cairngorms National Park Authority meeting for community path groups, to be held in Kingussie on 13/06/26.	MC
4.7	Ref 7.3.1: (See Item 7.3.1 below)	
4.8	Ref 7.3.2: (See Item 7.3.2 below)	
4.9	Ref 7.3.3: (See Item 7.3.3 below)	
4.10	Ref 7.3.4: (See Item 7.3.4 below)	
4.11	Ref 7.4.1: (See Item 7.4.1 below)	
4.12	Ref 7.4.2: (See Item 7.4.2 below)	
4.13	Ref 7.4.3: (See Item 7.4.3 below)	
4.14	Ref 7.4.4: (See Item 7.4.4 below)	
4.15	Ref 7.5.1: (See Item 7.5 below)	
4.16	Ref 8.1.1: (See Item 8.1.1 below)	
4.17	Ref 8.1.2: (See Item 8.1.2 below)	

4.18	Ref 8.2: (See Item 8.2 below)	
4.19	Ref 8.3: (See Item 8.3 below)	
4.20	Ref 8.4.2: (See Items 8.4.1 below)	
4.21	Ref 8.4.3: (See Items 8.4.2 below)	
4.22	Ref 8.4.4: (See Items 8.4.3 below)	
4.23	Ref 8.4.7: (See Items 8.4.4 below)	
4.24	Ref 8.4.8: (See Items 8.4.5 below)	
4.25	Ref 9.1.2: (See Item 9.1.2 below)	
4.26	Ref 9.2: (See Item 9.2 below)	
4.27	Ref 10.1.1: (See Item 10.1.1 below)	
4.28	Ref 10.1.2: (See Item 10.1.2 below)	
4.29	Ref 12.1: (See Item 12.1 below)	
4.30	Ref 13: (See Item 13 below)	
5	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>	
5.1	PB reported that a balance of £7,101.36 is in the DWA account. Unrestricted Funds: £ 7,101.36 Restricted Funds: £ Nil	
5.2	Significant Income: £ Nil	
5.3	Significant Expenditure: £ Nil	
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: £ 350.00	
6	<u>Correspondences</u>	
6.1	To the Secretary (Nothing to report)	
6.2	Other Correspondence (Nothing to report)	
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 ramp adjacent to the Squirrel Neuk Bridge.	
7.1.2	PM reported that on 15/05/26 he, PB and TT carried out ditch reinstatement at Bogeney using the mini digger.	
7.1.3	TT reported that on 28/05/26 he mowed the grass between Clashdhu Crossing and Longley Crossing.	
7.1.4	PM reported that on 29/05/26 he, PB, Al Hughes, Doug Hartley and Tom Summerscales completed the ditch reinstatement at Bogeney using the mini digger. They also cut back some encroaching gorse and cleared a blocked section of ditch in the Bantrach Cutting.	
7.1.5	PM reported that on 01/06/26 he carried out maintenance of the mini digger, and sharpened and rebalanced the ride-on mower blades.	

7.2	Planned Work Since Last Meeting (Nothing to report)	
7.3	Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties	
7.3.1	Ref 7.3.1: Action held over. PM proposed that the following works be considered priorities for the full work party to be held 13/06/26: Aucheorn Cutting. • 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.	PM
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 that have resulted in erosion of the path surface between Balvlair and Dunphail. Dependent on the adjacent ditches having been cleared.	PB
7.3.3	Ref 7.3.3: NS reported that he treated the oak benches with teak oil on 23/05/26. Action closed.	
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
7.4	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	Ref 7.4.3: NS reported that he has refurbished the information board adjacent to the Rafford Bridge and reinstalled it on 27/05/26. Action closed.	
7.4.4	Ref 7.4.4: NS reported that he has repaired the damaged Dunphail fingerpost and he reinstalled it on 23/05/26. Action closed.	
7.5	Tooling and Equipment 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
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: Action held over. PB is awaiting details from Tom Brinicombe, Ourack Wind Farm developer Vattenfall representative, re the formation of the Community Liaison Group.	PB
	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.	

8.2 8.3 8.4 8.4.1 8.4.2 8.4.3 8.4.4 8.4.5	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. 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. Ghost Train Walk 2027 Ref 8.3: Action held over. PM will update the DWA emergency maps. Compact Tractor Purchase Project Ref 8.4.2: Action held over. The tractor sub-committee will draft a detailed business case for the tractor and implements. Ref 8.4.3: Action held over. The tractor sub-committee will submit a bid for match funding to the Berry Burn Community Fund (BBCF); bid to be submitted to the BBCF by midnight 06/09/26, final bid deadline 14/09/26. Ref 8.4.4: Action held over. 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. Ref 8.4.7: Action held over. PM is awaiting a response from Altyre Estate re obtaining their written agreement to opening up the cutting north of the Squirrel Neuk bridge. Ref 8.4.8: PM reported that the Finderne Development Trust have confirmed in writing that they are willing to fund the tractor operator training for two operators. Action closed.	TH/NS PM TT/PB/PM TT/PB/PM MC PM
9 9.1 9.1.1 9.1.2 9.2 9.3 9.4 9.4.1 9.4.2 9.4.3	<u>Health and Safety</u> 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 9.1.2: 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. Training Ref 9.2: Action held over. PM will investigate the availability and cost of mini-digger operator training courses. Injury Reports and Incidents (Nothing to report) Documentation Review PM noted that the mini digger should have a risk assessment. TT advised that he produced one for the original digger trial. TT will provide PM with a copy of the trial digger risk assessment. PM will produce a DWA risk assessment for use of the mini digger.	MC PM TT PM
10 10.1 10.1.1 10.1.2 10.2	<u>Business Planning</u> DWA Strategic Business Planning Ref 10.1.1: 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. Ref 10.1.2: Action held over. MC and PB will refer to historic spending by the DWA and draft a budget forecast based on this information. Trustee Membership and Supporter Roles (Nothing to report)	MC/PM/TT & AC MC/PB

10.3	Succession Planning (Nothing to report)	
11	<u>Funding</u> (Nothing to report)	
12 12.1 12.2 12.2.1 12.2.2 12.3 12.4	<u>Social Media and Publicity</u> DWA Website Ref 12.1: Action held over. TH, NS and MC will form a sub-committee to review the DWA website pages. DWA Facebook Group PM reported that the Facebook group Friends of the Dava Way now has 2844 members. The associated Facebook page has 181 followers. PM reported that there have been posts on the Facebook group reporting motorcycles on the DW. PM has responded that path users should report the motorcyclists to Police Scotland by calling 101. Local, Regional and National Publications PM reported that Outdoor Active ran an article on a bike ride along the DW. External Websites and Social Media. (Nothing to report)	TH/NS/MC
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 no longer available to organise the proposed barbecue to be held at the BBC Breathing Place at the work party scheduled for 13/06/26.	NS
14	<u>AOCB</u> (Nothing to report)	
15	Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 11/08/26, at the Royal British Legion, Sanquhar Road, Forres, IV36 1DG. Note: There will be no BoT meeting or full work party in July due to the DWA summer break.	

Meeting Closed: 20:35



Neil Sinclair
Chairman
Dava Way Association