

THE DAVA WAY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held 11th August 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), Michael J Sutherland (MS), Neil Sinclair (NS), Robbie Roberts (RR), Trevor Thornley (TT). Andrew Calder (AC)(guest).	
	<u>Apologies:</u> Paul Barron (PB), Pete Mitchell (PM), Tim Heaps (TH).	
3	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th June 2026</u> The minutes of the previous Dava Way Association (DWA) BoT meeting were read and accepted without change. Proposed: RR Seconded: MC	
4	<u>Matters Arising from the previous meeting</u>	PM
4.1	Ref 4.3: Action held over. PM will arrange for a cycle survey of the Dava Way (DW).	
4.2	Ref 4.4: MC reported that he provided a presentation on the DW to the St Lawrence Church Group in June. Action closed.	
4.3	Ref 4.6: MC reported that he represented the DWA at the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) meeting for community path groups, held in Kingussie on 13/06/26. It was a good opportunity for networking and resulted in the DWA gaining a power barrow and information on funding. Action closed.	
4.4	Ref 7.3.1: (See Item 7.2.1 below)	
4.5	Ref 7.3.2: (See Item 7.3.2 below)	
4.6	Ref 7.3.4: (See Item 7.3.3 below)	
4.7	Ref 7.4.1: (See Item 7.4.1 below)	
4.8	Ref 7.4.2: (See Item 7.4.2 below)	
4.9	Ref 7.5: (See Item 7.5.1 below)	
4.10	Ref 8.1.1: (See Item 8.1.1 below)	
4.11	Ref 8.1.2: (See Item 8.1.2 below)	
4.12	Ref 8.2: (See Item 8.2 below)	
4.13	Ref 8.3: (See Item 8.3 below)	
4.14	Ref 8.4.1: (See Items 8.4.1 below)	
4.15	Ref 8.4.2: (See Items 8.4.2 below)	
4.16	Ref 8.4.3: (See Items 8.4.3 below)	
4.17	Ref 8.4.4: (See Items 8.4.4 below)	
4.18	Ref 9.1.2: (See Item 9.1.2 below)	
4.19	Ref 9.2: (See Item 9.2 below)	
4.20	Ref 9.4.2: (See Item 9.4.1 below)	
4.21	Ref 9.4.3: (See Item 9.4.2 below)	
4.22	Ref 10.1.1: (See Item 10.1.1 below)	

4.23	Ref 10.1.2: (See Item 10.1.2 below)	
4.24	Ref 12.1: (See Item 12.1.1 below)	
4.25	Ref 13: (See Item 13 below)	
5	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>	
5.1	NS referred to notes provided by PB and reported that a balance of £7,025.07 is in the DWA account. Unrestricted Funds: £ 7,025.07	
5.2	Restricted Funds: £ Nil	
5.3	Significant Income: £ Nil	
5.4	Significant Expenditure: £ 234.70 to Zurich Insurance; annual renewal of liability insurance.	
5.5	Anticipated Expenditure (from DWA funds): £ Nil	
5.6	Anticipated Income (from external funding): £ Nil	
5.7	Anticipated Expenditure (covered by external funding): £ Nil	
	Donations via the GiveWP-Stripe process since last meeting: £ 160.00	
5.8	NS noted that the DWA recently received a payment of £55.01 from Easyfundraising .	
6	<u>Correspondences</u>	
6.1	To the Secretary (Nothing to report)	
6.2	Other Correspondence NS reported that the DWA recently received a report from Graham Findlay, Moray Council Countryside Ranger, from a survey of the DW that he had completed. MC will contact Hector Bryden, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager, to discuss the points raised in the survey.	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 Mannachie Avenue ramp and steps, the steps adjacent to the Sanquhar Mains Farm bridge and the Dallas Dhu ramp.	
7.1.2	RR reported that he has carried out vegetation cutback from Mannachie Avenue to the chicane south of Dallas Dhu.	
7.1.3	RR reported that he has carried out litter collection from Mannachie Avenue to the chicane south of Dallas Dhu.	
7.1.4	TT reported that on 15/06/26 PM carried out strimmer maintenance.	
7.1.5	TT reported that on 25/06/26 he, PB and PM carried out vegetation cutback and grass cutting between the Mosset Burn Bridge and Woodside.	
7.1.6	TT reported that on 02/07/26 he, PB and PM carried out vegetation cutback and grass cutting between Dulicht Bridge and the Dragoon Crossing.	
7.1.7	TT reported that on 08/07/26 he, PB and PM carried out vegetation cutback and grass cutting around the BBC Breathing Space at Dunphail and from there south to the Bantrach Cutting.	
7.1.8	TT reported that on 09/07/26 PB investigated reports of a hole that had appeared in the DW path surface north of Dallas Dhu. There was no	

7.1.9	obvious cause, so PB filled the hole with sub-base and smoothed it over with quarry dust.	
7.1.10	TT reported that on 16/07/26 he and PM carried out vegetation cutback and grass cutting between Clashdhu and Peathillock.	
7.2	Planned Work Since Last Meeting	
7.2.1	Ref 7.3.1: TT reported that the following works were carried out at the full work party held 13/06/26: Aucheorn Cutting. • Cut back gorse and whins at south end of cutting. • Exposed and successfully rodded drainage pipes on west side of cutting. • Cleared full length of open ditch on east side of cutting.	
7.2.2	Action closed. TT reported that the following works were carried out at the full work party held 08/08/26: Huntley's Cave Area. • Exposed tree roots located south of Huntley's Cave Crossing covered with sub-base and smoothed over with quarry dust. • Cleared drainage pipes in Huntley's Cave Cutting.	
7.3	Priorities for Next Work Party and Mini Work Parties	
7.3.1	PM will decide on priorities for the next full work party and 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 7.3.4: 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
7.5	Tooling and Equipment	
7.5.1	Ref 7.5: NS referred to notes provided by PB and reported that PB has invoiced the Forres Community Woodland Trust (FCWT) for the repairs to the rough cutter. Action closed.	
7.5.2	RR reported that applying brightly coloured tape to the low-visibility tools was not effective as the tape fell off during tool use. RR proposed that the tools should be painted with a bright colour. Agreed unanimously. RR will purchase suitable paint and apply it to the affected tools.	RR
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. NS referred to notes provided by PB and reported that Tom Brinicombe expects the involvement of the DWA to take off from September. Vattenfall have had some dialogue with Seafeld Estates who confirmed that they are in full agreement with the route of the bypass as pegged out and offered Vattenfall the option of using their Prior Notification route to utilise permitted development rights for construction of the bypass. Tom advised that there has been no direct contact with Moray Estates but Seafeld Estates have confirmed that Moray Estates are also happy with the principle of the bypass and the route as pegged out. 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	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), with assistance from NS as required.	TH/NS
8.3	Ghost Train Walk 2027 Ref 8.3: Action held over. PM will update the DWA emergency maps.	PM
8.4	Compact Tractor Purchase Project	
8.4.1	Ref 8.4.1: Action held over. The tractor sub-committee will draft a detailed business case for the tractor and implements.	TT/PB/PM
8.4.2	Ref 8.4.2: 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.	TT/PB/PM
8.4.3	Ref 8.4.3: 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.	MC
8.4.4	Ref 8.4.4: 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.	PM
9	<u>Health and Safety</u>	
9.1	First Aid Kits	
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	Training	
	Ref 9.2: Action held over. PM will investigate the availability and cost of mini-digger operator training courses.	PM
9.3	Injury Reports and Incidents (Nothing to report)	

9.4	Documentation Review	
9.4.1	Ref 9.4.2: TT reported that he has provided PM with a copy of the trial digger risk assessment. Action closed.	
9.4.2	Ref 9.4.3: PM reported that he has produced a DWA risk assessment for use of the mini digger. Action closed.	
10	<u>Business Planning</u>	
10.1	DWA Strategic Business Planning	
10.1.1	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.	MC/PM/TT & AC
10.1.2	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. MC reported that PB has provided him with five years of accounts data. MC is using an AI model to draft a budget forecast using this data.	MC/PB
10.2	Trustee Membership and Supporter Roles (Nothing to report)	
10.3	Succession Planning (Nothing to report)	
11	<u>Funding</u> MC reported that, at the CNPA meeting for community path groups, he found out that there is funding available for improving path accessibility; see Visitor Infrastructure Improvement Fund . MC stated that he would contact the CNPA to enquire about funding to improve the ramp adjacent to the Dulicht Bridge.	MC
12	<u>Social Media and Publicity</u>	
12.1	DWA Website	
12.1.1	Ref 12.1: Action held over. TH, NS and MC will form a sub-committee to review the DWA website pages.	TH/NS/MC
12.1.2	MC noted advice from the CNPA meeting for community path groups that the DWA should identify which sections of the DW are accessible and promote these on the DWA website.	
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
14	<u>AOCB</u> (Nothing to report)	
15	Date of the Next Meeting: 19:00 08/09/26, at the Royal British Legion, Sanquhar Road, Forres, IV36 1DG.	

Meeting Closed: 20:35

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Sinclair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Sinclair
Chairman
Dava Way Association