

APPROVED

Minutes: Board Meeting of The Field, held at The White House, 23rd April 2026

1. WELCOME & MEMBERS INTERESTS

Present: David Bee (DB), Sally Bee (SB), Gail Chapman (GC), Jim Cockburn (JC), Alan Dobie (AD), Linda Simpson (LS), Raymond Simpson (RS)

APOLOGIES: Dave Amos (DA), Elspeth Baillie-Field (EB), Jane Bremner (JB), Dave Roberts (DR),

Thanks to LS and RS for hosting.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Draft Minutes of 19th March 2026 were approved subject to minor alteration only.

JC advised he does accounts for the Archive.

3. ACTION POINTS, MATTERS ARISING, ANY AOB's for later?

AP1 - Link for First Aid Training Co-operative and Red Cross issued to Working Group members

AP2 - Bench – slabs not collected yet from Elspeth's. Recognised need is for functional surfaces for vegetable preparation etc. The folding tables in the polytunnel can be brought outside for use. RS advised he will make an additional solid wooden table and more support frames for seedlings

(AP1: RS)

AP3 - FAQ's – carried forward

(AP2: AD & DR)

AP4 – Dung - have had three deliveries. Agreed can use more if available

AP5 - Updating of the list of members and WhatsApp groups required. (AP3: DA & AD)

AP6 – Discussed under Item 5 below

AP7 – Posters – RS has photos and will progress with Maddy

(AP4: RS)

AP8 - Flowers for bees – LS reported she has purchased a 1kg bag of seeds for bees (will cover 1/5th acre). SB advised phacelia is very bee-friendly. RS suggested it be under-sown with mustard seed once the leek area (Plot 1) is properly delineated

AP9 – Irrigation system. Needs a new battery, ongoing. DB raised issue of leaking stand pipes.

Discussion followed on whether the work required merits engaging a plumber. Agreed GC will speak with Jonny Agnew, Blackhaugh to ascertain cost. RS will look at also

(AP5: GC & RS)

AP10 Rachel Harris – DA not present to report

4. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

AD reported on behalf of DA that 76 members had signed-up so far for 2026.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

JC updated trustees on the financial situation, reporting a strong financial position overall (report attached)

Discussion followed on the procedures draft under development. It was agreed that there is a need to tighten-up procedures vis-à-vis the gate stall and cash jar. Approval procedures for spending were discussed with a view to improving clarity and transparency and JC undertook to bring forward a summary of transactions at £250/ £500/ £1000 to support further work to establish clear authorisation procedures (AP6: JC)

6. ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

- Safeguarding – DB advised that Adrian Davis has requested and been granted permission to use the Fiels for the Newtyle Hill Race. £50 donation made
- Notifiable events - nothing to report
- Climate change, sustainability & wider engagement – upcoming Knocknagael visit on 23 May noted. DB & SB away, AD, LS & RS will be present. DB reported that the Perthshire Organic Gardeners visit had gone well and been much appreciated.
- AD reported an enquiry from Jan Osmand as to whether we would like some fruit trees from her garden. It was noted that if they were already fruit-bearing they were too big to transplant, also that we don't need additional trees. Agreed that if useful to her we can arrange to pick fruit for her in the autumn. AD to advise (AP7: AD)

7. PLOT REVIEW & FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

LS expressed concern about various areas currently unused.

RS led on reviewing the plots

Plot 1 – has had green manure, rich soil but still couch grass. Main section covered, ready for onions. To be levelled. Top end not rotovated yet. Decided to cover margin at far side with membrane, plant further with courgette/ squashes

Plot 2 – under black plastic. Needs rotovating and raking. Bottom end fairly free of couch grass, rake & sow with wild flower mix

Plot 3 – for tatties, currently rough. RS suggested we keep weeding through the growing season

Plot 4 – brassica, condition OK

Plot 5 – being dunged and raked. Lift membrane, apply more dung. Re-membrane for leeks

Plot 9 – seeds in for broad beans. Keep fleece cover until temperatures warm

Kitchen garden - Sandy managing, no dig

SB reported good progress on propagating and sowing – leeks, broad beans, brussel sprouts, cabbage, kaylets, broccoli, peas (under netting) – field peas, to minimise need for support framing

8. REPORTS FROM GROUPS

Polytunnel – JB advised that rocket, spinach and sweetcorn are underway. Sandy is growing tomato plants, GC will also get tomato plants and parsley from Trochry. (AP8: GC)

GC advised that she attended a course on irrigation and is arranging for Jonny Agnew to visit and provide advice (AP9: GC)

Flowers – progressing well

9. SAINT JEROME CHAPEL SITE

Further information is being sought to determine where the search pits should be located. There is no further information on the state of their funding application.

10. AOCB

AD advised a request had been received for the scouts to use the Field. Approved in principle subject to further information on date(s), numbers, proposed activities. AD to pursue with DA. It was agreed a Field representative should attend (AP10: AD, DA)

RS advised he had been contacted by Jane Anderson asking if she could over-winter snowdrops in the polytunnel for sale by St Mary's Church. Agreed in principle subject to there being space available.

Dates for an Open Day were discussed and it was proposed this be combined with the Open Gates Festival over weekend of 2-4 October.

Agreed we will do a separate day for volunteers during June.

12. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28th May, 19:00 in the large polytunnel.

Action Points from meeting

AP1 - RS advised he will make an additional solid wooden table and more support frames for seedlings

AP2 - FAQ's – carried forward - AD & DR

AP3 - Updating of the list of members and WhatsApp groups required - DA & AD

AP4 - Posters – RS has photos and will progress with Maddy

AP5 - Agreed GC will speak with Blackhaugh to ascertain cost. RS will look at also - GC & RS

AP6 - JC undertook to bring forward a summary of transactions at £250/ £500/ £1000 to support further work to establish clear authorisation procedures

AP7 – Jan Osmand fruit trees – AD

AP8 - GC will get tomato plants and parsley from Trochry

AP9 - GC advised that she attended a course on irrigation and is arranging for an expert to visit and provide advice

AP10 – Scout visit – AD