MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at 6.15pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair
Murdo Crosbie
Jim Davidson
Gene Fryatt
Norrie McIntosh
Steve Smith

(B) Attendee
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence
Kenneth Allan, Rory Crosbie, Terence Flanagan, Jamie Ribbens and Iain service

(2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (held on 13th October 2021)
A second version of the draft Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated following comments on the first draft by Iain Service and Jamie Ribbens. On the basis that the second version was an accurate record of what was said, these were approved without demur.
The Minutes of both the Annual Meeting of Proprietors and the Annual Public Meeting for the two years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 were approved for publication. These had previously been amended on the instruction of the Chairman.

(3) Matters arising
An email had been received from Terence Flanagan as regards the proposed alteration to Item 10 of the October 13th Minutes to the effect that it could be reasonably implied from what the Stocking document contained, and what Lord Grantchester had actually written, that he, Lord Grantchester, had meant that he was not allowing brood stock to be taken from the Minnoch "on the advice of GFT". However those words had not actually been used by Lord Grantchester and, as minutes should record what was actually said at meetings rather than what might have been intended or implied, those words (in italics, above) were not appropriately included. Furthermore the Chairman pointed out that the Stocking document specifically said that brood stock should be taken from the Minnoch. Likewise Iain Service's alleged use of the word "promised" was inappropriately included as he neither meant to use that word, nor did so.
The Chairman said he would like the Clerk to email the Conservation Code to all ~~members~~ PROPRIETORS for whom the Clerk had email addresses. The Clerk said he had email addresses for about two thirds of the members. This was agreed subject to obtaining clarity on the requirement for written permission to be carried by fishermen who were not legally entitled to fish on the river. There was some discussion

following this and Murdo Crosbie offered to obtain clarification from Jim ~~Davidson~~ Hendersen Fisheries Director (~~Head bailiff~~ on the Nith) and then revert to the Clerk.

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that a license had been obtained from Marine Scotland to do survey work out of season.

He had attended a zoom meeting, organized by the Skye and Lochalsh Fisheries Trust, on Feb 7th in relation to hatcheries. This had been encouraging and Murdo Crosbie who had also been at the meeting, said that he knew of another two hatcheries which had wanted to become involved and join forces.

There would be no grand opening to the season this year but there would be some publicity to mark the beginning of the season.

(5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the balance in the Bank of Scotland account was £7,553.56 as at the end of January 2022. There had been nothing unexpected financially in the four months since the previous meeting.

(6) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had sent an email to the Chairman with his report and this was read out in full by the Chairman. The matters included were as follows:

- Funding from NatureScot towards habitat works on the Galloway rivers including some deciduous planting around the Garchew Burn.
- Temperature loggers on the High Cree to understand water temperature
- Water Quality work: a 5 year programme accross the Galloway rivers including areas of the Minnoch and High Cree.
- Eldrick Forest Plan including the two horrendous Irish pipe bridges on the Black Clauchrie Burn.

It was observed that there were still some unanswered questions on the subject of water quality.

(7) RCHHT Report

On this occasion Murdo Crosbie had not circulated any report as there had not been much to report. He mentioned that fish were starting to hatch, despite the earliness of the year, because of recent high temperatures. In consequence, the invertebrates would be there.

He said that because of the conifers being so close together, trees on the riverside were the only ones that were able to grow proper length branches with the result that they appeared to be listing towards the river.

There had been goosanders seen on the Fardin Burn and that meant that there must be fish there. In answer to a question from Jim Davidson about bird flu, Murdo Crosbie said that goosanders would not be affected by bird flu though cormorants might be.

(8) Conservation Code

This had already been agreed subject to the comments in (3) above

(9) Service provided by GFT

The Chairman read out correspondence between George Gourlay, who was now Chairman of the GFT, and himself.

The Chairman said that the main thing that the Board would still be looking for from GFT was stocking guidance and the electrofishing underpinning that guidance.

It was agreed that the stocking document should be produced no later than 14th August and thereafter agreed with the Board no later than 31st August each. It was felt very strongly that this

time frame be observed particularly as FLS had been lamentably slow in the past to address the part that they had to play in this.

(10) Management Plan

The Clerk duly circulated copies of the 2017 Management plan to the members present. The Chairman went through this page by page and it was agreed that there were a number of changes required. These changes would be made by the Clerk who would then, subject to the approval by the Chairman, send the updated Plan to Steve Smith for publication on the website.

(11) Insurance

There was some discussion following the Clerk's observation that the Board had been paying twice as much to insure Murdo Crosbie as bailiff than it was paying him to be bailiff. Norrie McIntosh questioned whether Murdo Crosbie could legally be regarded as an employee of the Board . If not he would be an independent contractor of the Board. It was agreed that, either way, the Board must have insurance for him and there would be some investigation prior to May, when the insurance would be due for renewal, as to a reasonable premium for such insurance.

(12) Blackcraig

Gene Fryatt said that the first meeting had been shambolic as nothing was discussed and the slides were all blurred. She had attended a much better meeting at the Minnigaff Golf Club last week and it appeared that the now owners of the company (which was based in Australia) were going to prospect over more than 700 square miles in Galloway and thus would include much more than just Blackcraig. The objective of the group was to generate concerted action in anticipation of the company applying for planning permission. She spoke positively about the Chairman of the group. She would keep going to meetings and would be in a position to report on any relevant developments. The next meeting was arranged for 16th February. This was welcomed by the Board. Norrie McIntosh wondered if SEPA were doing anything. It was felt that this would be doubtful.

(13) Any Other Business

The Chairman mentioned a proposal for Registration of Cage, by SEPA for open ~~space~~ fish farming. The Board unanimously said that this was impractical and unacceptable.

The Chairman mentioned a report from the Cree Valley Community Council which touched on the erosion of the river. Gene Fryatt expressed concern about this as did Murdo Crosbie who felt that something had to be done about it. In the first instance there would have to be a discussion with the NSAA.

(14) Date of Next Meeting

4th May at 6.00pm at The Belted Galloway.

Proposed Gene Fryatt
2nd M. Crosbie

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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Chairman