

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting

of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board

Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart

On Wednesday July 19th, 2023 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatorys

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie

Jim Davidson

Terence Flanagan

Gene Fryatt

Norrie McIntosh

Steve Smith

(B) Attendees

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Rory Crosbie, Jamie Ribbens and Iain Service

(2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

These were proposed by Gene Fryatt, seconded by Norrie McIntosh and approved without demur.

(3) Matters arising from Previous Board Meeting Minutes

None not otherwise on the Agenda.

(4) Chairman's Report

He covered the points made under the Flood Defences item on the Agenda.

(5) Treasurer's Report

Montpelier's accounts were approved by the Board without demur and a copy duly signed for return to Montpelier.

The Treasurer said that since his email reporting that a little over £4,000 was still due in unpaid levies, he had heard from two proprietors who owed nearly £3,000 between them and they had both promised to pay shortly. Further, by custom over a number of years, Andrew Stewart would pay the remaining £1,000 of his levy in November. Assuming these payments were in fact paid, this would mean that virtually all levies would have been paid. The Treasurer agreed to contact the Ayrshire assessor with regard to the Redmans (Creese) current inclusion on the register (the Redmans' land title does not mention salmon fishings) as being included, and the Redmans are of the opinion they do not own the salmon fishings), and also the Gosden/Lockey fishings (which they own and appear on their title) on the High Cree but are not included in the Register. Steve Smith mentioned that he had had no reply from the Ayrshire Assessor to his query about Da Keng Zang's assessment and the Treasurer said that he had found it difficult to elicit any relevant response from her either. Steve Smith had heard that S Ayrshire Council were no longer involved with assessing values on the Ayrshire side of the river and that this was now being dealt with by Dumfries and Galloway. The Treasurer agreed to look into this.

It was agreed that a suitable Savings Account with the Bank of Scotland should be opened with an initial deposit of £5,000. The Treasurer would look into opening a suitable high interest deposit account.

(6) Flood Defences Scheme

The Chairman had related in his report the steps that he had taken on behalf of the Proprietors to make representations against the Council's Scheme. He was concerned about the lack of detail in the proposals. He had stated that the Board should have been regarded as Statutory consultees. There had been only very cursory reference to the fishing in the river and no mention at all of salmon nor sea trout. Terence Flanagan had written to object to the proposals and had received a response which

was more concerned with whether he was writing as an individual proprietor or as a member of the NSAA. Steve Smith had received exactly the same response as had Norrie McIntosh. It appeared that the DGC response had been a generic one. There appeared to be no time scales. The Chairman emphasized in his response that no one he had met was in favour of the Scheme and that included people who had houses by the river. He hoped that common sense would prevail.

#### (7) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had sent an email to the Chairman and the Clerk. This consisted of four bullet points. Bullet 1: GFT had submitted a response to the NS flood prevention scheme, raising concerns over the lack of consideration of fish populations, water quality and riparian habitats. The Chairman will ask for a copy of this response from GFT.

Bullet 2: Electrofishing and Forestry works on the Palnure Burn. Gene Fryatt requested a copy of the comments for FLS for forestry works on the Palnure which GFT had submitted. Gene also asked that GFT contact her if they require access for electrofishing.

Bullet 3: As per the email from GFT:

“The GFT is a member of the recently formed Scottish Government “Wild Salmon Strategy Implementation on Plan Delivery Group”. We are using this to highlight the unacceptable on-going situation where Sitka spruce continues to be replanted on some deep peats even though it is known this causes acidification. I spoke to the group on Friday about the need to urgently stop any ground prep or conifer replanting on the deep peats to recover acidified areas on many Galloway rivers. I have followed this up with meetings arranged in August with Scottish Forestry both at a regional level and their Head Office where I will present local data etc. The message is: “stop all Sitka planting on deep peats”. The Chairman voiced support for GFT in highlighting (and trying to bring about a change in policy) the devastating effect huge sitka plantations, particularly on deep peat, have had on the river. The Board agreed to support GFT in highlighting this issue and trying to change planting policy. The Chairman felt that the Board should support the objectives of the Wild Salmon Strategy Implementation Delivery Group and in particular to stop all Sitka on replanting on deep peats.

Bullet 4: The update of the fishgalloway website was duly noted.

#### (8) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie gave a verbal report on (a) the forestry work including the replanting of trees and maintenance of existing trees, (b) the management under license of fish-eating birds, (c) the hatchery where the main problem at the moment was the lack of storage, (d) electrofishing and (e) his interview with John Coates of the Salmon and Trout magazine

#### (9) AOCB

Terence Flanagan asked that the website be updated to show that the last triennial elections had been in October 2021 rather than October 2018. This was agreed.

Norrie McIntosh said that it was unsatisfactory that no one from GFT ever attended meetings any more and this at a potentially very serious time for fishing on the river which would result from implementation of the Flood Prevention Scheme. The Chairman agreed to contact Jamie Ribbens about that. The Clerk suggested that Jamie Ribbens should ensure that his written reports should be circulated to all members of the Board and not just the Chairman and himself. This was agreed.

(10) Date of next meeting

4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm

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Chairman