

MINUTES
of the Meeting of the
River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 5.30pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Terence Flanagan – Chairman
Duncan Baillie
Murdo Crosbie
Jim Davidson
John Galloway
Jamie Hyslop
Tom Kenyon
Norrie McIntosh
George McShane
Steve Smith

(B) Attendees

Matthew Pumphrey – Clerk
Jamie Ribbens – GFT

(C) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Billy McHarg, Gene Fryatt and Peter Jones.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 13th April 2016

These were approved subject to various changes which had come about as a result of a technical problem with some amendments which had not been received by the Clerk from the Chairman. The Chairman accordingly read out the proposed amendments and the Minutes were duly approved with these amendments.

3. Matters Arising from said meeting not otherwise on the Agenda

- (a) Revaluation Forms. The Chairman reminded the Board that the decision had been made to go along with the valuation. This would likely result in a lower valuation than was currently in operation.
- (b) Meeting with Callum Sinclair. The view of Callum Sinclair of SNH was that he was against any stocking in the Panure Burn. On the other hand he had no objection to the removal of trees from the Burn.

4. Chairman's Report

Fewer fish had been caught than at the same stage last year. Murdo Crosbie said at the last count 17 fish had been reported.

Bailiffing

Murdo Crosbie had passed his Bailiff exam and that meant that there would be four Bailiffs now operating on the River Cree namely Andy Johnstone, Jim Nichol, Jock Galloway and Murdo Crosbie. The Clerk was asked to obtain the Bailiffs' booklets from Brian Davidson.

Fish-Eating Birds

Three cormorants and twelve goosanders had been shot which was the quota permitted under the licence from SNH. SNH had received the Chairman's report and had closed their file. There had been another bird count on 1st May and the Chairman expressed his thanks to all who had taken part in this. Fewer fish eating birds were discovered on this occasion. There would be another count in the autumn and, if appropriate, a further application for a licence would be made for next year.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman reported that in the Treasurer's absence there had been some typographical errors discovered with the Bank of Scotland authority forms. He also said that the Treasurer had proposed internet banking which the Chairman was opposed to. On Mr McHarg's return the Chairman would contact him about these matters and hopefully everything would be in place in the not too distant future.

6. GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens presented his report. The Chairman thought that the best practice was to do electro fishing on every stocking site every year.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Council's activities preparatory to repairing the riverside wall in Newton Stewart, which had generally been regarded as not very helpful. It was agreed that the Chairman would write an appropriate letter to the Council seeking at least consultation on any works that might affect the fishing on the River Cree. Norrie McIntosh thought that it would be in order for him to mention that the River Board had had complaints from the Association.

Mr Ribbens then circulated a document headed up "Salmon Conservation Limits Research on the Luce, Bladnoch, Cree and Urr 2016". There was considerable discussion on this document. Murdo Crosbie asked the specific question as to how many scale samples would have to be taken to make the "grilse error" exercise worthwhile. Mr Ribbens said that the more samples that were taken the better the exercise would be, the objective being to provide any contrary evidence to that produced by Marine Scotland that was available. Jamie Ribbens urged everybody to contribute as much as they could to the survey and to ask all anglers to help.

7. RCHHT Report

(A)

Murdo Crosbie produced a handout and circulated it for the members of the Board. He spoke about the hatchery and some encouraging aspects of it. In relation to the Kirriemuir Burn he said

that the photograph was a little bit misleading and there was considerable Sitka regeneration which was not helpful. On the question of pike and perch removal he pointed out that the smolt shown in the photograph was between 140-150 ml. The tree removal from the River Cree would mostly help Jonathan Haley. He was very happy with the school visits.

Jock Galloway raised the issue of cameras used to detect fishing offences for the purposes of bailiffing. He said that unless the owner had given permission for the placing of the CCTV there may be a problem in enforcement. There was some discussion as to whether the consent required was from the owner of the land on which the cameras were placed or the owner of the fishings, or both. He thought that the important people to issue consent would be the Forestry Commission, Lord Granchester and perhaps Andrew Stewart.

After some discussion he agreed to find out more about who should grant the permission and whether the absence of permission would totally nullify any evidence obtained from the cameras.

(B)

The Clerk asked about the ownership of the Creeside fishings and it was agreed that he would make further enquiry of Billy McHarg as to who if anybody paid the levy for those fishings.

(C)

Stocking Document. The Chairman asked for permission to allow the same sub-committee consisting of himself, Murdo Crosbie and Jamie Ribbens to attend to the stocking document prior to the next Board Meeting. This was agreed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This would be held on **Thursday** 8th September 2016 at 5.30pm.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

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Chairman