

MINUTES
of the Meetings of the
River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On 26th October 2016 at 6pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Terence Flanagan – Chairman
Murdo Crosbie
Jim Davidson
Dougal Evans
Gene Fryatt
John Galloway
Jamie Hyslop
Norrie McIntosh
George McShane
Iain Service
Steve Smith

(B) Attendees

Billy McHarg (Treasurer)
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

(C) Other persons Present

Roddy Crosbie, Jonathan Haley, Johnnie Johnstone, Mark McKie, Julian Preston and Barry Strachan.

(D) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Tom Kenyon, Duncan Baillie, The Earl of Stair and Jamie Ribbens.

The Chairman gave a brief introduction and explained the format of the meetings. The agendas for the meetings had been publicised on the Board's website. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated to all those present.

A. Annual Meeting of Proprietors

Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report (excluding the appendices) had been prepared by the Chairman and he duly spoke to it.

Dougal Evans asked about any further application for a licence to shoot fish-eating birds. The Chairman said that the previous licence had expired and a fresh

application would have to be made. The application form was somewhat laborious and he suspected that this was to put off potential applicants. The crucial thing was the counts of birds. Murdo Crosbie said that there was going to be a further count of fish-eating birds (goosanders and cormorants) on Sunday, 5th November, 2016.

GFT Appendix

In the absence of Jamie Ribbens the Chairman asked whether the GFT appendix to the Annual Report could be taken as read. Dougal Evans, on behalf of GFT and as Director of same, said that this would be all right.

RCHHT Appendix

The appendix had been prepared by Murdo Crosbie and he duly spoke to it. The Chairman thanked Murdo Crosbie for the hard work and effort that he had put into the hatchery and other habitat works.

There were no revisions to the Annual Report.

Annual Accounts

An Audited Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 2016 had been tabled by Billy McHarg and he duly spoke to it. He said that of the £17,000 levies expected for the year, only £5,000 had been received and this was disappointing. He assumed that the main reason for this was that because no fish could be taken owners and occupiers of fishings did not see why they should have to pay rates. He thought that the annual levy notices would have to go out sooner next year.

There were no revisions to the audited accounts.

B. Annual Public Meeting

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Tom Kenyon, Duncan Baillie, The Earl of Stair and Jamie Ribbens.

Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report and Accounts were considered.

Letter dated 5th September 2016 from G M Thomson & Co to the Chairman

The letter, which had been tabled, was written on behalf of six Cree proprietors and insisted that the Chairman make known their opinions (which were inconsistent with the adopted view of the Board) in relation to future dealings in relation to FMO areas. The Chairman considered that the letter showed a lack of appreciation of the way river boards worked. Matters were decided by majority vote of members. The business of the Board would become unworkable if non-members could insist on their views on any item of business having to be made known.

Norrie Mackintosh considered that the letter was seeking to undermine the democratic decision of the Board. Jonathan Haley thought that the word "insist" was wrong, but generally supported the letter.

Email dated 24th October from Norrie McIntosh to the Chairman

The email from Norrie Mackintosh had been tabled and he spoke to it. It called for the suspension of funding to the GFT pending a full investigation of their recent activities.

The Chairman felt that the issue should be dealt with at the next Board meeting rather than at this meeting as insufficient notice had been given for such an important matter. Norrie Mackintosh agreed.

Jonathan Haley said that he was not happy with the criticism of GFT. He said that they had done a tremendous job and should be supported. In answer to a question by Steve Smith, Mr Haley said that there had been problems with forestry on the Cree and that both the Cree Board and GFT had dealt with these in a satisfactory and prompt manner. While he accepted the views of the majority so far as the reconstruction of the Boards were concerned and the proposed FMOs and FMAs, he did not agree with the majority and felt that it was not inappropriate to continue to voice his objection.

Whether fishing for salmon should be permitted on a Sunday

The Chairman explained that "Fishpal" were seeking the views of river boards in relation to this matter. After a brief discussion, there was no appetite for a change of the *status quo*, even if legislation permitted it.

Matters proposed for consideration by members of the public

No matters had been proposed for consideration by members of the public.

The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.