

River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board

www.ayrfishing.co.uk

c/o Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Braeside

Burnbrae Lodge

Mauchline

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Board Clerk

Forbes M Watson

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Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board Meeting

05/04/2022 – 1800 - 1900

Minutes prepared by Struan Candlish; audio recording of meeting available on request.

Present:

Alex Reid (Chairperson), AR

Gordon Millar, GM

John Alexander, JA

Alan Hill, AH

Max Stobbs, MS

Forbes Watson (Clark), FW

Stuart Brabbs (Ayrshire Rivers Trust), SB

Struan Candlish (Ayrshire Rivers Trust), SC

Apologies:

None received

Not Present:

Robin Wilson

Charlie M^oDade

John Llyall

Audience:

Iain Walker

Previous Minutes

FW: previous minutes read 2022, rather than 2021.

George Leslie have yet to settle the Boards claim of £1825 (ARTs bill for survey works), £200 Mauchline and Ballochmyle Angling Club (lost day ticket revenue) and £750 (Board claim for time spent pursuing case). GM said clerk had no authority to claim. FW said a try in as additional work had been done.

SB: explained that George Leslie had been in contact with ART to try and clarify what the Board were asking for.

Nethermills hydro is now operational and are testing flow abstraction to fine tune automatic cut off flow levels. Smolt chutes and eel/lamprey passes are installed, and ART have provided comment on the functionality of these.

The functioning of the Vaki Counter at Catrine was questioned by AR and SB explained that will the counter was not providing truly accurate data, the counter is operating and counting fish but required optimising, something that ART are in discussion with Catrine Community Renewables over.

GM indicated that he thought Operation Wingspan (delivered by Police Scotland), had been instrumental in reducing incidences of poaching.

AH explained that there may be funding to continue this work in the coming year as the prolonged drought in 2021 had meant an underspend in the Operation Wingspan budget, that could be reallocated to work in 2022.

AR informed the Board that a David Macatee had retaken his warrant to act as a bailiff. This was contested by SB as a warrant would have to come from the Clark to the Board or Scottish Ministers. Scottish Ministers generally only issue warrants if no DSFB is in place. AR would investigate

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SB explained that the Doon District Salmon Fishery Board has recently completed a comprehensive review of bailiffing and how to bailiff their river. The Doon system was going to rely on unwarranted river watchers, and in the event of witnessing criminal activity, contact the Police for assistance.

AH explained the potential pitfalls of bailiffing, insurance, liabilities and the Board or Club potentially being sued in the event of injury or accident. It was agreed that this was a discussion point for the next Board to pursue.

Action Point.

**Stephen Pendergast to be invited to a coming meeting.*

**Alex Reid to check where David Macatee had received his warrant card from.*

**Bailiffing to be made an agenda item in coming meetings.*

Triennial Meeting Update.

FW began by explaining that he had taken advice from Fish Legal (whom the Board pay annually for representation) there had been various issues with the nomination/mandate forms not having been filled out correctly voiding some applications. MS had been contacted and GM to inform them of the issues but hadn't responded in time or at all.

JA nomination void as Davidstone and the Crown had nominated candidates other than JA.

JA disputed this. JA indicted he would produce proof of his valid nomination at the next meeting.

GM and MS also disputed the validity of the voting claiming that previously no paperwork had been required to become a Board member. The Clerk said was incorrect at that all paperwork for nominations had always been sent out.

GM nomination for Howford was voided as the proposer, Max Stobbs is not a proprietor, MS said Mauchline and Ballochmyle Angling Club are the proprietor. They were shown only as tenants in valuation roll. No proof of ownership was given.

Eligible nominations to be taken to the Triennial Meeting.

MS x1 vote

AR x1 vote

IW x1 vote

Nick Wright x2 (representing upper and lower proprietor's beats)

FW advised that the Board could have any number of members and co-opt up to one less than the number of members on the Board.

Discussion ensued as to what Mauchline Ballochmyle A.C owned and whether this was reflected in the valuation role. M&BAC to contact the AJVB to update their records on the valuation role.

FW explained that he had gone back through 50 years of minutes and the upper/lower limit was at Welbeck/top of the Ladykirk Beat, MS contested this saying the confluence of the River Ayr and Lugar formed the upper and lower limit. MS claimed that he had in writing a byelaw that stated the upper/lower limit was Overmills Dam.

FW stated that the Board could petition Scottish Ministers and ask for a new limit to be set.

Meeting Closed.