

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of URR DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
held in The Market Inn, Queen Street, Castle Douglas
on Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

In the Chair: R J Bellamy

Vice Chairman: D J Biggar

Attendees: W Charlesworth
W Marshall
S Perry
A Graham
K Irving
A Armstrong
J Cunningham
A Ferguson
R Smith
C Marshall
J Seed
J Ribbens
Ms J Graham

Clerk: W G N Gourlay

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th March 2017

The Minutes had been circulated to the Board and were tabled for attendees. They were approved on the proposal of W Marshall, seconded by K Irving and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

W Marshall asked to record Robin Ade's thanks for his days with Dalbeattie Angling Association, even though it has not been productive.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke to his written report which had been tabled and made available to all attending. He made reference inter alia to:

2017 catch returns of 104 salmon and grilse, and 48 sea trout, an improvement on 2016 but only on a par with 2015.

Low angling effort.

Relocation of the Outflow Point from the Glen Black Stone to Starvation Point.

Category 2 grading.

Conservation guidelines with particular thanks to CDAA for their achievement of 92% release.

Siltation from the Cluden to Brighthouse Bay gas pipeline works being carried out by GNI (UK) Ltd.

The decision, after much delay by Scottish Water, to install new syphon pipework at Dalbeattie Reservoir and prolong its life.

The enormous contribution by Galloway Fisheries Trust to the health of the river, persuasion of the Scottish Government that their formulae are not based on good evidence.

5. Accounts for the Year to 30th November 2017

The accounts, which had been approved by the Board, were circulated. The budgeted objective had been to break even with the same overall level of levy. In the result, because most assessments had shown a small decrease, the rate poundage increased to achieve the same total levy income of £4,765.50. After expenditure of £4,582.38, a surplus of £183.12 arose which increased the reserves to £10,365.69. Debtors stood at £484.70 of which only £109.20 might be difficult to recover.

The accounts were approved on the motion of D Biggar, seconded by A Ferguson.

6. 2018 Levy

On the recommendation of the Clerk, it was agreed that the 2018 levy should remain at the same rate as 2017.

7. Date of 2019 Annual General Meeting

Subject to availability of the room, Monday, 18th March 2019 at the Market Inn, Castle Douglas.

8. Any Other Competent Business

General discussion and sharing of information ensued. The sad death of Mrs Emkes was reported. Steve Perry will represent her fishing interests pro-tem.

The Scottish Government have now received the report on Salmon Farming. It was thought that inevitably it would produce more regulation. The Scottish Government have announced the award of grant aid of £700,000 to fisheries. £500,000 said to be for research to understand migratory populations better – but a drop in the ocean. Reference was made to the recent discovery of high smolt mortality in estuarine waters – ie close to shore rather than at sea. No reasons identified as yet. Is this mortality the result of stress from tagging? Also reported a drop in fry densities. Is this cyclical?

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.