

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER DEVERON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
being a Meeting open to the public in terms of the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013
held at CASTLE HOTEL, HUNTLY on Thursday 14th September 2017 at 3.30pm.
This meeting was held in conjunction with that of the TRUSTEES of THE DEVERON, BOGIE & ISLA RIVERS
CHARITABLE TRUST. The minutes cover both organisations.

At the outset the Chairman explained that in terms of the 2013 Act, all Meetings require to be open to the public. An invitation to the public was published on the Board's website along with a copy of the proposed Agenda. Any member who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

Sarah Cruickshank attended as a member of the Public.

Present: **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **Robert Shields** (B & T), **Rory Cooper** (B & T), **Mrs J Player** (B), **A Gordon Morison** (B), (All Upper Proprietors), **Donald Galloway** (B) (Banff & Macduff Angling Association - Lower), **Frank Henderson** (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), **Richard Breakell** (B) (Salmon Anglers), **Jim Cruickshank** (T), **Richie Miller** (B and representative of DBI Trust), **Neil Stephen** (Ghillies Rep – DBI Trust)
In attendance- **Mrs S D Paxton** (Clerk to Board and Administrator of DBI Trust); **Marcus Walters** (DBI Trust)
{ **B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative**}

Chairman: Malcolm Hay

Apologies for Absence: C Richard Marsden (B), Matthew Marsden (B), David Borthwick (B & T).

Minutes of Meeting on 6th July 2017 A draft of the Minutes of the Meeting had been sent to all Members of the Board and Trust and unanimously approved by those who had attended. The minutes have been published on the Board/Trust's website (www.deveron.org) and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.
There were no queries nor matters outstanding.

Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 6th July 2017 as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting. Mr Hay had received a letter from a fisherman who had had a very unsuccessful week visiting the area.

Update on Financial Matters Mrs Paxton reported that bank balances in both organisations were healthy. The next quarterly accounts will be made up to 30 September and circulated in October. The Trust had bought new electro fishing equipment at a cost of £6,300. The Trust had received a dividend distribution of £1,382 from McInroy and Wood which had been reinvested. The fund now stands at £132,582.

Mrs Paxton reported that statements had now been sent out for 15 outstanding assessments from 12 proprietors (£19,000). An initial contribution of £7,000 had been paid over to the Trust.

Mr Shields requested that information and financial implications relating to bids made to secure funding by the Trust be circulated to all members. Mr Miller will attend to this – there is an INNS bid in progress at the moment.

Report by Mr Miller on DBI Trust work Mr Miller, Director and Senior Biologist of the Trust, gave a short report as most of his points were included in the Annual Report which had now been circulated to all Proprietors and other interested parties. Mr Hay complimented him on a professional and informative publication.

There was another discussion on the bird licence and how to increase numbers. Enquiries must be made of SNH to ascertain the rationale behind the numbers given. Mr Hay suggested an additional bird count in November for added information.

**River Deveron
Conservation Code**

Some changes were agreed at the last Board/Trust meeting. Mr Miller was asked to draft a revised Code and circulate for comment/approval.

Annual Meeting

Mr Hay mentioned that Mr Tennant had asked to speak at the Annual Meeting.

AOCB – Catches

Mr Miller said that to date it was not looking a good year for catches. Mr Walters had been trying to look at trends over the last 10 years and believed there was a pattern with a shift in the timing in the season for fishing and the fish being caught.

AOCB – Next meeting:

Mr Hay advised that he would not be able to attend the next meeting on the day suggested (7 Dec) – Mrs Paxton was asked to change.

Next Board/Trust meeting will now be on Wednesday 6th December, Castle Hotel at 12noon. (NB in the Sandston Room upstairs).

Meeting closed at 4.40pm

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending. The Annual Proprietors Meeting and DBIT AGM followed.