

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

Meeting No. 33

Monday 11th September 2017, 12.45pm

Friars Carse Country House Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries

Present

Percy Weatherall – NCFT Chairman
Christine Carson - Director
Jim Henderson – Director
Peter Hutchison – Director
David Kempzell - Director
Raymond Mundle – Director
Thomas Florey – Director
Brian Lord – Director

Guest

Simon Dryden

In Attendance

Debbie Parke – Operations Manager/Biologist
Ruth Davies - Administrator

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous Directors meeting were taken as true and accurate, subject to an amendment being made to the 'Actions resulting' section to change Derek Kempzell to say David Kempzell.

Update on previous actions:

- TF going to Directors Trustee meeting for Misses Robinson Trust on 10th October 2017 and will report back on funding application.
- DP advised certificates will be issued for this coming years school groups.
- Jim Henderson confirmed Susan McDowell's donation had been refunded by cheque.
- David Kempzell to contact the Gas Pipeline Organisation to discuss disruption/compensation.

3. Finances

DP referred to the Financial Report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been no major changes since the last meeting. We are waiting to hear from the Robinson Trust £7000 for 2016/2017 Youth Angling Club and next cycle of schools. We are currently projecting a £5000 loss for the year. Some of this is due to the core contributions from the NDSFB not increasing with

inflation. It has been recommended that this would match inflation next year. Tesco bag for life award applied for and awaiting response. The projected outgoings for Sept – Dec are £24K.

4. Project Updates

INNS – DP advised that the INNS project started in 2010 and focused on Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed treatment. Himalayan Balsam was lower priority. SEPA funded 6 years of treatment and there have been demonstrable improvements with reduced invasive plants in the catchment. However, SEPA no longer funds invasive plant control projects and we were trying to do the best that we can with the resources available. DP made the point that it can take many years for Japanese knotweed rhizomes to be killed off entirely and that regrowth, albeit sparse, can continue to occur.

DP updated the Directors on the current position with regard Signal crayfish. There had not been the opportunity to conduct trapping during the summer due to continuous high water levels. There have been discussions with Roadbridge, who are working on the Irish Gas Pipeline, to assist with trapping crayfish.

Electrofishing surveys of the Cairn Water indicated that the escapee rainbow trout issues had not reoccurred this year following the major incident during 2016.

Fishing for the Future – DP reported that the project had been a success during 2016/17 and that school visits had introduced over 285 children from seven schools to the Atlantic salmon and their environments. Sessions include visiting the wild salmon hatchery, incubating eggs in the classroom, electrofishing in a burn, invertebrate surveys, fish dissection and health, tree planting, fishing sessions and cookery. There is interest from more schools to take part in the 2017/18 sessions but we are just waiting for final confirmation of funds to proceed. DP thanked DGAA for the use of Drum Loch for the angling sessions.

Nith Young Anglers Club – This is the first year that the Young Anglers Club has been run and it has been a huge success. Monthly angling sessions target different species of fish with angling instruction, transport and equipment provided. Parents and families are welcomed and we believe that part of the success is due to the inclusion of parents and use of professional angling instructors. The project has inspired the children and their families to take up angling with a good majority purchasing equipment and tickets on local waters. DK confirmed it was great to see children so enthusiastic at Drum Loch and that they were coming back with their parents.

Anglers have donated some of their unused fishing equipment, which we pass onto the Young Anglers to give them equipment to start using. All of the beats have been very supportive, donating fishing and assistance. This project has been highlighted throughout Scotland and we are currently delivering more than any other river. There is continued interest in youth angling and more young anglers than before.

The pond at Blackwood has been cleared and repairs are ongoing to develop it into an education facility for youngsters. It will be stocked in the spring with small, easy to catch fish species. This will provide the Trust with a safe facility to hold angling taster days, angling club sessions, school visits

and other education programmes as it that has ample car parking, toilets, the hatchery on site and indoor space.

5. A.O.B

The Chairman thanked Debbie for all her efforts.

Brian Lord confirmed he would be stepping down at the next AGM.

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks.

Actions resulting from Trust Meeting No. 33

Action points	Action by	Action completed
Update from Thomas Florey about Robinson Trust funding post meeting	TCF	

Signed.....
EPK Weatherall, Chair

Date.....