

# Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

## Meeting No. 34

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*Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017, 11.30am*

*Friars Carse Country House Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries*

### **Present**

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

### **In Attendance**

Debbie Parke – Operations Manager/Biologist  
Ruth Davies - Administrator

### **1. Apologies**

Brian Lord, Stewart Cameron.

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the previous Directors meeting were taken as true and accurate.

#### ***Update on previous actions:***

- DP confirmed £7,000 had been received from the Misses Robinson Trust, for 2017/2018 Youth Angling Club and next cycle of schools.
- TF confirmed that the Misses Robinson Trust gives away up to £120,000 annually to various charitable causes. TF advised, ensuring that applications include the number of people involved. Figures and pictures should always be included in any future applications/reports. They can provide ongoing support for projects as well as one off awards.

### **3. Finances**

DP referred to the Financial Report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. At the last meeting it was reported that the Projected account would be £5,000 deficit. Thanks to consultancy contribution, a £3,500 - £3,600 surplus was now projected. There had been no other major changes to the projected figures since the last meeting.

NDSFB Core Funding is £35,000 in the current year. The 2018 budget included a proposal to increase core funding from £35,000 to £40,000. However, the Trust Directors were of the opinion that it would be better to make up any shortfall in funding through consultancy work.

DP highlighted that cash in the Bank at period end totalled £29,966.55 and included £11,500 which was reserved for the Fishing for the Future project during 2018.

The Chairman proposed that the budget figures be accepted. This was unanimously agreed.

#### **4. Project Updates**

**Fishing for the Future** – DP reported that 2016/17 had been very successful and work had now started on 2017/18 project with school. Closeburn Primary, Moniaive Primary, Troqueer Primary and St Michael's Primary schools have signed up for classroom visits along with St Joseph's College & Sanquhar Academy. St. Joseph's College are keen for pupils to be involved, in the renovation of Blackwood Pond, as part of their Rural Skills course.

**Nith Young Anglers Club** – DP advised that following the renovation works, Blackwood Pond was looking good.

In terms of funding, unfortunately the Aviva Community Fund award had been unsuccessful, as the club had not received enough votes. The outcome of the Tesco Bags for Life application, for up to £4000, is due next month. It is proposed to make applications to the Landfill Trust & Big Lottery in 2018. Any funds received would potentially be used for stocking the pond with fish, repairing the littoral zone, providing disabled access, improving the classroom and the washroom facilities.

JH warmly thanked Buccleuch Estates and Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association (DGAA) for their generosity and support with regard to the project so far. DP further advised that DGAA had kindly donated 20 season tickets to the Nith Young Anglers. JH commended DGAA for their forward thinking approach supporting young anglers in this way.

DP advised that following a meeting with Borderlines, 9 angling days had been agreed (between Mar – Sept), along with 3 taster sessions. On behalf of DGAA, DK offered Drum Loch if needed.

Discussion followed regarding issues with ongoing funding, particularly post 2018 and the impact of time constraints on pursuing funding applications.

**Scale Reading** – DP advised that currently basic scale reading was undertaken using the microscope kindly donated by DGAA.

Now a more scientific approach is required therefore DP and the JH have recently attended a scale reading course where Ronald Campbell provided expert input. Scale reading is, however, very subjective so at times a consensus is required and the course provided a great platform to share knowledge. It is hoped that scale readings will continue to be shared, on occasion, between interested parties.

Taking scales at spawning time meant that the scales were suffering degradation so it is planned to contact individuals to see if they can assist in obtaining samples earlier in the year. The Trust plan to run courses to train these anglers on how to obtain scale samples. It is hoped the data will be of benefit alongside the data obtained from the Crawick Counter.

**Habitat Work (Dalgig & Crawick)** – DP advised that Dalgig Burn had been out of action for 7/8 years, due to mining works which had involved the removal of a former hydroelectric dam. Mining work has now ceased and the burn reinstated. The Trust has been involved in the planting of willow whips along the course of the new channel. The Crawick Habitat Scheme is 5 years old and is maturing well although beating up is required.

**INNS** – DP reported that Signal crayfish were approximately 100m further downstream on the Lochfoot Burn. It was currently very difficult to access the site due to the gas pipeline project. Monitoring will resume next year.

DP advised that the funding for invasive weed treatment has ended. The Trust has also completed the Shambellie project. JH advised of the potential for the Trust to undertake some work out of catchment on invasives species.

## 5. A.O.B

PH suggested the Trust meetings be held at a separate time to the Board meetings. This was supported, although it was agreed if special guests visit it may be appropriate, on occasion, to hold them consecutively.

PH suggested a half-day open session be held to allow Directors to become familiar with the work the Trust. JH stated an Open Day would be useful, ideally when schools were attending, to see the Trust 'in action'.

JH confirmed that the workload for the Trust would increase after the counter was installed as DP would take the lead on several research aspects. It is anticipated that information from the counter will be useful for future fisheries management.

JH confirmed the MSS Nith acoustic receiver had been returned to Marine Scotland. We are awaiting results.

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks.

### **Actions resulting from Trust Meeting No. 34**

Action points	Action by	Action completed
None		

Signed.....  
EPK Weatherall, Chair

Date.....