

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROPRIETORS AND OTHERS OF THE SPEY DISTRICT FISHERY BOARD held at the Craigellachie Hotel, Craigellachie commencing 2.00 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

**Present**

<b>Chairman</b>	Dr Alexander Scott (AS)	Craigellachie Fishings
<b>Board Member</b>	Angus Gordon Lennox (AGL)	Brae Water Trust
<b>Proprietors</b>	Toby Metcalfe (TM)	Crown Estate
	David Greer (DG)	Seafeld Estates
	William Mountain (WM)	Delfur Fishings
<b>Co-Optees</b>	John Trodden (JT)	River Spey Anglers Association
	Grant Mortimer (GM)	Strathspey Angling Improvement Association
<b>In Attendance</b>	Roger Knight (RK)	Director
	Brian Shaw (BS)	Biologist
	Miranda Edwards	Administrator
<b>Proprietors and Public Attendees</b>	Dr Malcolm Newbould (MN)	Wester Elchies
	Graeme Mackenzie (GM)	River Spey Anglers Association
	Crispian Cook (CC)	Ballindalloch Estate
	Dani Morey (DM)	
	Alan Williams (AW)	

**1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Peter Graham, Oliver Russell, Dr CMH Wills, Callum Robertson.

**2. MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

There were no comments as to accuracy and the Minute was proposed by John Trodden and seconded by Grant Mortimer.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTE**

There was none.

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORT AND CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2019**

The Chairman explained that the Annual Report had now been published and copies were available at the meeting. The report was packed with information and highlighted good catch reports for 2019, with more anticipated to come in 2020.

#### **5. FINANCE AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2016**

The Chairman advised that the Board Meeting had approved the accounts earlier in the day and asked if there were any questions pertaining to them.

Question: CC asked whether the debts were short-term or long-term. RK said that they were both and that the long-term debt was as a result of one persistent non-payer of the assessment, which amounted to about £8,000 in the last financial year. The remainder was a result of timing issues, whereby some Final Assessments levied in August 2019 were not received in the Board's bank account until after 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. CC asked what the contracts were for and RK replied that they were for electrofishing, juvenile fish surveys, fish rescues for construction works, A9 Dualling and A96 Dualling. CC asked whether organisations took a long time to pay bills and RK said that this situation was improving.

The accounts were then proposed for adoption by Alan Williams and seconded by David Greer.

#### **6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director presented his report for the year 2019 as a power point presentation and based upon the Annual Report. He asked for any questions:

- a) CC asked if there were additional tree planting projects to those listed in the report.  
RK said there were and with lots of scope for improvement. He also explained that the Spey is much more woody than the Dee, for example.  
SS said that some parts of the catchment are being done for us and some parts the Spey Fishery Board is doing itself.
- b) GM asked if the trees would grow successfully, given elements of climate change, deer etc.  
RK said that deer are monitored and deer fencing put in, where appropriate. The focus was on the correct trees being put in the right places.  
SS added that the Spey Fishery Board is doing more than any other river at the moment.
- c) AW mentioned that the Annual Report suggested that we are content with current levels of water abstraction but hoped that the Spey Fishery Board was still working on this.  
RK assured AW that the Spey Fishery Board is still working on this, in particular with regard to hydro abstractions. One of the greatest threats facing the Spey was that of increased water abstraction.

#### **7. AOCB**

There was none.

There were no more items of competent business and the meeting then closed at 2.30 pm.