

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND FISHERIES TRUST



MEETING TITLE: TRUST ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: Thursday 17th June 2021

Meeting Time: 3.00 pm

MEETING MINUTES *(Draft)*

Chair/Facilitator: Ashe Windham

Minute taker: Jacqui Hamblin

In Attendance

Trustees	Attending
Ashe Windham (AW) Chairman Richard Sankey (RS) Steven McKenzie (SM) Michael Brown (MB) John Green (JG) Robbie Douglas Miller (RDM) from 1540 Ron Boothroyd (RB) Finlay McCulloch (FM)	Keith Williams (KW) Director Sean Robertson (SR) Member
Apologies	Guests

1. Welcome and apologies.

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and there were no apologies received. RDM advised and apologised prior to the meeting that he would be joining later around 1545.

- AW welcomed Ron Boothroyd as a potential new trustee – RB gave a short biography. He is a retired police inspector and was active in both operational duties and the complaints & disciplinary department, latterly in Glasgow. Built a new house and moved in 2012 to Altass near Rosehall. He has a degree in Earth Science, has a love of landscape, the environment and fishing. He likes to get things done, is pretty fit and more than willing to get hands dirty with any task. He was on the Community Council for 6 years. He also served on the Kyle Development Trust, choosing to resign due to conflict of interests regarding Meall Buidhe. He is proud of what he achieved: he liaised with the Falls of Shin contractors and was instrumental in getting broadband more widely installed in the area. His efforts on the Trust were acknowledged, and he was awarded the joint winner of the third sector volunteer of the year. He had planned to go into semi-retirement, however this opportunity arose, and he stated that he has so much interest in what the Trust is doing that he was glad to get involved. He thanked the Trust for asking him to be a trustee. AW asked the Trustees present if they were all

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happy to accept Ron Boothroyd as a trustee. All agreed. RS stated that we are very lucky to have RB on board. RB also acts as a part time ghillie on the Upper Oykel.

3. The minutes from previous meeting of 25th March 2021 were approved.

4. Open Actions B/Fwd.; and matters arising.

No	Action Title	Actions	Owner	Raised	Complete by
1	SANDS	KW Contact local angling clubs, educators, and potential interested parties to determine interest. KW has spoken to local anglers. RS Iain Robertson is taking a more regional approach. <i>Parked due to Covid. Meeting in Ullapool next week. Trying more on a regional basis.</i>	KW	April 2019	Ongoing
2	HERITAGE NETTING PROJECT	SR advised that Development Trust is keen to be partners in the project and take an active role. SR visited the Ness to observe the netting and tagging. SR suspects that for our purposes it will be a combination of sweep netting and the old style. <i>Parked due to COVID. Coble needs work, bailiffs winter work. 2022 project. Short window between March & June. Scientific purpose and delicate balance.</i>	SR	April 2019	Ongoing
3	Governance - New Trustees	Action KW to speak to the development trust about bringing in new trustee. KW It has been hinted at with David Watson, Action KW to firm up. Pick that up again. Trustees' articles of association and drop of. <i>Ron Boothroyd to be approached. Action AW.</i>	AW	March 2021	Ron Boothroyd accepted, and JH is completing paperwork. Completed
4	Shin Habitat project	Hamish Muir Study recommends possible options; modelling, introducing gravel and more water. Action KW ask HM for	SR/KW	September 2019	Ongoing

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		more examples. Action RS broach with SSE and SEPA Action further up the tree. Awaiting result of BCF application. <i>BCF funding application was granted and design process underway.</i>			
5	Carron Radio Tracking – Carron Management Plan	Require more tags & receivers. Remind river workers/anglers on the Carron not to take fish. Action KW project description. KW to provide Carron management plan for review by AW. Arrange proprietors meeting. <i>Produced draft plan, superseded by Riverwoods project. Now up and running got 13 fish tagged so far.</i>	KW	September 2019 March 2021	ASAP
6	Schools Project	The Salmons Journey, lifecycle with Bonar Bridge School and teacher Lisa Mackenzie. Require funding for minibus to take kids to smolt sites. Action SR explore grant funding for minibus. The Trust will fund if not forthcoming. <i>School's project postponed to 2023 due to the maternity leave of key contact. Include Rosehall in future projects.</i>	SR	September 2019	May 2019
7	Migdale Smolt	KW continue to work with Highland Council & Polly Burns of FMS (<i>Polly left, now Charlotte</i>). <i>Document almost ready to go back to HC.</i>	KW	Sep 2020	ASAP
8	Climate Change Presentation	<i>SR to circulate copy of presentation to the Trust.</i>	SR	March 2021	Completed
9	Norwegian Presentation	<i>MB to provide to KW and JH to circulate. MB unable to find original presentation.</i>	MB	March 2021	ASAP
10	Trustee Succession Planning	JH to produce succession planning document for review.	JH	March 2021	Completed
11	Reserves Policy	KW to produce draft reserves policy to include restricted	KW/JH	March 2021	ASAP

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		funds to JMG. <i>Re-visit and base on fixed liabilities.</i>			
12	Tree Planting Strategy	<i>KW & SR to come back to JMG with proposals and ideas.</i>	KW/SR	March 2021	By next JMG meeting
13	Auction 2021	SR to advise on timetable of actions. <i>Now a JH project, to provide Strategy and RAG. RB to assist.</i>	JH	March 2021	June 2021

Item 2 Heritage Netting project. SMK shared his concerns on running this as purely a heritage project and feels it should be promoted as a scientific project. RS advised that during the netting buyout the case was pressed that netting would continue on occasion for scientific fishing. KW advised that it has always been the aim to develop this for scientific purposes but with the additional heritage and the community elements. Needs to be presented correctly as otherwise it may upset some people.

Item 6 Schools Project. SMK advised that as his wife Lisa will be on maternity leave until August 2022 so the spring of 2022 would not work. Move to Spring of 2023 and to include Rosehall Primary School as well.

5. Governance

- a. Reserve's Policy – Revisit this to cover our fixed liabilities expenditure only.

Action KW/JH (8)

- b. Succession planning – JH produced a succession plan paper for review. Key is to find new trustees as we are in danger of losing all our skills at once. **Action ALL (11)** recommend potential trustees to AW for him to approach them.

6. Directors Report was shared prior to meeting. Points raised by exception.

- a) Tirry bank erosion at trapping site.

The far bank has been eroded. We will advise SSE that bank requires reinforcing. SMK advised that the groynes are facing downstream; they should be turned around and this will stop erosion. SMK is happy to come to have a look and advise. **Action SMK/KW (11)**

- b) Annual report on trapping.

RDM - An annual report on trapping is helpful, whilst sending a report to SEPA will allow us to keep the pressure up on the upper Shin mitigation. SR advised that it should be available next week. **Action SR (12)**

- c) SEPA / SSE discussions.

RDM advised he had not had the opportunity to speak to Nathan Critchlow-Watton as he had not returned calls. Therefore, no update. He understands SSE have seen the light and are getting behind proper mitigation on the Shin, starting with the Tirry and Fiag. Have not buttoned down the details yet. KW noted that Richard Fyfe has now retired.

- d) Wind Farm objections & carbon offset.

We have objected to the proposed wind farm at Sallachy by Loch Shin as there has been no meaningful assessment of potential effects to our smolt mitigation activities. The objection to Meall Buidhe wind farm has been maintained as KW

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considered this development to be of high risk and the assessments undertaken to date to be confused at best. No objection was lodged for Garvary wind farm. MB asked if Energy Consults were involved and expressed his concern that applications do not have the appropriate environmental survey data and it is applied retrospectively after planning is given. This is surely wrong.

RDM - Could we use developments as a criterion for riparian zone planting for carbon offset?

RS - We would need to be very careful with this as formal planning constraints are typically issues between landowners and the developer. RDM - could we ask that any carbon offset is used locally in our area? RS - A lot of work being done behind the scenes. We must convince and persuade on riparian tree planting.

RDM – I suggest we ask for it. RS – I understand there is currently no carbon offset in these types of developments: there is no trade off, it is not in the model. KW advised that the Lairg to Meall Buidhe powerline upgrade by SSE requires a carbon offset on forestry removed but it is not specified where this is to be planted. KW put SSE in touch with Alladale. As Riverwoods project develops there may be more opportunity to achieve local offset. SSE pay for tree planting as offset and recompense landowner, including potential carbon offset financial loss.

e) Inveran bridge

RDM asked if we knew yet who owned the Inveran bridge. KW advised that he has spoken to HC again, although they still have no access to property registers. KW will carry on chasing. This is an action item on the Board minutes.

7. Budgets and Finance

- a. 2021-2022 Budget
As per Director report

8. Riverwoods project.

AW – Fishmongers’ Company are excited about this project and have provided funding that has been used to produce desktop studies. Alarming figures at circa £62 million to plant a 20-metre strip either side of the rivers in our catchment. Two-thirds of cost is deer fencing. The JMG has agreed that the Trust will utilise the services of Hugh Chalmers, formerly of the Tweed Forum. He has done a lot of work in the sphere of riparian tree planting. He has returned to live in Bonar Bridge, had planned to travel but, thanks to Covid-19, he has put this on hold. His employment will be initially short-term funded jointly by Fishmongers’ and the Trust. He has already started his feasibility work. Proprietors on the Oykel have been approached in the first instance as things need to be done quickly. This project will keep us busy for the next decade, if not the next 20 years. There is a lot to be done and we need proper Government support. Also we need to convince landowners that it is their best interests to do this.

RS advised that there is a sea change of how this is being approached. RDM in 100% support of this initiative, as is AST and the Missing Salmon Alliance.

FMS can help as they are still seeing forestry design plans which are specifically avoiding riparian zones. Forestry and Land Scotland set the guidelines and we need to influence these guidelines. AW – discussions needed with Scottish Land and Estates. MB - What about eradicating rogue trees that self-germinate. Areas that are not allowed to have commercial species planting are growing naturally, particularly non-indigenous species. Buffer zone is very conservatively managed at present.

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9. Biodiversity Challenge Fund – River Shin.

SR advised that the BCF funding has been confirmed. The design phase has begun by CBEC. We should receive the design by middle of next month. Actual construction will be after negotiation with the landowners. RS advised that he would like sight of the design before going ahead with construction. SMK advised that there are a lot of local contractors who understand our rivers. They must be allowed to tender to avoid some fundamental errors like downstream groynes. AW - We will make sure the plans are closely scrutinised. **Action SR (13)**

10. NEPS & NIPS

NEPS is an electrofishing program done on behalf of Marine Scotland. The grant is usually around £12K per annum. We need the staff available to be able to complete this. Leanne Munro has all the required tickets. NIPS is the National Introgression Project. We will be collecting samples whilst doing NEPS. Asked for the Tirry and Fiag to be included as well as other areas in the upper Shin catchment. This will help with robust design regarding any potential Migdale Smolt Environmental Management Plan. RS asked if we have been told yet how much we will be receiving from NEPS & NIPS. KW, not been advised yet but it will certainly cover the extra staff costs.

11. Auction

AW - Going ahead for 2021. JH to take the lead and RB happy to assist. Everyone to pull strings, approach contacts locally to give lots. SMK suggested some kind of poster for donations as well. **Action JH (9)** to produce.

RDM – In the AST auction someone had knitted a pair of socks, price went up by creating amusement and novelty value.

JG advised he had some ideas and will contact AW to discuss.

MB – Was previously involved with a fishing promotion with Glenmorangie. MB will speak to Balblair distillery in Edderton.

Charismatic Carbon – this is the new buzz phrase.

12. AOCB

RS advised he is in Strathoykel for a couple of months and would like to arrange to meet up with RB.

AW wishes to set a 9-month rolling schedule on meetings and suggested Thursday 24th March 2022 at 5.30pm. This was agreed.

Meeting closed at: 17:16

Date of next meetings:

Thursday 23rd September 2021

Thursday 24th March 2022 at 5.30pm

Open & *New Actions* C/Fwd.

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8	Reserves Policy	KW to produce draft reserves policy to include restricted funds to JMG. <i>Re-visit and base on fixed liabilities only.</i>	KW/JH	March 2021	ASAP
9	Auction 2021	SR to advise on timetable of actions. <i>Now a JH project, to provide strategy and RAG. RB to assist on project. JH to produce poster for fishing huts to encourage anglers to donate.</i>	JH	June 2021	ASAP
10	Succession Planning	<i>Recommend new trustees to approach</i>	All	June 2021	ASAP
11	Tirry Bank erosion	<i>SMK to take a look and advise.</i>	KW/SMK	June 2021	ASAP
12	Trapping Report	<i>SR to provide report on trapping.</i>	SR	June 2021	ASAP
13	CBEC design	<i>SR to provide RS with sight of design before any construction begins.</i>	SR	June 2021	ASAP