

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Forth District Salmon Fishery
Board held in the Royal Hotel Bridge of Allan on 16th December 2013

Present:

Roy Robertson
Ali Dickson
F Howieson
Mrs. F. Simpson
Mike Baillie-Hamilton (Chairman)
Tony Cameron
Dennis Toon
T McKenzie (Clerk)

In attendance:

Patrick Fotheringham
Allan Wells ASFB
Bob Younger Fish Legal

The meeting was not held in open session due to the sensitive nature of items on the agenda:

Item 4. Mr Cameron asked if item 4 on the agenda "report on mediation process" could be considered first. He then briefed board members on a difficult telephone conversation he had had with Mr Les Goodfellow of Stirling Council that morning during which he had been advised that the offer of the Council offices where the meeting had been scheduled was being withdrawn and it could not take place there. He went on to say that Mr Goodfellow had also insisted on a number of preconditions to which Mr Cameron could not agree as they were due to be discussed at that meeting. The meeting venue was quickly rearranged by Mr Howieson.

Following Mr Cameron's report the board considered the matter for some time and it was agreed that Mr Younger of Fish Legal should draft a letter for the clerk to send to the chief executive of Stirling Council outlining the board's position on the matter, pending the outcome of Mr Wells meeting with Mr Goodfellow that Friday. Mrs Simpson expressed her concern that the normal business of the board was being seriously disrupted by this issue

Item 1. Apologies: J. McGarvie.

Mr. Les Goodfellow of Stirling Council declined to attend the meeting.

Item 2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to minor amendment. The clerk agreed to amend these and send a copy to the chairman for signature. Action: clerk.

Item 3. Matters arising..

The position of clerk to the board was discussed briefly and Mr McKenzie said he would act as clerk until the end of April 2014, or earlier if a replacement was found before then, but he could not continue after that date. A remuneration of £1200 per month plus reasonable expenses was agreed.

Mr Baillie Hamilton said that the Superintendent's night vision equipment had been upgraded and is now working satisfactorily.

Item 4a. Auditing the board's accounts.

The clerk agreed to contact the accountants with regards to the cost of preparing fully audited accrued accounts for the board.

Action: Clerk

Item 5. Financial position.

- a. Debtors. The clerk agreed to write to all outstanding debtors regarding unpaid assessments.
Action: Clerk
- b. Budget period 1st February to 30th March. The clerk agreed to draw up an interim budget to cover the period and to submit it to the board for their consideration. Action: Clerk
- c. Donation from board to trust. This issue was discussed at some length and it was unanimously agreed that the trust should continue to receive an annual donation from the board but no figure was agreed. This item to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting. It was agreed that an interim donation of £5000 should be made to the trust to compensate for the extension of the financial year from 12 to 14 months.

Item 6. Report on handover committee.

- a. New clerks duties.
Apart from the clerks statutory duties with respect to maintaining the salmon fishery valuation roll the clerks duties would include attending to all correspondence, dealing with consultations, and all duties required for the efficient running of the board. Financial control will remain with the clerk but the books will be run by Managed Estates Ltd. Arrangements for this to be finalised shortly. The official address of the board will now be 12 Charles Street Dunblane.
- b. Replacement of directors or directors functions.
This was discussed at some length and it was agreed that this should be carried forward to the next meeting.

Item 7. Complaints procedure.

Mr Howieson said he was finalising these and would send them to the clerk for circulation to the board.

Action. Mr Howieson/clerk

Item 8. Governance audit.

This issue was discussed at some length and it was agreed that an audit may not be appropriate at present but should be progressed sometime in the future.

Item 9. Memorandum of understanding between board and trust.

A draft memorandum had been circulated by e-mail to board members and its content was generally agreed by the board. Mr Toon said that this would be discussed at the trust meeting on 18th December and if trust members were also in agreement he would send it to Fish Legal for scrutiny.

Action. Mr Toon.

Item 10. Register of members interests.

Mr Howieson said he would send a draft document to the clerk for circulation to board members.

Action. Mr Howieson/clerk

Item 11. Potential fisheries reassessment for 2015.

The clerk agreed to write to all regional assessors requesting a revaluation of salmon fisheries within the district on the grounds that there were some significant changes with respect to catch returns since last revaluation. He also agreed to request up to date valuation rolls.

Action. Clerk

Item 12. Collection of catch returns.

Due to the heavy administration burden, costs involved, it was agreed that the board would not be collecting catch returns from proprietors for the season past.

Item 13. AOCB.

There was no other competent business and the chairman thanked Mr Fotheringham on behalf of the board for the good work he had done during his time with us.

Item 14. Date of next meeting.

No date was fixed for the next meeting and the clerk will advise board members as soon as a date has been arranged.