

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 17th October 2007 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Sir Michael Thompson (Chairman)	Ivan Lyne (Bodmin Angling Association)
Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Brian Muelaner (Lanhydrock)
Ray Burrows (Bodmin Angling Association)	David Phillips (Lostwithiel)
Bill Eliot (River Co-ordinator)	Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Mike Bryant (Newbridge)	Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)
Paul Eliot (Wainsford)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Roger Furniss (SWRA)	Arthur White (Liskeard)
Alan Hawken (Glynn)	Rob Williams (Riverbed management)
Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)	

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2007 were agreed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

1. Drinkers. The Lamelgate drinkers had been completed and were universally agreed to be an excellent job and Tyson was thanked for his work. The costs would be slightly in excess of the budget because the farmer had not been able to provide a tractor and trailer and these had to be contracted in.
2. NLO. This had been approved by DEFRA and there was now only one. The date of implementation was not known.
3. Fowey Access Agreement. The draft agreement was with Mr Hobba and should be agreed soon. Legal opinion had been sought from ACA.

3. Finance

The Treasurer circulated a summary of the accounts demonstrating income of £590, expenditure of £2,624.91, a deficit of £2,034.91. The opening balance of the account was £28,622.73 and closing balance of £26,587.82. A cheque for £2,361 was expected from the Camel Fisheries Association for the half share of the hatchery costs. The Secretary reported that he hoped to be able to obtain some grant income from Westcountry Rivers Trust for work already carried out in 2006 and 2007.

The deposit account was being set up to ensure maximum benefit for the Association.

RB

The accounts were accepted with thanks.

Bill Eliot reported that the LDAC had agreed to increase its membership fee

by £5 per annum to support of the Fowey and Lynher hatcheries.

4. **Hatchery**

The Secretary tabled a letter received the day before from Paul Eliot saying that he was unwilling to continue running the Wainsford Hatchery. He gave his reasons which mainly related to the lack of support he had received from the Fowey anglers and clubs, the Environment Agency and SWW, and the significant amounts of his personal time spent over the past five years and the needless legal costs incurred through a dispute with the Boconnoc Estate. He said that he was quite willing to let any other person use the facilities free of charge.

Ray said that Paul has not had the support he deserves and that he has been making this point for the past three years. Fowey anglers deserve this abrupt step from Paul because Fowey anglers seem only to want to take fish out and not help with putting fish back into the river. He was pleased to say that the Camel anglers and clubs were not included in Paul's comments about lack of support.

The Chairman reminded members that Paul has given plenty of warning and it should be noted that Paul has greater success than many other hatcheries, whether run on a voluntary basis or by the Environment Agency.

The Secretary said that he could find someone to run the hatchery but this will require funding which may be between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on other work that could be undertaken in support of the catchment. It was calculated that this would require an annual contribution of about £25 per angler on both the Fowey and the Camel.

It was agreed that the Secretary should try to see what possibilities there were of running the hatchery both in the short term for 2007/8 and in the longer term thereafter. He would see Paul and also meet Justin Ruscombe King at Boscastle who has been acting as a professional advisor and practitioner in support of the hatchery.

JE

It was also agreed that the club and syndicate representatives should inform their members of the problem created by Paul's withdrawal for the hatchery, consider both the practical and financial implications, recognising the need for sustainability and not using funds which had previously been granted for capital projects, and bring solutions back to a meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association committee to be held on 14th November.

All

5. **Redds**

The Secretary reported that six new spawning beds had been created at Maidenwell at the top of the Warleggan. Mike Bryant was putting together a DVD showing the work. A similar project at Allensford on the Stannon Stream in the Camel catchment had received a conservation award from the Wild Trout Trust.

6. **Draynes Valley Project**

The Secretary presented a report from Robbie Williams. 15 anglers had spent 156 hours clearing the river from Lamelgate to Wimalford Bridge. Some time had been lost early in the season on account of high river levels. Hemlock, willow and debris dams were removed, sand banks were cleared and compacted gravels cleaned.

There seems to be less sand than in previous years. It is expected that fish will use these cleaned areas this season.

Robbie and his team were thanked for their efforts and it was agreed that £100 should be allocated to support a river walk and suitable refreshment for those who carried out the work.

JE

7. **Park and Stannon Pits**

The Secretary reported that Tyson and he had made the presentation to the Environment Agency on 25th July. There had not been any significant comment and paper had then been sent to Neil Whiter at SWW.

A meeting was being held in two days time with Hyder Consulting and May Gurney at Stannon and it was expected that agreements would be reached about which elements of the work would be undertaken by SWW and which by the river associations. This would then be able to be used in future discussions about the development of Park Pit.

8. **Voluntary restraint**

It was noted that the approval by DEFRA of the NLO meant that the current voluntary restraints were required to be adhered to by all anglers.

A short discussion ensued about sea trout, and it was felt that some of the sea trout reported by the counter figures may be small salmon. It was also felt that the amount of sea trout angling effort had reduced. The low catch figures seem to correlate with the low water levels during the sea trout season. The total sea trout run seems to be about 2,000 fish lower than last year, and this position is replicated on the Camel.

9. **Future meetings**

The next Fowey Rivers Association committee meeting will be held at 7.30 on Wednesday 14th November to consider the future of the hatchery. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th January 2008