

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association  
was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Lostwithiel Social Club

**Present**

Bill Smith (Chairman)	Dave Johns (LDAC)
Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Neville Tolman (Lanhydrock)
Anthony Fortescue (President)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Stuart Fullwood (BAA)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)
Richard Grieve (Hatchery)	Jon Evans (secretary)

**Apologies**

Eoin Donnellon (Website)	Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)
Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)	Ivan Lyne (BAA)
Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)	John Pearce (Bodmin AA)
Chris Janes (Riverbed management)	Trevor Sobey (LDAC)

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were agreed.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

1. AGM. The Chairman thanked the President for the use of Boconnoc for the AGM which had been a most successful evening. He suggested that the keynote speaker for the 2012 AGM should be Gary Champion and this was agreed.
2. Newsletter. It was agreed that the Newsletter should be published in December 2011 so that it could be sent out with the club AGM papers.

**3. Finance**

The Treasurer tabled the current budget statement of expenditure from April 2011. This showed expenditure to date of £5384 on the hatchery with commitments of £5000 on the fry survey, £500 on the volunteer expenses and £58 for fry food. Income had been £25 from donations. Further income was expected from LDAC and RAL. Rob agreed to discuss LDAC income with Trevor Sobey and Jon said that the RAL income would be likely to be around £400.

Current balances are £10,553 on deposit and £11,432 on current account less uncleared cheques of £1744 giving an overall balance of £20,241.

The officers had authorised WRT to proceed with the 2011 survey, and had agreed that the volunteer expenses scheme at £5 per vehicle per trip should be implemented for the Draynes work and the hatchery with effect from April 2011. Casual volunteers would not be reimbursed but anyone doing more than three sessions per season would be. The committee approved both schemes and agreed that the budget ceiling for volunteer payments should be £1,000 for 2011.

**4. Hatchery**

RG gave an update on the hatchery.

Since the last committee meeting in January, Irene Eliot had given notice, and the hatchery would close in September 2011. The final season at Wainsford had been very successful and 50,000 Fowey fish and 50,000 Camel fish had been or would be stocked out.

The Secretary raised the question of whether the St Neot fish needed to be fin clipped. No absolute assurance had yet been received from SWW or the EA that wild fish did not spawn above Pengelly Bridge and evidence would continue to be needed that the ST Neot could not survive as a viable tributary without hatchery stocking. It was agreed that until this assurance had been received, the programme of clipping should continue but that the Secretary should try to obtain suitable assurances before August 2<sup>nd</sup> which is the date set aside for clipping 8,000 fish.

JE

It was agreed that Richard and the team of volunteers had done a magnificent job and they should all be congratulated.

#### 5. **New hatchery location.**

Richard reported that Justin had spent many hours looking for sites suitable for a new hatchery. The Colliford site could not be guaranteed and there was some doubt about water quality. However, there did appear to be a suitable site at Boconnoc between the Deer Park and Couch's Mill on the River Lerryn. The President said that he would be very willing for the FRA to further investigate the use of this site although he had not yet discussed the possibility with his Land Agent.

It was agreed that the hatchery team should start this process as soon as possible and develop a site for the River Fowey. If the Camel wanted to join in the scheme, it would have to be on a full economic cost and volunteer parity basis. AF agreed that an initial visit could take place on 26<sup>th</sup> July. He hoped to be available but the visit should take place even if he was unavailable.

It was agreed that this was a very generous offer and the President was thanked for his support.

#### 6. **Hawkstor**

It was noted that the proposal to use Hawkstor Lake as a fish farm was continuing. Both Roger Furniss and Tyson Jackson had managed the FRA campaign with great skill and dedication, ably supported by Rob Williams and Eoin Donnellon. The situation was not yet concluded but it did seem that the FRA position of the applicant needing both planning permission and an Environmental Impact Assessment even for a trial would be vindicated although no definite decisions had yet been taken either by Cornwall Council or the Environment Agency.

It was noted that Fish Legal had not yet been brought into the campaign but this would be done if the situation required it.

Roger and Tyson were thanked for their excellent work.

**7. Draynes Valley**

It was noted that the Draynes work had started four weeks ago. The river is in excellent heart and fry/parr numbers are very high. The gravels are looking very clean. Up to ten people had been turning up each Sunday and some of these are new volunteers. This had lead to an unfortunate incident with Rosemary Parkyn from Wimalford which demonstrated the need to ensure both better communications with local riparians and standards for managing debris removed from the river.

**8. Fry Index Survey**

The fry index survey has been commissioned, although there are still some questions to be answered about methodology. The areas not surveyed last year will be credited to the FRA for the 2011 survey. Site access is being clarified.

The money will not be handed over to WRT until the survey is completed.

**9. Walkover Surveys**

The walkover surveys are being done but much of this will not get going until August. Cornwall Wildlife Trust has undertaken to do the work on the Warleggan. Neville agreed to bring the Lanhydrock water into the survey, given the survey work he has already done. Training will be provided to ensure consistency of recording.

BS/NT

**10. Website**

It was agreed that the website [www.riverfowey.org](http://www.riverfowey.org) was good and being accessed fairly frequently. It was also agreed that a logo for the Association and the website would be beneficial.

ED/RG

**11. Gauge and webcam**

Rob Williams said that Irene Eliot was uneasy about locating the gauge on the Wainsford side of the river. Anthony agreed that the gauge could be located on the opposite bank on Boconnoc land. This would be ideal if the camera could remain on the Wainsford side and be serviced from Wainsford. Jon agreed to get the gauge made by Signature Signs in Wadebridge, based on, and able to be calibrated with, the Newbridge gauge.

JE

**12. Sanctuary water.**

The Chairman said that he had received a letter from Bill Eliot suggesting that the FRA should extend the sanctuary areas particularly on the tributaries. It was noted that the FRA was not a corporate body and as such could not arrange contracts. The existing sanctuary areas were held in the names of LDAC Trustees. It was also felt that much of the tributary water was not only unfished but also unfishable and inaccessible. It was therefore agreed not to proceed with this unless the walkover surveys identified good subject areas for sanctuary water to be purchased or rented.

13. **FFRG meeting**

There had been a FFRG meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 but no report was available for the FRA. The Secretary will get copies of the minutes to clarify, in particular, the SWW position with regard to the Solomons report.

JE

14. **SWRA**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The only significant items related to canoeing and hydro schemes.

15. **Catchment Manager**

The Chairman reported that the officers had considered the proposition that Richard Grieve should be asked to undertake an extended range of work. This would encompass the winding down and re-establishing of the hatchery and other tasks such as creating a record of riparian ownership throughout the whole catchment, coordinating the fry index and walkover surveys, developing the River Plan, liaison with outside agencies, etc.

It was proposed that Richard should be contracted for three days per week at a cost of £12,000 for the year with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011. This would enable the Association to develop in a coordinated way, and the hatchery to be set up at a new site, and when it was operating, Richard would revert to the role of hatchery manager.

The proposition was agreed.

16. **Dates of 2011 and 2012 meetings**

Committee	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2011
Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
AGM	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2012