

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association  
was held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at Lostwithiel Social Club

**Present**

Roger Furniss (Chairman)	Ivan Lyne (BAA)
Paul Jordan (Treasurer)	John Tisdale (Treverbryn)
Chris Bryant (LDAC)	David White (LDAC)
Chris Janes (RFC and Riverbed management)	Jon Evans (secretary)

**Apologies**

Roger Brake (RFC)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)
Bill Smith	

**In attendance**

Giles Rickard (WRT)	Mick Smith (LDAC)
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1. **Chairman**

In Bill Smith's absence, it was proposed and agreed that Roger Furniss should take the chair for the meeting.

2. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Mick Smith, a member of LDAC and a resident of the Draynes Valley.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were agreed subject to correcting 6.2, replacing sties with sites.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

5. **Finance**

The Treasurer's report had been distributed. He said that there had been no income during the quarter and expenditure of £213.00 to Angling Trust and a donation of £2,600 to WRT. The balances were £1,807 in the Association account and £16,249 in the Company account. An application would shortly be made to SWW for reimbursement of eligible expenditure.

PJ

It was agreed that the accounts to date should be noted.

It was also reported that tax accountants had been appointed by the company to compile the statutory annual financial accounts and corporation tax return at a cost of £500 plus VAT

6. **FRA 2014 work programme**

The Chairman reported that he and Giles had reviewed and revised the programme on 1st October. The revised programme had been distributed to members.

1. The survey work had shown that there were a number of areas that were sub-

optimal for salmon.

- a. Trenant Stream which could be down to poor spawning in the perimeter leat and to sand incursion from the track below the outfall. The Park Stannon Group had reserved funds for improvements in the Trenant but this work had been delayed on account of SWW work in preparation for licence renewal in 2016.
  - b. Warleggan, which had been identified in the APEM report as being in need of significant salmon restoration. The details can be agreed when the overall results are available.
2. The survey would shortly be completed and the results should be combined with the EA quantitative information. The final report would be available before Christmas. GR
3. Draynes.
- a. Gravels. Chris had spent the past three Sundays at Draynes clearing fallen trees which were holding sand and hemlock in their roots.
  - b. Possible MIREs activity at Blackadon/Codda was awaiting PR14 approval from OFWAT.
  - c. Trezelland ditch to be referred to next FFRG meeting
  - d. Hemlock removal from Bulland needs action by FRA volunteers in 2015.
4. Trenant stream. Instream structures, funding agreed by SWW for Park Stannon Group, still awaiting go-ahead from SWW. JE  
Kate Hills
5. Warleggan. Plans for remediation should be developed for 2015. RF/GR
6. Cardinham/Ladyvale. Giles said that he had met John Ebsary and agreed designs with him. Appropriate consents were being applied for and funding was being sought from the European Fisheries Fund. It was agreed that if additional FRA funding was required, this could be considered at a meeting held via email. CJ suggested that a pre-diversion baffle could help at low flows. GR agreed that this could be retro fitted. GR
7. The St Neot would benefit from regular walk up to look for trash dams particularly between Carnglaze and Pengelly. This would best be undertaken by FRA volunteers, if available. CJ/JE

CJ said that there were places at Draynes where the road is in danger of crumbling into the river. It was agreed that there was potentially a major risk to the health and integrity of the river. An approach should be made to Steve Blatchford at Cornwall Council offices in Bodmin on grounds that there was significant risk of a major traffic incident which could lead to unacceptable pollution e.g. a diesel tanker. Remedial work would be supported by local residents. JE

It was agreed that the January 2015 meeting should consider underperforming areas particularly for salmon. GR JE

## 7. CEFAS/IFCA

The SWRA paper had been circulated to members.

RF reported that CEFAS seemed determined to get the scheme implemented. A meeting had been held with representatives of CEFAS, Crown Estates and the FRA. Many things emerged including an interesting interpretation of Scottish sea lice numbers and impacts, the change from a pilot study to a demonstration project, and an increase in the size of the project from 100 tonnes to 1,000 tonnes annually.

It is clear that the regulatory bodies (eg Defra, Marine Management Organisation, Cornwall IFCA, Cornwall Council, Natural England) are just waiting for formal permitting applications. The promised 'Stakeholder Group' will not be formed until the Commercial Partner is chosen.

In view of the importance of sea lice infestation, Simon Toms will be asked to use the Gunnislake trap to monitor the incidence.

RF

The public relations campaign was in full force but there remains one further possible step which is engagement of HRH Prince of Wales, a known conservationist. This will be discussed with Orri Vigfusson.

RF

Roger was thanked for his report and it was agreed that the FRA needed to be kept fully aware of progress.

RF

## 8. **Cornwall IFCA.**

John Tisdale reported on the most recent Cornwall IFCA meeting.

The events at the meeting seemed to suggest that the IFCA was totally dysfunctional. The required rotation of the chairman was overcome by changing the rules of rotation, the IFCA had apparently breached public sector appointment rules in the appointment of the new chief officer, and the DEFRA advice about responsibilities, including conservation, had been ignored, the only IFCA in the UK to do this.

JT will aim to be at the next meeting.

## 9. **Report from WRT**

Giles reported on WRT actions and progress.

1. Juvenile salmon numbers seemed to be low particularly in the lower part of the river. This might be due to the high flows in February which would be likely to deplete the numbers of freshly emerged salmon fry. There also appeared to be lower adult numbers
2. The numbers of juveniles in the tributaries seemed to be better although there appear to be very low numbers around Pengelly and none further upstream on the St Neot
3. Trout numbers in smaller streams appeared healthy.
4. The solutions to the salmon decline should be addressed at the January meeting when the EA figures should have been incorporated into the WRT ones. There would be likely to be proposals to continue the coppicing programme particularly in the Warleggan once the Lewarne programme was completed.

## 10. **FFRG**

It was hoped that when the next FFRG meeting was held in late November, it would be possible to confirm the OFWAT decisions and the 2015 development programme could be put together.

## 11. **SWRA**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting to be held on the following Monday.

Items to be discussed included

1. CEFAS proposed fish farm
2. Abstraction review
3. WFD
4. Reports from Rivers. The report from the Fowey would say that to date salmon catches had been poor, sea trout catches moderate and the numbers of sea lice significantly more than usual. Early redds were being cut in the Draynes.

**12. Restormel counter**

Distribution of the counter figures had been reinstated but the latest set of data was to the end of July.

**13. Newsletter**

It was agreed that the items for the newsletter would include

1. Chairman's introduction – BS
2. Treasurer and finance – PJ
3. CEFAS – RF
4. Five year fry surveys report – GR
5. FFRG, OFWAT and SWW - ?Glenis Pewsey
6. SWRA – RF

The copy deadline would be the beginning of December to enable LDAC AGM papers to be sent out. The preferred word content is 450 per page, less if photographs are included.

**14. Management plan for Cornwall rivers**

Chris suggested that the limited pool of volunteers, many of whom were working on both the Camel and the Fowey, should be compiled to optimise the use of a scarce resource. This would be made easier once the CFA had been reconstituted.

**15. Trout and Salmon reports**

RF said that he had not yet had a reply from Andrew Flitcroft about the operational conditions for the monthly Trout and Salmon reports.

**16. Website**

JE reported that the operation of the website had transferred from Eoin Donnellan to Richard Grieve. It was suggested that the cost could be reduced if one of the free hosting companies such as Jimdoo was to be used. Richard was thanked for taking this on and Eoin was thanked for having managed it for the past four years.

JE

**17. Dates of 2015 meetings**

Committee	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2015
AGM	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2015
Committee	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015