

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 21st October 2015 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)

Paul Jordan (Treasurer)

Chris Bryant (LDAC)

Ivan Lyne (BAA)

Roger Furniss (SWRA/Glynn)

Jon Evans (secretary)

Chris Janes (Riverbed management)

Apologies

Roger Brake (Restormel)

David White (LDAC)

John Tisdale (Treverbyn)

Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)

In attendance

Giles Rickard (WRT)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2015

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th July 2015 were agreed.

2. Matters arising

1. Trenant Stream

Giles reported that he had completed the surveys on the Trenant Stream. Results had shown fair numbers but changes in flows at certain points might improve juvenile numbers. A report had been sent to Kate Stokes for the Park Stannon Group meeting to be held on 12th November.

2. Ladyvale Bridge.

The bridge work was finished at the end of September and future survey results should show improved fish passage. The Forestry Commission would maintain the bridge and the brash traps in late summer each year.

3. Trezelland Ditch

Bill and Paul had been to Trezelland. It was very overgrown and it appeared that any problem might have been minimised by willow growth. Photos had been taken and would be sent to Rob Wood at the EA. Giles said that he thought he also had photographs.

4. Walkover surveys. Chris Janes said that the walkovers that he and Chris Bryant had planned to do had not yet taken place. He was also concerned that the working parties on the Draynes had no organiser since Rob was involved in other things. Paul said that he would approach the LDAC Committee to try to identify a new resource to help reinvigorate this effort.

5. Bill reported that the £250 donation to NASF had been acknowledged by Orri Vigfusson. He hoped the Association would be able to donate a similar amount in 2016. This would support the NLO review in 2017.

PJ

BS PJ

3. **Financial report**

The Treasurer spoke to the 3rd quarter paper sent out with the agenda.

He said that the Association had £13,500 in the bank (reduced from £21,200 three months previously) due to by payment of further loans to the FRA Company amounting to £7,500; these funds were to be used to pay outstanding invoices to WRT (Ladyvale Bridge and fry survey work).

Restormel Fishing Club was thanked for the donation of £310.

The company account has been used to settle WRT invoices and the annual subscription to Angling Trust. The net effect is that the current account balance is £142.

The sum of £7,600 had now been claimed from SWW and we are awaiting payment.

The company's 2014/15 accounts have been sent to Keen Dicey Grover for compilation of the annual accounts and corporation tax return for HMRC.

The financial situation is currently manageable but it will be essential to increase income fairly soon if the financial situation is to remain acceptable. Discussions are continuing within FFRG to try to bring index linking of the mitigation payments into the equation as is the case for the Exe. The future mitigation payments will be £5,000 from the original public enquiry plus the hatchery payments from 2015 for five years.

PJ

The Treasurer's report was noted.

4. **Catch limits**

A paper setting out suggested revised catch limits had been circulated.

Chris Janes said that he felt that limits for sea trout should not be changed while the counter figures show a healthy sea trout run. Roger said that anglers needed to be able to show their concern for fish stocks in advance of the NLO review in 2017.

Following discussions a formal proposal was made by the Officers and the Committee agreed (with one abstention; C Bryant) that the FRA would publish the revised recommended guidelines on the website and that Clubs would consider their implementation on a voluntary or mandatory basis. The recommended guidelines would also be published in the annual newsletter.

5. **Park Stannon Group**

Jon said that the planned Park Stannon meeting had been deferred until 12th November

6. **Voluntary bailiff scheme**

It was noted that the Angling Trust proposal for a voluntary bailiff scheme was being piloted on the Exe and the Axe. It was agreed that this should be discussed by the clubs who would be the ones who would provide the volunteer bailiffs.

7. **FRRG report from meeting held on 1st October 2015**

At the 1st October meeting significant progress had been achieved.

1. The PR14 timeline was confirmed
2. Ten restoration schemes to be undertaken on the St Neot over five years
3. Research into modification of the flows in the St Neot based on a hydro ecological study being carried out by APEM who had undertaken similar studies on the St Neot before.
4. The construction of the hatchery by re-using the old hatchery at Colliford
5. The letter of intent agreeing that the FRA should run the hatchery had been received from SWW and would be accepted by the FRAL. This placed significant responsibility on the directors to achieve the target of 40,000 fish
6. A letter of intent would be sent to Richard Grieve as the preferred hatchery manager.
7. Further discussion is being held to try to get index linking of the £5,000 per annum mitigation payment. The Exe Association has managed this.

The next FRRG meeting will be held in January 2016

8. **SWRA**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting held on 20th October.

The principal item had been Net buyouts. This remained the SWRA first priority as well as achieving reduced NLOs on all rivers. The introduction of IFCA byelaws could see the end of all estuarial netting which would help reduce by-catch of salmonids. Simon Toms help has been invaluable and the current Secretary of State is much more knowledgeable than his predecessors.

Other items discussed included the additional funding available under WFD. This should bring smaller abstractions up to standard. Having specific articles published in the Western Morning News would improve public information.

There was a raft of reports from WRT concentrating on Catchment Restoration Fund projects including weir removal, eel passes, coppicing and gravel improvement schemes, fencing projects, farm reports, wetland restoration projects alongside the routine semi quantitative surveys.

9. **River report**

There were no reports of significant catches on the river and the counter figures showed good sea trout numbers. Some fish were caught after rain but the current dry spell was not helping. Some sea trout had come off but there was a seeming reduction in night fishing.

10. **2016 newsletter**

Newsletter items agreed were

1. Chairman introduction	BS
2. Hatchery development	JE/RF
3. Netting	RF
4. Working parties and the need for volunteers	JE/CJ/RF
5. A WRT project (Ladyvale)	GR
6. Conservation limits	PJ
7. SWRA	RF
8. Finance	PJ

The copy deadline would be first week of December – to allow for the newsletter to be printed and distributed with other Clubs' correspondence before Christmas. The maximum article size would be 350 words or less with pictures/diagrams (preferable)

11. **Dates of future meetings**

Committee	20 th January 2016
AGM	13 th April 2016
Committee	20 th July 2016
Committee	19 th October 2016