

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association  
was held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Lostwithiel Social Club

**Present**

Dr Bill Smith (Chairman)	Paul Jordan (Treasurer)
Chris Janes	David White (LDAC)
Matt L'Estrange (Lanhydrock)	Rob Williams (LDAC)
Ivan Lyne (BAA)	Jon Evans (Secretary)

**In attendance**

Giles Rickard (WRT)

**Apologies**

Roger Furniss (Glynn)	John Tisdale (Treverbyn)
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**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed.

**2. Matters arising**

It was agreed that the CIFCA should be considered at the January 2018 meeting when John Tisdale was present.

**3. Accounts to September 2017**

The Treasurer introduced his report on the position to September 2017. He said that the FRA account balance was £21,200. The SWW payment for the first part of the Fry Survey had been agreed but not yet received. Giles confirmed that the WRT costs should reduce as the use of interns increased. SWW was still retaining a FFRG balance of £3,076. Expenditure commitments, recoverable from SWW, were £2,500, or more depending on the inflation uplift, for the Draynes sanctuary five year rents.

The hatchery had been a great success and the financial outcome was a small underspend (1.8%). The latest quarter's SWW hatchery payment would be received in due time.

The Chairman reported that the ongoing hatchery costs could not be included in the PR19 negotiations because only new projects were admissible. However, SWW had agreed to cover the ongoing costs from current expenditure plus a smaller sum for further St Neot restoration programmes. Future financial requirements depended on the success achieved by SWW in the PR19 negotiations. Specifically we need funding for the pipeline extension for the pumped storage scheme (which would modify the flow regime in the St Neot stream) and the 2017 NLO. This list would need to be confirmed through the FFRG. There was still uncertainty about the NLO renewal but Simon Toms would be managing this with SWW funding either the buyout and a zero NLO or ongoing annual payments.

The accounts were noted and the Treasurer was thanked for his presentation.

#### 4. **Hatchery report**

The hatchery report had been circulated and in Roger Furniss' absence the Secretary gave his report.

27,000 fish had been stocked at 19 locations in the St Neot. A proportion had been fin clipped to be able to monitor the potential problem of not using returning hatchery fish in future hatchery programmes.

In compliance with the Stocking Plan the annual review of the hatchery would take place on the following day and the hatchery lead (RF) and the Chairman and Secretary would represent the FRA as would the hatchery manager (RG)

It was agreed that the hatchery had been an unqualified success and Richard and his team of volunteers should be thanked for their sterling efforts.

#### 5. **EA SPA consultation**

The Secretary reported that the FRA contribution to the SPA consultation had been submitted before the closing date. It had been acknowledged and it was agreed that Roger Furniss, who had undertaken the work on our behalf should be thanked for his efforts.

JE

#### 6. **Water for growth**

The Chairman reported on the very useful WRT meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Through the project we are planning to take forward fish passage design options at Parkway Bridge, and assess potential options at Glynn (lower Cardinham Water), Kilham (Ashford) and Treverbyn where agreed with the landowner. An extensive coppicing programme was in progress. Help had been promised with the website. A lance had been promised which should help with gravel loosening on the Draynes. The trash dam on the Cardinham and the fallen beech tree had been removed by Forestry Commission staff.

#### 7. **FFRG meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> September**

A FFRG meeting had been held on 7<sup>th</sup> September and had proved most helpful. SWW representatives said that because PR19 did not permit the continuation of existing programmes, SWW had agreed to fund the next five years of hatchery work and a limited programme of rehabilitation work on the St Neot. Although not specifically discussed it would be essential that the funding was index linked.

Simon Toms said he had arranged a special review meeting to ensure FRA compliance with the Stocking Plan. The agenda would comprise the Fixed Engine Order for the trap at the St Neot Junction, the Stocking Permit, the possibility of a smolt trap, and genetic marking to ensure genetic diversity of hatchery broodstock and progeny.

The PR19 programme would include preparatory work on the pipeline. It was necessary to ensure use of the water bank and artificial spates to encourage fish to run up the St Neot.

The NLO was discussed and the FRA pressed for a preferred option of a net buyout and zero

8. **NLO.  
WRT**

Giles gave a very helpful interim survey report in advance of his final report which is due just before Christmas. Overall, salmon numbers were slightly down on 2016 but the results were not disastrous, and certainly not to be compared with the Camel.

A reasonable number of juvenile salmon had been found throughout the system including a couple as far up as Harrowbridge. Grade B numbers had been found at Doublebois, Rivermead, Respryn and Restormel. Salmon have also been found just below Siblyback in a separate study for SWW. No fish had been detected in the Cardinham and the trash dam was considered to be the cause. Lewarne had been included for the first time and fish had been found in a riffle by the car park.

Giles was thanked for his report.

9. **AGM**

It was agreed that the AGM should be held at Boconnoc if possible on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Secretary agreed to ask Elizabeth Fortescue. It was hoped that a speaker from the EA could speak about the Five point approach. Alternatively, Ian MacCarthy might be persuaded to do it.

JE  
BS  
PJ

10. **2018 Newsletter**

It was agreed that the deadline for copy for the 2018 Newsletter should be the end of November 2017. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary would provide their usual input. Roger Furniss would be asked to do something about the hatchery. Giles said he would speak to Ben Gallant about a piece based on W4G. David said he would aim to produce a piece based on Stephen Dean fishing.

JE

11. **SWRA meetings**

It was agreed to continue membership of SWRA for a further year but at the reduced subscription rate. It was noted that since RF had retired, the value of membership was questionable.

12. **Rewarding hatchery and Draynes volunteers.**

It was agreed that funds should be made available to provide for a lunch at the Halfway House at £20 per head for up to 20 people. Rob would make the arrangements.

PJ  
RW

13. **Facebook**

It was agreed that it would be very helpful if a FRA Facebook could be set up to enable followers to be made aware of activities such as work parties.

14. **Sanctuary agreements**

The Treasurer said he was finalising the paperwork for the sanctuary agreements. These

needed to be taken round to all participating landlords by Rob Williams and Jon Hake. It was hoped particularly to reintroduce Carkeet into the group of sanctuary participants.

**15. River reports**

It was agreed that there had been a good salmon run and a reasonable grilse run so far in 2017

**16. 2018 meetings**

Committee	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
AGM	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
Committee	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Committee	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018