

RIVER YTHAN TRUST

Minutes of 5th Annual General Meeting, 8th December 2015.

Location- Haddo Estate Office.

Present.

Mark Andrew (MA)	Alec Paterson (AP)	Dr John Pirie (JP)	Michael Stewart (MS)
Sandy Milne (SM)	Jim Adie (JA)	Anouk Kahanov – Kloppert (AK)	Dr Mark Young (MY)
Charles Wolrige Gordon (CWG)			

Apologies

Richard Macdonald (RM)			

Item	Comment	Action
Chair	MS took the chair and welcomed all present to the 5th AGM of the River Ythan Trust.	
Minutes of the 4 th AGM, 9 th September 2014.	MS asked if the 2013 AGM minutes were accepted as being an accurate record. Minutes were adopted, proposed by MA, seconded by AP. No matters arising.	
Chairman's Report.	MS Read his Chairman's Report for the 2015 AGM. <u>Introduction.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good evening everyone - It is most disappointing that again no government funding whatsoever has been forthcoming via The Rivers and Fisheries Trusts (RAFTS). We pay RAFTS the same annual fee as all other trusts and appear to gain no benefit. If this continues, as seems most likely, we should consider other options for our trust organisation. <u>Bio security Plan//Biosecurity.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding Giant Hogweed (GH) and Japanese Knotweed (JK), we have continued our involvement with the Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers (YBV) and the Formatine Partnership (FP) to carry out spraying of both invasive plant species on the Upper Ythan (Fyvie upstream), unfortunately at this date, no funding has been found to continue in 2016 going forward, although the YBV/FP are looking at options. 	

	<p><u>Bio security Plan//Biosecurity.(Continued.)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The YBV/FP managed to find some funding to spray GH and JK on the lower Ythan (Fyvie downstream) and Tarty Burn – this solely by volunteers - David Brown of the YBV, John Pirie and Alec Paterson of the River Ythan Trust. Funding is available to continue this in 2016, but not thereafter. • Despite the general consensus in late 2014 that there is a need for a single coordinated project to control INN plants throughout Aberdeenshire, unfortunately this has not been achieved. <p><u>Scottish Government Funding Awards via RAFTS.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAFTS are currently working with SNH regarding a funding package for a Heritage Lottery funded INNS control (including North American Mink). However it looks as if we will not be taking part – we cannot do so without being part of a larger grouping – RAFTS have again, not been proactive on our behalf. <p><u>Habitat Surveys</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation regarding completion of the remaining survey work, mainly on the Water of Cruden, Slains Burn and coastal streams (50km) means lack of funding has postponed this exercise Indefinitely – unchanged since the last AGM. <p><u>Obstacles to Fish Migration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problem with the partial obstacle at the abstraction for the Mill of Erick on the Ebrie Burn has finally been modified by the owner – perhaps not absolutely perfect, but a great improvement – fish should now be able to ascend in normal autumn water levels – it has been a long haul, first notified to SEPA in summer 2012. • Our largest project to date, the Haddo Country Park Outfall Fish Passage Improvement Project was completed in late 2014. This was possible through a relatively small amount of funding from Aberdeenshire Council, heavy plant and operator being provided by Inverurie Precast Ltd. free of charge, and involved around 400 man hours of volunteer time. • In 2015 we have surveyed the old fish pass channel on the Keithfield Burn, have derived a plan for easing the problem and have purchased materials to start the job in 2016. 	Action
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	<p><u>Website Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem with the domain name was changed to www.riverythantrust.co.uk sometimes work ok but not always – needs investigation. <p><u>Publicity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A considerable amount of time has been spent researching/dealing with the Wild Fisheries Review/Reform and the Salmon Kill license consultations and getting our views known. Quite a bit of publicity in the local press regarding the Salmon in the Classroom. In the last several weeks the proposed seal haul out site consultation at Newburgh has been a hot topic, our views have been shared with local MSPs and Formartine Councillors and our official response has been submitted. <p><u>Scale Sampling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scale samples for the 2013/14 season were collated, read and the report issued to directors. We do not have scale samples for the 2015 season as yet, but will be pursued with various anglers. <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Salmon in the Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks largely to Sandy Milne, sufficient funding from voluntary donations, we were able to purchase the necessary aquaria, chiller units, filters and pumps to initiate this project in early 2015. Three schools took part, Arnage, Methlick and Udney Green primaries. Following PowerPoint presentations by Mark Young all schools succeeded raising salmon from eyed ova (obtained by Sandy Milne) through the hatching/alevin stage to fed fry stage, after which the children released the small fish into a local stream. This project was very popular with the schools, and one which we expect to repeat with different schools in 2016 despite the very considerable of volunteer time required at around 25 man days. 	<p>Action</p> <p>AP, AK</p> <p>AP</p>
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	<p><u>SEPA and Diffuse Pollution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no update from SEPA when they will commence their Ythan catchment wide survey, originally suggested for 2016/2017. 	
Finance.	<p>Treasurer MA presented a copy of the River Ythan Trust Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He advised that although spending exceeded income for the financial year 2014/15 by £928.00, the accounts to the end of the financial year 30th April 2015 show a healthy bank balance of + £13310.00. • We have sufficient funds to continue with our work for the next few years, but will have to be careful, since all funding is via voluntary donations. • MA asked if there were any queries regarding the accounts, since none were expressed, the accounts were approved subject to certification. 	
Resignation/ Election/ Re-election of Directors.	<p>Director Resignations/Re-elections</p> <p>MS advised that under the Articles of Association, one third of our directors require to resign, but may choose to seek re-election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignations were MA, JP and AP. All wish to seek re-election. • There being no other proposed candidates MA, JP and AP were re-elected as directors. 	
Election of Office Bearers	<p>MS raised the action of election of office bearers and vacated the chair. Nominations and results are shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Chairman - Proposed by MA, seconded by JP, Mike Stewart was elected as Chairman. • Office of Treasurer - Proposed by MS, seconded by CWG, Mark Andrew was elected as Treasurer. • Office of Secretary - Proposed by MA, seconded by MY, Alec Paterson was elected as Secretary. 	
AOCB	<p>Given the concern regarding the costs/benefits of remaining a member of RAFTS, it was decided to contact them to raise the matter.</p> <p>AK advised that she knew a couple of people who might possibly be interested in becoming involved in trust activities – AK to investigate further – AP to assist.</p> <p>There being no other competent business the chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed.</p>	<p>MA, MS, AP.</p> <p>AK, AP.</p>

<p>Date of 2016 AGM</p>	<p>To be advised.</p>	<p>Action AP.</p>
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