

RIVER YTHAN TRUST

Minutes of 4th Annual General Meeting, 9th September 2014.

Location- Haddo Estate Office.

Present.

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

Apologies

Colin Mitchell (CM)			

Item	Comment	Action
Chair	MA took the chair and welcomed all present to the 4th AGM of the River Ythan Trust..	
Minutes of the 3 rd AGM, 19 th August 2013.	MA asked if the 2013 AGM minutes were accepted as being an accurate record. Minutes were adopted, proposed by AP, seconded by JP. No matters arising.	
Chairman's Report.	MA Read the Chairman's Report for the 2014 AGM. <u>Introduction.</u> Good evening everyone. Despite the fact that the River Ythan Trust has not received a penny Scottish Government funding via RAFTS in the last financial year, we continue to make progress with environmental matters using our volunteers, which is most gratifying. One of our founding members, Colin Mitchell, who has now formed roots in Orkney, has decided to stand down – his help in the early years was invaluable. <u>Bio security Plan//Biosecurity.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported at the last AGM that we had no funding or resources to deal with control of Japanese Knotweed or Giant Hogweed on the Ythan. • However during discussions with the Ythan Project Volunteers and the Formartine Partnership in late 2013, they indicated that some funding may be available for the year 2014/15. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eventually a joint project under the heading of the Ythan Project Volunteers was established • To cut a long story short, spraying of Giant Hogweed was carried out in May 2014 on all the affected river and tributaries above Fyvie – spraying was carried using a paid qualified person, assisted by River Ythan Trust volunteers. • Just in the last week the Ythan District Salmon Fishery Board has received a communication from Scottish Natural Heritage regarding INNS plant control – we will pursue this in the hope that funding can be found for continue the INNS plant control for spring and autumn 2015. <p><u>Scottish Government Funding Awards via RAFTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the only funding via RAFTS that is currently a possible is funding to deal with manmade obstacles (SEPA Water Environment Fund) where a national priority has been established; unfortunately none of the obstacles on the Ythan and tributaries meet the requirement – must be a complete obstacle to fish passage. • RAFTS are currently working with SNH regarding a funding package for nationwide INNS control (including North American Mink), but even if successful, will not commence until spring 2016. <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. • Attempts to raise funding from SITA, (landfill site) Cruden Community Council and Buchan Community Council have not been successful. <p><u>Obstacles to Fish Migration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During late autumn/winter debris obstacles were removed/eased on the Bronie Burn and tributaries from Ardlethen up to Bronie Bridge. Funding from the Udney Community Trust helped with a donation to cover expenses. • The old weir on the Bronie Burn at Esslemont and the Bridge of Lewes weir on the Fordoun Burn in Fyvie were surveyed for passability in September 2013 – at the time of the surveys, the Esslemont weir was assessed as being impassable due to low water levels, the Bridge of Lewes weir as being partially passable. 	Action
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Bronie, the Esslemont Weir and the poor bridge apron at Chapelhall need to be fully surveyed in 2014 in order to find a solution to the problems. • The Mill of Elrick obstacle is getting nearer to being solved. SEPA are in detailed discussions with the owner. The owner has now just a very short time to comply with SEPA requirements and open the Ebrrie Burn to fish migration. • The North East Outfall from Haddo Lake on the Kelly Burn has been a serious obstacle for at least 25 years, perhaps longer, but despite many appeals to Aberdeenshire Council has never been improved. However the new Landscape Services Officer has responded to our appeals and a joint River Ythan Trust/Aberdeenshire Council project is now in operation – work is being carried out currently. (September 2014.) <p><u>Website Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently (September 2014) there is difficulty with the website and it is not accessible. • This is due to a problem with the domain name which was set up by Geoffrey Laird – Portch, one of our original directors – we are trying to resolve this matter. <p><u>Publicity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We contacted the Ellon Advertiser on a number of occasions regarding publicity, however many of the points made became overwhelmed with the issue of salmon/sea trout netting and seal issues in the estuary. • WE have items prepared to go on the website, as soon as the website problem is resolved. <p><u>Scale Sampling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishing season was so poor in 2013, that there were very few scales submitted, therefore the scales were not read. These will be included for reading along with 2014 scales. <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Our Fishery Management Plan requires us to try to establish some educational project in the catchment. However this has proved to be very difficult due to lack of funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM has obtained some funding that can be used for a Salmon in the Classroom Project, covering, say two schools. 	Action
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We hope to implement the scheme in the autumn/spring 2014/2015. <p><u>SEPA and Diffuse Pollution</u></p> <p>SEPA were given all our Ythan survey data regarding diffuse pollution over a year ago, however it appears that nothing will happen on the Ythan until 2016/17 at the earliest.</p> <p>Finance.</p> <p>Treasurer MA presented a copy of the River Ythan Trust Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts to the end of the financial year 30th April 2013 show a healthy bank balance of + £15225.29 SM has been very successful in obtaining around £7000.00 of donations in the last financial year from a wide variety of local sources, including wind turbine operators, oil companies, farmers, anglers and a number of supporters. Of the above donations, around £2000.00 was given to support educational projects, such as “Salmon in the Classroom.” The Aberdeen and District Angling Association also gave a generous donation of £2500.00 to support our work. MA asked if there were any queries regarding the accounts, since none were expressed, the accounts were approved subject to certification. <p>Resignation/ Election/ Re-election of Directors.</p> <p>Director Resignations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification of the resignation Colin Mitchell as a director has been received since the last AGM. AP to thank Colin for his efforts on our behalf. <p>Director Resignations/Re-elections</p> <p>MA 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 MY and Charles Wolrige Gordon (CWG). Both wish to seek re-election. MY and CWG re-elected as directors by a unanimous decision. <p>Director Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP proposed that Anouk Kahanov-Kloppert (AK) be elected as a director to fill the current vacancy, seconded by SM. AK elected as a director. 	Action
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Election of Office Bearers	<p>MA raised the action of election of office bearers, results shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Chairman - Proposed by MA, seconded by AP, Mike Stewart was elected as Chairman. • Office of Treasurer - Proposed by AP, seconded by JP, Mark Andrew was elected as Treasurer. • Office of Secretary - Proposed by MA, seconded by JP, Alec Paterson was elected as Secretary. 	Action
AOCB	There being no other competent business the chairman declared the meeting closed.	
Date of 2015 AGM	To be advised.	AP