

**MINUTES OF THE RIVER BRORA DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD  
PROPRIETORS PUBLIC MEETING**

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**Held at Sunrise House, Brora  
On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 11am**

<b>Present</b>		<b>In Attendance</b>	
The Earl Cadogan, Lower Brora North Bank	LC	Neil Wright, Clerk to the Board	NW
Mrs Angela Tyser, Upper Brora and Loch Brora	AT	Martin Livings, Head Bailiff	ML
Martin Janson, South Bank Lower River and Loch Brora	MJ		

<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>Action</b>
	No apologies.	
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019</b>	
	LC welcomed all attendees. The minutes of the previous meeting have been circulated and LC signed a copy as being a true reflection of the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTREST</b>	
	No new interests declared.	
<b>4</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
	Any matters to be addressed during the meeting.	
<b>5</b>	<b>FINANCE UPDATE</b>	
	NW ran through the yearend figures which showed that the Board's expenses for the year were just over £87,500 with the Board collecting £90,820 in assessment to the financial yearend 2021. However, there was just over £13,000 spent on a new van which is allocated to capital. Board reserved were used to purchase the vehicle.  The District Valuer will be looking to review the rateable values from 2023 and the assessment calculation will need to be reviewed.	
<b>6</b>	<b>HEAD BAILIFFS REPORT</b>	
	Martin Livings had previously circulated his report and he has highlighted a few items.  ML noted that the camper vans have been bad again in 2021 but the rubbish left behind seems to have improved. There continues to be issues with access to the river. New signs have made a difference and more signs may have to be considered to help inform campers and river users.	

	<p>The smolt run appeared to be late this year likely due to the cold weather earlier in the year. During the summer water temperatures started to rise but the river was not closed as there we no fish running, the evenings cooled the water down and there was no prolonged high water temperature.</p> <p>ML noted that the van has served a purpose but ideally it would be replaced with a 4x4 when it's due for replacement. The van has been more economical to run but a 4x4 gives more options for both bailiffs when on duty.</p> <p>Due to the increased survey work in the catchment and in part due to the government national electrofishing program it has become apparent that an ATV is required to help with the surveys. ML suggested looking for a good second hand Argo which would be funded from the contract money received from the Scottish government, the Board agreed with this proposal.</p> <p>ML ran over the junior angling initiative. The Board fully supported this initiative and NW suggested £1,000 be made available to aid this, with any profits from the permit money from the town water going towards junior angling or other causes where appropriate, the Board approved this approach.</p> <p>ML has organised an educational day with fly casting and local fishermen will be assisting with the day. The Board via ML are looking to purchase a number of second hand fly rods to loan out to juniors in Brora, with a free permit being given with the rod. The list of juniors is presently 6 but this may grow.</p> <p>ML noted that Donald Cameron a long standing Ghillie on the river had passed away. ML wished to build a bench in his honour and put it on the river. The Board agreed. ML commented that the family had asked for a pool to be named after him, LC responded that this would be tricky as they are already named.</p> <p>ML informed the Board that Graham Sutherland was moving on from the Board but would not be going far, he has taken a position with Gordonbush Estate. NW noted that recruitment for a new bailiff would start shortly and Graham would not finish with the Board until January.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>CONSERVATION POLICY</b>	
	<p>There was no major changes proposed to the policy for 2022, it was proposed that the advised release rate should change to 90% and the sea trout numbers that can be retained should be reduced. Further consideration should be made for the 2023 season.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Fisheries Review &amp; Management Plan</b>	
	<p>Jon Watts's final report and management plan has been circulated to the Board.</p> <p>LC commended the report for its detail and practical advice. NW suggested that planning work and scheduling be progressed in 2022 with the aim of undertaking work on the ground in 2023.</p> <p>NW noted that the main areas to concentrate on were tree planting to create tree shade, to reduce water temperatures and restoration of peat hags which are issuing fine sediment into the river.</p>	

<b>9</b>	<b>Board Structure and Elections</b>	
	A triennial election is due this year with a limited number of proprietors being eligible for election, this is due to the other Fishings not being on the District Valuer rates list. Given the legislation governing DSFB this will have to be reviewed prior to the next revaluation by the District Valuer. This may result in more people being eligible to stand for election in the future.	
<b>10</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	No AOCB.	
<b>11</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	August 2022 at 11am – date to be confirmed.	