

# **RIVER STINCHAR DISTRICT** **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

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## **MINUTES**

of

### **Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors of the River Stinchar District Salmon Fishery Board**

**6 May 2025 at 7:30pm**

**Colmonell Community Hall, 37 Main Street, Colmonell KA26 0RY**

**1. Welcome – Johnny Warrender, Chair (JW)**

**2. Persons Present**

<i>Johnny Warrender (JW)</i>	<i>Benan, Pinmore, Board Member (Chair)</i>
<i>Iain K Clark (IKC)</i>	<i>Gilson Gray LLP (Clerk to the Board)</i>
<i>Gordon Hyslop (GH)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>
<i>Roger Pirrie (RP)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>
<i>Francis Young (FY)</i>	<i>Balnowlart, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs (SB)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>Struan Candlish (SC)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>Jack Warrender (JaW)</i>	<i>Benan, Pinmore</i>
<i>Charlie Coltman (CC)</i>	<i>Holmhead &amp; Pinmore, Daljarrock</i>
<i>Matt Cross (MC)</i>	<i>Director of Carrick Futures</i>
<i>Pamela Dunlop (PD)</i>	<i>Glenginnet, Barr</i>
<i>Douglas Faulds (DF)</i>	
<i>David Irvine (DI)</i>	<i>Old Manse, Barr</i>
<i>Gavin Pitt (GP)</i>	
<i>Derek Smith (DS)</i>	<i>Alton Albany, Barr</i>
<i>Shona Smith (SS)</i>	<i>Alton Albany, Barr</i>
<i>Fiona Warrender (FW)</i>	<i>Benan, Pinmore</i>

**3. Apologies**

*Lord Richard Wellesley*      *Knockdolian, Colmonell, Board Member*

**4. Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Board's good governance obligations, the Board has agreed a Meetings Protocol and Policy on Members Interests. All Board Members present have signed a Declaration and the Board maintains a Register of Relevant Interests, pursuant to Section 46E of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act").

In addition, the Clerk notified those present of the requirements of the Meetings Protocol. It was agreed that those present would each be noted as representing the interests of

their Beat or organisation; and any other additional relevant financial interest should be declared under the 2003 Act. Matt Cross declared that he is a Director of Carrick Futures. No additional interests were declared.

## **5. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors of 18 June 2024 were unanimously approved as follows:

Proposed: GH  
Seconded: RP

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 11 February 2025 were unanimously approved as follows:

Proposed: SB  
Seconded: JW

## **6. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

There were no Matters Arising which would not be dealt with elsewhere during the meeting.

## **7. Draft Annual Report re. the activities of the Board for the year to 5 April 2025**

### **(a) Report from the Chair – JW**

FW read the Report from the Chair on behalf of JW. There were no questions arising.

### **(b) Report from the Clerk to the Board – Iain K Clark, Clerk (IKC)**

IKC apologised for his delay in attending the meeting this evening, due to late printing of the Draft Reports. There were no questions arising from his Report.

### **(c) Report on Fishery Assessments – IKC**

IKC presented the Report. There were no questions arising.

### **(d) Consultation Responses – IKC**

IKC presented the Report. There were no questions arising.

There was a discussion about work to be done at the bridge at Ballantrae. There were reports of contractors discarding building materials into the river. It was noted that main trunk routes are not the responsibility of Ayrshire Roads Alliance. As this is the A77, Amey is the responsible agency. ART did have consultation with them and it was noted that the whole works should have been encased within a curtain. When these reports were made GH and FY went and viewed and couldn't see any evidence of anything being discarded. Also, ART have direct contacts with AMEY. ART advised that, if any such reports are heard again, then let ART know immediately and they will check and contact AMEY directly.

**(e) Good Governance – IKC**

IKC reported on the new Good Governance documentation produced for the Board and provided the Report as required. SB commented that this improvement brought by IKC has been tremendous. The Board welcomed what he had done.

**(f) Code of Practice – IKC**

The updated Code of Practice was presented by IKC. There were no questions arising.

**(g) Scientific Report – Stuart Brabbs, Ayrshire Rivers Trust (SB)**

SB presented their Report. Highlights were:

Electrofishing - Fry numbers are quite considerable up. ART have been electrofishing the same sites and same weeks over the years, so the data is very comparable. It was interesting to note that, like the annual catch returns, the numbers had doubled from last year

It is also apparent that every 4 years there is a bit of a spike.

There is a trend starting to emerge. If one Ayrshire river is increased, they all seem to be increased. This indicates a commonality. However, sea survival seems to be the big problem. The best summary is found on page 17 in the ElectroFishing Report

Hopefully 2025 will see a spike too. ART have seen more fish on the redds last year, so they are hoping for more fry this year.

ART extended an invitation that they are very happy to have people come out electrofishing with them to see and understand what ART do.

Windfarm developments – These have an impact on the catchment. They require monitoring before and after and can affect the headwaters if they cause pollution. ART engage regularly in such monitoring and consultation.

Japanese Knotweed – this is still present in the catchment. There is a £4,000 commitment from the Board to address – not by spraying, but rather by stem injecting, which is much more effective. JW asked if the Japanese Knotweed mapping could be added in to a future version of the Annual Report to show where the work has been done. ART start at the top of affected areas first. ART asked proprietors or any members of the public to let them know if it is spotted and and they will arrange to inject the stems as part of the work being done.

Funding requested from Carrick Futures – Applications have been made for larger scale projects. The deadlines shifted and ART are awaiting confirmation.

Himalayan Balsam – unlike Japanese Knotweed, you can strim it and pull it, but you need to do this before it seeds. ART recommend that you try to deal with it manually, rather than strimming, as it is more effective and does not spread the seed pods. ART encouraged everyone to carry out Himalayan Balsam basing.

River Grading – The River Stinchar will remain a Grade 3 river and is likely to remain so for the future. This means there is compulsory Catch & Release of all Salmon on the river.

New Catch Return App – ART have been developing and trialling a new Catch Return App which it is hoped will be ready to demonstrate at the Annual Public Meeting later this year.

National Park Proposal – ART put in a response to this. They are awaiting to hear further.

Pinmullan Burn – ART were successful in securing a grant funding application for £952.50. The intention is to do this work (treeplanting) as this is one of the important spawning burns. The intention is to provide more tree cover, addressing global warming. ART are already recording water temperatures of around 26 degrees every summer and a temperature at that level is lethal to juvenile Salmon. JW commented that what we are trying to achieve is cool clear water. Benan has done planting with Biosphere funding. JW encouraged Riparian Owners to look at organizations who can provide funding. ART also noted that they have their own tree nursery with a good selection of local grown native trees.

Other Projects - Farmers are concerned about watering their animals. But this causes poaching of the water by cattle and sheep. The Board may be able to help in circumstances where river banks are fenced off and water brought to cattle and sheep by e.g. ART has been building own solar pumps in place + gravity feed systems. ART will work with landowners and the Board, if there are any other proprietors interested in exploring such projects.

Piscivorous Bird Licence – The Board was unsuccessful in securing a Licence. The Board has paid for smolt shepherding each year. And needs to do monthly bird counts. JW commented that he was seeing more birds this year. IKC will put GH and JW in direct contact with Alan Hill, Chair of the River Ayr DSFB, who has helped them secure such a licence.

Pink Salmon – As this year is an odd year, there is an expectation that we may see Pink Salmon on the River Stinchar. If any such salmon are caught, they should be deputed and details provided to ART and FMS and the Clerk.

Rainbow Trout – It seems that there was a 10lb Rainbow Trout caught. These have also been caught in the River Cree and the River Ayr. Dawnfresh had applications in for marine cages at sites around in Bute and Cumbrae, which were opposed. We don't know what the outcome was.

JW thanked ART for all their efforts on the river.

**(h) Electrofishing Report – Struan Candlish, Ayrshire Rivers Trust (SC)**

As detailed above.

**(i) River Watch Scheme – IKC/JW**

IKC presented a short verbal report. It was agreed that this needed to be further discussed in due course. Meantime, FMS have notified ART of a fund that may make bailiffing equipment available to DSFBs and the Board asked ART to liaise with them in this respect.

**(j) Annual Catch Returns – IKC**

IKC presented the Report. There were no questions arising.

**8. Draft Audited Statement of Accounts to 5 April 2025 – IKC**

The Clerk presented the Audited Statement of Accounts to 5 April 2025 which had been prepared by Azets, Chartered Accountants. There were no questions arising. The Meeting unanimously approved the Annual Accounts as follows:

Proposed: RP  
Seconded: FY

**9. Report on Expected Budget – IKC**

IKC presented the Budget based on the level of income and expenditure available. This was already approved at the Board Meeting on 10 February 2025. There were no further questions arising.

**10. The proposed activities of the Board for the next year – SB/SC/IKC**

There was a discussion about the proposed projects, as part of the discussion regarding ART's Report, with the Board approving the expenditure at the Board Meeting on 10 February 2025.

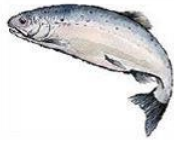
**11. Any Other Business**

At this point, Andrew MacDonald of Green Health briefly attended the meeting (without any previous invitation). As this is a public meeting, he was given the opportunity to speak. He is apparently a UNESCO Biosphere Guide dealing with outdoor mental health and raised the topic of outdoor digital, telescopes and drones. He was directed to make contact with ART or the Clerk, should he wish to discuss further.

GH raised concerns about the closed river mouth due to the winter storms and the amount of gravel in estuary. This is because the river runs parallel to the sea. The concern is that it will prevent the smolts getting out to sea. There are no smolts in any great number present yet. But when gathering, if they are held up, they will be predated on in this lagoon. ART will speak to the Marine Directorate tomorrow about securing the relevant licenses to carry out works. Meantime, Robert Elliot is carrying out smolt shepherding duties, as previously agreed and funded by the Board.

**12. Dates of Next Meetings:**

- (a) Triennial Meeting of Qualified Proprietors: 6 May 2025**
- (b) Annual Public Meeting: Tuesday 3 June 2025, 7pm**



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## **MINUTES**

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### **Triennial Meeting of Qualified Proprietors of the River Stinchar District Salmon Fishery Board**

6 May 2025

**Colmonell Community Hall, 37 Main Street, Colmonell KA26 0RY**

**1. Welcome – Johnny Warrender, Chair (JW)**

**2. Persons Present**

<i>Johnny Warrender (JW)</i>	<i>Benan, Pinmore, Board Member (Chair)</i>
<i>Iain K Clark (IKC)</i>	<i>Gilson Gray LLP (Clerk to the Board)</i>
<i>Gordon Hyslop (GH)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>
<i>Roger Pirrie (RP)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>
<i>Francis Young (FY)</i>	<i>Balnowlart, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs (SB)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
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**3. Apologies**

*Lord Richard Wellesley*      *Knockdolian, Colmonell, Board Member*

Following on immediately from the Annual Meeting (above), the Triennial Meeting proceeded as follows:

**4. Retiral of existing Board**

The existing Board Retired and were thanked for their efforts over the previous period.

**5. Election/Re-election of Board Members for new Board**

The Clerk explained the requirements for the appointment of the new Board.

The Clerk called for Nominees, noting that the existing Board had all indicated willingness to be re-appointed.

The clerk had sought nominations and circulated Mandatory Forms, as required.

Nominations were made for the appointment of Members to the new Board as follows:

Johnny Warrender (**JW**)

Proposed: Pam Dunlop  
Seconded: Gordon Hyslop (**GH**)

Francis Young (**FY**)

Proposed: Roger Pirrie (**RP**)  
Seconded: JW

Lord Richard Wellesley (in absentia) had indicated his willingness to be re-elected – and it was expected that, due to his ill health, someone will attend meetings as a Mandatory

Proposed: JW  
Seconded: RP

There were no further nominations and so these Members were approved unanimously for appointment:

<i>Johnny Warrender</i>	<i>Benan, Pinmore, Board Member</i>
<i>Lord Richard Wellesley</i>	<i>Knockdolian, Colmonell</i>
<i>Francis Young</i>	<i>Balnowlart, Board Member</i>

### **Board Meeting (chaired by IKC, as Clerk)**

#### **6. Election of Convener/Chair**

The Clerk invited the new Board, just appointed, to nominate a Convener/Chair.

Johnny Warrender (**JW**) indicated that he was willing to stand again in this role.

The Meeting unanimously agreed to the appointment of JW as follows:

Proposed: GH  
Seconded: RP

#### **7. Co-option of Representative(s) of Salmon Anglers**

The Clerk called for the nomination of Representative(s) of Salmon Anglers (as the Board are required to co-opt at least one such Representative).

Gordon Hyslop and Roger Pirrie both indicated a willingness to be so Co-Opted.

JW also introduced Pam Dunlop and proposed she be Co-opted.

There were no other nominations made and so these Members were approved unanimously for Co-Option:

<i>Gordon Hyslop (<b>GH</b>)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>
<i>Roger Pirrie (<b>RP</b>)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>
<i>Pamela Dunlop</i>	<i>Glenginnet, Barr (Salmon Angler's Rep)</i>

**8. Next Meeting: Annual Public Meeting: Tuesday 3 June 2025, 7pm**

JW thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was concluded at 21:30.

**Meeting with three River Watch Patrol Coordinators**

IKC then met briefly with the River Watch Patrol Coordinators in order to go through the Agreements and arrange execution of same by them

That meeting lasted from 21:30 to 21:40