

# **RIVER GIRVAN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

## **Stuart Brabbs**

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## **Minute of Meeting of The River Girvan District Salmon Fishery Board At the Carrick Centre, Maybole On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Present:** Jenny Fergusson, Chair  
Pat Hunter Blair  
John Dalrymple Hamilton  
Douglas Waugh  
Graham Scobie  
Tommy Thomson  
Carolyn Bryce, Biologist Ayrshire Rivers Trust  
Jennifer Garland, Administrator Ayrshire Rivers Trust  
The Clerk, Stuart J Brabbs, 2 Crosshill Cottage, Mauchline

### **1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

### **2. Conflict of Interest**

Jenny Fergusson in the Chair, Pat Hunter Blair and John Dalrymple Hamilton all declared a possible conflict of interest as they are not only members of the Board but also proprietors and Pat Hunter Blair is Chair of Ayrshire Rivers Trust.

### **3. Approval of draft Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, having been previously circulated to Board Members were approved. Proposed by Pat Hunter Blair and seconded by Douglas Waugh.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The subject of the gates at Kilkerran was again raised and after discussion it was agreed that Ayrshire Rivers Trust would look into funding for alternative water systems so that the gates can be kept closed and therefore allow the trees to establish. It was suggested that Stuart Brabbs visit the farmer to discuss.

The Chair thanked the new Clerk, Stuart Brabbs for taking on the role of Clerk.

The new website was discussed and all agreed that it looked good. The website will include sections on fish handling and Code of Conduct as it develops. The Clerk added that it would be good to encourage clubs and syndicates to advertise on the website to promote fishing on the river. The lack of anglers on the river was discussed and it

was agreed that the website may help address this. Graham Scobie added that he would highlight the website in Trout & Salmon magazine river reports along with the new Clerk's contact details.

#### **5. Governance – Documents for approval**

The Clerk then went through the various documents that needed approval to keep the Board legal. These had been circulated by email well in advance of the meeting, however some members had not received them. It was agreed that they would review these documents and provide comments back to the Clerk prior to publication.

#### **6. Clerk's Report – Financial update / Debt recovery / Actions to take**

Funds received from Austin Thomson and lodged in new bank account - £8,598.77

The priority for the Clerk is now to pursue payment of arrears.

The head bailiffs phone contract has been changed bringing savings of around £20 a month.

The Clerk suggested that the annual donation to the Trust for their undertakings on behalf of the Board should be paid in two instalments, once some of the arrears have been ingathered the final payment will be paid by the Clerk.

Assessments outstanding from 2024-2025: £4,212.00

Historic Assessments outstanding: £8,717.00

The Clerk raised the proposed route for debt recovery and which was approved by the Board. Initially an introductory letter with a statement of account will be sent requesting payment within 7 days. Following this period any remaining outstanding accounts will have 8% added and given a further 7 days to settle the account before action is taken through debt collectors to recover the outstanding.

It was agreed by a majority that the levy remain at 65p in the £. Four Board Members supported this and one abstained.

The Clerk has contacted the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board seeking clarity on several points. He will also write to ensure that the river is revalued in 2026. There were several points raised regarding appeals and exclusions from the levy and the Clerk will seek to clarify these points with the Assessor's Office once a meeting has been arranged. Pat Hunter Blair would be happy to accompany the Clerk to the meeting.

There was a general discussion about various subjects to be discussed at the Annual Public Meeting (AGM), these included barbless hooks, delaying the start of the fishing season and banning worming in October.

#### **7. Report from Ayrshire Rivers Trust**

See attached report.

#### **8. Date of AGM – November 2025 & Proprietors Meeting – Mid to end June 2026 TBC**

The date of the AGM was confirmed to be Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 8pm at The Carrick Centre, Maybole

## **9. Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

## **10. AOCB**

The Clerk raised the matter of bailiffs and volunteer bailiffs being given more training in order to maintain a high standard of operation and reduce risks to the Board. This was agreed. Due to the cost of the examination the intention is to stagger retraining/assessments over the next few seasons.

The Clerk also raised the possibility of taking out liability insurance for the Board. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

## **11. DONM – same as AGM**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be the Annual Public Meeting (AGM) at 7pm, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

A Triennial Election must be held no later than Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

It was also highlighted that a Proprietors Meeting must be held annually following preparation of the accounts. The date for this meeting is likely to be late May or June, to be confirmed.