



Minutes of Committee Meeting 30 July 2018

1. **Apologies** were received from Huw Jones, Tony Rees and Brian Williams

Members present were Harry Legge-Bourke, John Butts, Jonathan Carthew, Mike Cowburn, Charles de Winton, Helen Harrison and Stewart Matthews. In addition, Rhys Evans, MTAA (Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association) Secretary, attended in support of Gary Davies.

2. **Notes** for this meeting's minutes were taken by Helen Harrison.

AGM Minutes Update

3. **Finances:** The Treasurer confirmed that he had paid £2,000 each to Angling Trust and Fish Legal this year because we had missed paying them in 2017. The 2017 will be placed on the website tomorrow

ACTION: Helen Harrison will place a copy of the 2017 Accounts on the website (Actioned ON 31 JULY 2018).

4. **Bye-laws update:** Representative of North Wales anglers and riparian owners have been making a lot of contact with the Welsh Government and Assembly members about NRW (Natural Resources Wales)'s recommendations on new fishing bye-laws. Lesley Griffiths is still holding back on any action. This is partly due to a major amount of focus on Brexit issues and also the leadership election.

One Committee member raised the matter of giving active support to the North Wales efforts by UFA being named as one of the bodies that support the reasons for North Wales fighting against the NRW bye-law recommendations. The Committee agreed to UFA being named as supporting the efforts.

ACTION: Harry Legge-Bourke will contact Chris White and advise him that he may add UFA's name to the organisations that support their reasoning. (Actioned)

5. **Tidal Lagoon:** As everyone will now know the UK government have decided not to support the current tidal lagoon proposal. It appears the tidal lagoon supporters are now looking at putting together a scheme of some nature that is significantly cheaper. However, this is likely to take some considerable time.
6. **FEBS (fish eating birds):** NRW's Chairman has resigned and 5 board members' time on the Board has come to an end. Therefore, any discussion at Board level on considering the NRW's stance on FEBS is unlikely to happen for a good few months. The NRW representative for the river Usk is still pushing for a pilot scheme to run using the river Usk catchment area and he needs UFA support.

Brecon Anglers has said it would put an application in this year. The Committee agreed that UFA would apply for a license for Spring 2019.

ACTION: An UFA Committee member would apply on UFA's behalf for a license.

7. **DCWW (Dwr Cymru Welsh Water):** DCWW are behind schedule in implementing the technical changes that will enable them to full the abstraction agreement. Although WWDC were supposed to be making substantial releases of water, this has not been seen to happen.



It is short of water and near to having to place a ban on using hosepipes, which is not good for their reputation.

Due to the low river levels and warm temperature of the water, the Committee considered requesting riparian owners and fishing organisations on the river Usk to stop fishing for salmon and trout at least to the end of August, at which time the situation will be re-considered. The Committee agreed to this proposal. It was noted that WUF (Wye and Usk Foundation) had requested riparian owners that use the Passport system to allow WUF to stop selling day tickets for these reasons.

ACTION: Harry Legge-Bourke will communicate with known riparian owners and fishing organisations about the request.

8. **Pollution:** all four incidents are going to court – they were all farming related. Defuse pollution is still a problem..

ACTION: UFA encourages individuals to report any incidents they observe.

9. **River Clean-up:** This did not take place this Spring because UFA was unable to gain support from Abergavenny Canoe Club to undertake the work which is best done from the water. Individual angling organisations and riparian owners continued to gather rubbish independently.

10. **Voluntary Access Agreements (VAA):** Harry Legge-Bourke is prepared to allow access for Abergavenny Canoe Club (ACC) above Crickhowell Bridge on his land, but still need to gain a place where they can get out of the river above the Abergavenny Bridge. The Committee supported the approach of agreeing a trial run with the ACC in the closed fishing season, to encourage the whole year (with provisos) assuming all goes smoothly.

ACTION: Gary Davies agreed to try and find who the owners are and contact them.

11. **Membership:** UFA is not gaining new members, which is a big issue particularly for the future.

12. Any Other Business:

- **Severn Estuary Fishery bye-law recommendations:** Harry Legge-Bourke advised the Committee that Guy Mawle had written a very thorough report letter on the issues relating to the Severn Estuary bye-law recommendation. With permission Harry had used the content to support UFA's consultation response. **ACTION:** Helen Harrison will put the report letter on UFA website (DONE 31 July 2018).
- **'Brecon Bridge to the source' UFA representative:** Harry Legge-Bourke asked if anyone would consider who might be a suitable person to fill this UFA Committee position. **ACTION:** Jonathan Carthew thought he may know someone and will make contact with him. Other Committee members will also consider who may be suitable and follow it up.
- **Wye owner charging canoeists:** concern was raised about the potential negative impact on the access debate that a Wye owner has decided to charge canoeists.
- **Website:** the current website is creaking and it is becoming more important that UFA takes action on replacing it. **ACTION:** Harry Legge-Bourke will ask Huw Jones if the organisation for which he works can help UFA over this matter. Helen Harrison said she would be the contact for the content etc.



- **New Chairman:** Harry Legge-Bourke advised the Committee that he will stand down from being the UFA Chairman at the latest before the next AGM. **ACTION:** Committee members need to consider who may become the new Chairman.
- **Dates for the diary:** **ACTION:** Harry Legge-Bourke will circulate possible dates for the next Committee meeting. This meeting will be the one at which preparation takes place for the AGM. In addition, he will suggest possible dates for the AGM. The AGM will take place at Gliffaes Hotel.