

UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS)

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Brook House, Cricklade on 2nd September 2014

Present:

Chris Graham (chairman)
Margaret Hunt (secretary)
Carol Rouse (treasurer)
Helen Goody (STRIPLING editor)

Seymour Aitken
Steve Greig
Richard Rumming
Gerry Tamplin

An **Apology for Absence** was received from Arthur Webb.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 20th May 2014 These were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING:

UTPS Committee Initiative Update There were logistical problems associated with organisation of this initiative, and a nominee was needed to take action forward. Funding was also required. Helen Goody would investigate awareness-raising among children – which could usefully contribute to increasing parental interest. She also thought that she knew of a retired teacher who might be interested. **Action HG**

WILD Project / Upper Thames Steering Group The most recent meeting had been held at Richard Rumming's house, when discussion had centred around the need for action to be taken upon improvements to the Thames, with particular emphasis upon flood alleviation (there were no current problems with silt build-up). The Environment Agency (EA) would provide support in connection with Water Framework Directive requirements. River blockages were being plotted with the aim of procuring EA funding for clearance of these in the summer of 2015. Work on the River Churn, using baffles, had been commenced. The WILD Project had obtained funding for implementing a variety of schemes, some of which might be eligible for match-funding. The meeting urged that landowners be encouraged to be fully involved with these.

As an aside, mention was made of the confusingly prolific use of acronyms in the latest Steering Group report, as a result of which a 'glossary' had been prepared. It would be copied to committee members with the meeting minutes. **Action MH**

Thames Path Improvement Update (copy notes attached to signed minutes)

Information received from the Thames Trail officer was as follows:

Flooding on the Wiltshire/ Gloucestershire boundary Swifter recovery from flooding in 2014 than in the previous year meant that Thames Path improvement in this area was not now regarded as a matter of high priority;

Path leading to Abingdon Court Lane A Town Council grant had been applied for in connection with reprofiling the path. If successful, it would be match-funded by the Thames Trails office;

Enclosed section of Thames Path running from North Wall Road to the adjoining field This scrub area had been purchased at auction by the neighbouring householder, who it was rumoured might seek to divert the path to the edge of it. Such a change would be subject to standard legal procedures.

Additional Item - Missing length of Thames Path between Hannington and Inglesham It was reported that airfield issues needed to be resolved before a through-route could be completed.

UTPS Promotion

Website PR (paper to be drafted by Chris Graham) **Action CG**
Encouragement of parish-based funding for the recording of rivers and ditches – Glos.County Council initiative, with Wiltshire Council
Match-funding should be encouraged

Flood Wardens Scheme Richard Rumming had no further information to impart.

RIPPLES Magazine Article When Margaret Hunt met the reporter, she would hand over Chris Graham's overview paper and another containing historical information provided by Seymour Aitken. It was agreed that a draft of the article should be requested prior to publication. **Action MH**

UTPS Website Updating for promotional purposes was seen as being the most important action, with Steve Greig's proviso that it was undesirable to include items that needed to be continually refreshed – a twice-a-year visit for this purpose should be sufficient. A mission statement – drawn up by Chris Graham – must be included, also meetings minutes (with office-holders names). Chris Graham offered his contact address as a link. STRIPLING could be added by way of a another link. For this purpose, Gerry Tamplin would convert the newsletter to PDF format. **Action SG, CG, GT**

TREASURER'S REPORT: (copy balance sheet attached to signed minutes)

Carol Rouse highlighted the main items, and said that the annual accounts were ready to be sent to the auditor. She also referred to the possibility of gaining publicity for UTPS by seeking to display information on the Kempford village notice board.

AGM DATE: Wednesday 12th November was selected, subject to the Town Hall Annexe being available. If not, an alternative date during the same week would be booked. Helen and Stefan Goody would again be in charge of providing refreshments. **Action MH, HG**

AGM SPEAKER AND TOPIC: After reviewing several options, the committee decided to follow Helen Goody's suggestion that tshe should contact the River Warden via the Upper Thames Guardian magazine, asking him to give a presentation upon his remit and duties. **Action HG**
It was noted, in passing, that the 2013 AGM speaker had received a gift in lieu of expenses.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Focus for 2014 STRIPLING The following topics were pinpointed:

A work overview by Jenny Phelps
A case study of South Cerney village drainage plans
An article featuring Kemble
A 2014 update upon North Meadow fritillaries
River dredging (by Richard Rumming)
(A front page photograph should be provided)

On the matter of publication, after considering paper quality and good, but expensive, colour printing, it was decided that a local quotation should be sought as an alternative to processing being carried out through Chris Graham's office. **Action HG, possibly CG**

In the absence of further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm, Seymour Aitken having been thanked for his hospitality.

