

MINUTES OF THE UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CRICKLADE JENNER HALL ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2014

In attendance: Chris Graham (chairman), Margaret Hunt (secretary), Carol Rouse (treasurer), Helen Goody (STRIPLING editor).

Seymour Aitken, Steve Greig, Richard Rumming and Arthur Webb (Committee members), Gerry Tamplin (co-opted Committee member), 5 UTPS members, 10 non-members, plus Jenny Phelps (Gloucestershire FWAG Senior Advisor), Dick Mayon-White (River Thames Society), Steven Tabbitt (Thames Path Officer), Petrina Brown (Cotswold Waterpark Trust Biodiversity Officer)

Welcome: Chris Graham welcomed those present to the AGM.

Apologies for Absence were received from Wiltshire Councillor Bob Jones, Marilyn Sweet and Richard Sweet.

Minutes of the AGM of 6th November 2013: The minutes had been confirmed and signed as a correct record at the Committee Meeting following the AGM.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes: These would be dealt with as they arose during course of the current meeting.

Chairman's Annual Report:

This referred to flooding and weather conditions during the past year, and to the need to maintain/improve the water quality in the upper reaches of the River Thames. Chris Graham reported that UTPS was one of 30-40 environmental organisations associated with the Upper Thames Catchment Management Steering Group. Farmer Richard Rumming, also a committee member, was thanked for his work as NFU representative on this body. Lastly, UTPS needed to rely on outside information as to future actions to be taken. Various comments were made from the floor.

Helen Goody was congratulated upon the informative 2014 STRIPLING magazine that she had organised and edited.

Treasurer's Annual Report: (copy attached to signed minutes)

Having commented that the year 2013/2014 had been a quiet one, Carol Rouse gave the closing balance as £2,779.50, taking into consideration that the cost of producing and circulating STRIPLING for this year would be included in the 2015 accounts. Much of the production had been carried out in-house, thus reducing expenditure.

Membership Report:

Carol Rouse informed the meeting that membership now stood at 65 [John Harmer added to this figure by making an application to join UTPS after the end of the AGM].

Election of Auditor:

Phillip Pope, who had agreed to continue as UTPS auditor for the coming year, was elected on a proposed by Helen Goody, seconded by Richard Rumming.

Election of UTPS Committee Members:

It was proposed by Steve Greig and seconded by Helen Goody that Committee members should be re-elected *en bloc*. Gerry Tamplin was elected as a new Committee member.

Any Other Business:

WILD Project Jenny Phelps gave a description of the WILD Project, and responded to questions and comments from the floor.

Thames Path Steven Tabbitt was invited to introduce himself at his first attendance at an UTPS meeting. He advised that on-going discussions were taking place in connection with completing the 'missing link' at Hannington. Improvement works at the Cricklade end had been implemented as a result of comments from UTPS.

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 8.05 pm.

Dick Mayon-White's Presentation on 'Nature Reserves along the River Thames'

Dick gave a most interesting talk about the 154 nature reserves within easy reach of the Thames that were accessible to members of the public for walking, cycling, horse-riding and picnicking. This was illustrated by a series of excellent slides of a selection of these – from source of the river to its termination. After discussion, Dick was thanked by Chris Graham for his stimulating review, and a number of members bought his excellent book.

River Churn Project

Having indicated the need for work to be carried out in connection with improving all aspects of the river, Petrina Brown told the meeting of improvements to the Thames near the Nature Reserve. Funding was possible and she was looking at support from the Council and UTPS. The aim would be to give protection from adverse impacts, while maintaining access. Chris Graham said that UTPS involvement in the proposed scheme would be discussed either at the next UTPS Committee Meeting or via direct circulation.

The post-AGM items brought the meeting to a close at 8.50 pm, after which coffee/tea and biscuits were served by Stefan and Helen Goody, assisted by Carol Rouse.

