

UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS)

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Brook House, Cricklade on 8th September 2015

Present:

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

Seymour Aitken
Richard Rumming
Arthur Webb

Apologies for Absence: Gerry Tamplin and Steven Tabbitt (Thames Trail Officer).

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 30th June 2015 These were confirmed and signed by Chris Graham as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES:

UTPS Committee Initiative Update Little progress has been made. Chris Graham will contact Petrina Brown for her suggestions upon taking the initiative forward. Helen Goody and Carol Rouse were to promote the potential UTPS scheme at the Kempsford Coffee Club that was due to hold its next meeting later in September. ACTION CG, HG AND CR

WILD Project / Upper Thames Steering Group (Monitoring Action) Update Chris Graham and Richard Rumming had attended the latest meeting. Richard updated the committee on action, which has recently concentrated upon flood alleviation at the Heads of the Valleys in the Slad area of Gloucestershire by retarding and dispersing the flow of water.

Upper Thames CaBA Partnership Volunteers are being called upon to sample river water on 14th September, using specially provided kits. The purpose is to determine water quality based upon its content of phosphates and nitrates. Impacts will be monitored, changes recorded and the results mapped for availability by the general public. Chris Graham will contact Sarah Wells, FWAG Farm Conservation Advisor, to express UTPS interest and support. ACTION CG

Countryside Management Facilitation Fund Jenny Phelps, who leads the Countryside Stewardship Management Scheme, will soon be producing a WILD Newsletter. Seed transfer to increase the presence of wild flowers in grassland is an important new initiative.

River Churn Project It was reported that Petrina Brown has obtained grant funding for her river and river banks improvement project – about which there had been a degree of public confusion as to the action being taken.

Thames Path Update An e-mailed message from Steven Tabbitt referred to: annual vegetation cutting of footway and verges; regulations as to the ploughing and reinstatement of paths; the need for volunteers to periodically walk sections of the Thames Path and report upon adverse findings. The meeting agreed that the matter of the stretch of Path that had possibly been ploughed should be looked at again in the Spring of 2016.

River Thames Alliance It was not the view of the committee meeting that UTPS should become an Alliance member – at £25.00 per annum - but should seek to be regarded by the organisation as an advisory expert. Membership of the Thames Society, however, is an option that might be considered.

UTPS Website The fact that the website has not been updated since 2014 gives the impression that the absent Steve Greig may not be keen to continue to take this responsibility. An approach to Gerry Tamplin as a substitute might be made – but not until Steve's views have been ascertained.

ACTION MH

STRIPLING FOR 2015:

Articles for STRIPLING 2015 Topics recommended for inclusion are: Facilitation Fund Initiatives (Jenny Phelps); Dance Common Report for Year; Fritillaries Review (North Meadow and the land in the Waterhay area); an article on curlews and water voles; information about the Facilitation Fund; the request by Steven Tabbitt for walkers to periodically monitor river and path conditions (Margaret Hunt would contact him). Ideally, length of contributions will be limited to 200 words. Helen Goody showed examples of articles received to date, plus coloured illustrations, and agreed to move the announcements from the top to the bottom of page 1. Town and parish councils will be notified of the AGM date. Finally, Seymour Aitken read his Martin Neville obituary notice.

ACTION HG AND MH

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

Report Carol Rouse gave the most recent balances as follows:

Deposit Account statement to 30 th June 2015	£2,3585.46
Current Account statement to 15 th July 2015	£ 384.13
Cash in hand at 30 th August 2015	£ 111.34

The sum of £15.00 has been paid for hire of the Jenner Hall for the forthcoming AGM, for which a receipt has been given.

Membership / Subscriptions There are currently 60 plus UTPS members

Membership Increase Noting that Helen Goody's recent talk to the Cricklade Blind Club has resulted in five new members, it was suggested that this is the type of action that might usefully be repeated. It will be given consideration.

AGM DATE / SPEAKER / TOPIC:

Date This will be held on Wednesday 11th November in the Cricklade Jenner Hall.

AGM Speaker and Topic It was agreed that Jenny Phelps should be invited to address the AGM, the suggested title of her presentation being 'A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE THAMES ENVIRONMENT'. As an aid, Stefan Goody will be asked to bring and set up a screen borrowed from the church.

ACTION RR?

Refreshments These will be provided and served by Helen and Stefan Goody.

In the absence of **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm. Seymour Aitken was thanked for his hospitality.