

UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS)

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Brook House, Cricklade on 7th June 2016

Present:

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

Seymour Aitken
Richard Rumming
Gerry Tamplin
Arthur Webb

1. Apologies for Absence: Carol Rouse (treasurer). Steve Greig had earlier indicated that he only might be able to attend.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 18th February UTPS Meeting: These were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham, subject to correction of “September” to 'January 2016' in the second line of the first of the Matters Arising.

3. Matters Arising from the 18th February Minutes:

UTPS Committee Initiative Update The April Fritillaries Tea Room publicity event was the only one at which UTPS had been represented since the February UTPS meeting. Because the North Meadow had been closed until well into May because of the effects of earlier severe flooding, this had not been as well patronised as previously. Richard Rumming had made no progress with constructing a display board, and had nowhere to store such an item. Helen Goody had given thought to advertising UTPS at the Cricklade Festival on 19th June. Following discussion, it was agreed not to pursue this.

WILD Project / Upper Thames Steering Group (Monitoring Action) Update The three-year project, was soon coming to an end, and is therefore subject to a valuation.. The meeting considered that a six-year term would have been more appropriate. Chris Graham had written to the Gloucester and Wiltshire Councils in connection with gravel extraction, and had received a response from the former. UTPS would join the consultation list with regard to further applications for development. Richard Rumming was thanked for his attendance at Steering Group meetings, another of which was to take place during the summer in collaboration with the Environment Agency. This body was more concerned with water content (polluting agents) than with volume.

Facilitation Fund Update Chris Graham had discovered that although UTPS had not been accorded affiliation *per se*, he and Richard Rumming were members on the basis of their land ownership. Under the management of Jenny Phelps, the scheme was seen to be highly successful. Measures to counteract river pollution by the use of slug pellets were being trialled, with the involvement of Thames Water.

River Churn Project There having been no progress report since the previous UTPS meeting, Margaret Hunt would contact Petrina Brown for an update.

Thames Path Update The information was given that Richard Kidner's field, on the edge of which the Thames National Trail runs between North Wall Road and Bailiffs Piece, had been sold subject to contract to a private purchaser. It was too early to know what effect this would have on public use of this grassland area, but there would be no unfavourable consequences in relation to the Thames Path. Due to winter flooding from the river, house building was unlikely to be permitted. The Thames Trail information gathered by Gerry Tamplin when walking part of the Path, and e-mailed to Margaret Hunt, had been passed to Steven Tabbitt. It included details of very

unfavourable conditions during winter months as a result of flooding . Access to the Path at Kempford was also mentioned. Steven had recently been away from work as the result of an injury, so contact with him had been limited. He had, however, sent Margaret information about THE THAMES PATH NATIONAL TRAIL 20th ANNIVERSARY WALKING RELAY – to take place on 9th to 24th July. There was nothing to report upon the proposed River Wardens scheme.

UTPS Website Steve Greig had been provided by Helen Goody with a series of events and publicity for inclusion upon the website.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT / MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTIONS: (copy of balance sheet as at 1.6.16 attached to signed minutes)

Report Carol Rouse gave the balances at 1.6.16 as follows:

Deposit Account	£2,366.47
Current Account	£ 403.86
Cash in hand	£ 141.66

Membership / Subscriptions

Subscriptions from new members totalled £34.00. There had been a number of renewals, at a cost of £14.65 for contacting lapsed members by post.

STRIPLING FOR 2017:

A number of suggested articles included contributions by Jenny Phelps, Petrina Brown , Ben Welborne, Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Officer (bringing to attention the fast-diminishing curlew), Chris Short on water quality control and a fishing report. STRIPLING would need to be produced in time to publicise the 2016 AGM.

AGM DATE AND SPEAKER:

It being recognised that the date needed to be finalised before the UTPS next met, the agreed alternatives were 2nd and 9th November. Margaret Hunt would book the Jenner Hall for one of these.

Daphne, the late Martin Neville's wife, was recommended by Seymour Aitken as an interesting speaker on the subject of animals associated with the Thames. He would get in touch with her.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Canals Reinstatement A copy of COTSWOLD CANALS RESTORATION – FEASIBILITY STUDIES, produced in 2000 by the Royal Agricultural College, had been passed from Arther Webb to Margaret Hunt, then to Richard Ruming and Helen Goody. In connection with it, Arthur drew attention to TROW, The Cotswold Canals Trust magazine, and commented upon the professional way in which the Trust was promoting canals restoration. Gerry Tamplin offered an alternative view that related to concerns over damage to the river environment.

Waterhay Second Homes Development Richard Ruming was asked for details. The nearby closed permissive path was also mentioned.

There being **NO FURTHER BUSINESS**, the meeting closed at 9.34 pm, Seymour Aitken having been thanked for his hospitality.

The **NEXT MEETING** would take place on September 12th, 13th, 14th or 15th. The decision would be made after these had been circularised in early August. The preparation of a UTPS Promotional Leaflet would be included on the agenda.

