

# UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS)

## Minutes of the Meeting Held at Aethelmar House, Cricklade on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Present:

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

Richard Rumming  
Gerry Tamplin  
Arthur Webb

**Absent:** Steve Greig.

As a preliminary to the meeting, reference was made to the sad event of Seymour Aitken's death on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Arthur Webb, who was the committee member with the greatest acquaintance with Seymour – having known him for 30 years - gave an account of the character and past varied activities of the latter during his long life. His death was a great loss. It was agreed that Chris Graham should send a letter of condolence from the UTPS committee to Louise Aitken and family. A brief obituary notice would appear in the 2016 STRIPLING, and thought would be given to providing a more extensive article for the RIPPLES Magazine, possibly via an interview with Arthur by the Cricklade reporter.

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 UTPS Meeting:** These were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham.

### **2. Matters Arising from the 7<sup>th</sup> June Minutes:**

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WILD Project / Upper Thames Steering Group Update While there was nothing further of note to be considered, the matter of agricultural funding under BREXIT was briefly discussed.

River Churn Project (Petrina Brown's update of 28<sup>th</sup> June attached to signed minutes) Margaret Hunt referred to the the cattle/horse fenced-off drinking area on the river behind the West Mill stables. The surface of boulders leading to it had recently been covered by finer material, which was a great improvement. An informal stile across the new fence in this area, topped by barbed wire, constituted a hazard.

Thames Path Update All the sections of the Path through the Cricklade area were being satisfactorily maintained. Gerry Tamplin announced that he had now been linked into the National Trails Surveillance Scheme, and would monitor the Path between Cricklade and Ashton Keynes. Richard Rumming mentioned the undesirably high level of in-river reed growth in the Castle Eaton area. Thames Trails officer, Steven Tabbitt, would be invited to the UTPS AGM.

**3. UTPS Website** Latest information had been added to the website. In view of the fact that Steve Greig had not attended a UTPS meeting for a considerable time, Margaret Hunt would e-mail him to ask if he wished to continue as a committee member.

**4. Promotional UTPS Leaflet** As no action had been taken to date, the topic would be brought to the AGM for suggestions.

**5. North Common Rivers Enhancement Film** (information attached to signed minutes) Chris Graham had not yet been contacted about his interview participation.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT / MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTIONS:** (copy of balance sheet as at 31.8.16 attached to signed minutes)

**Report** Carol Rouse gave the balances at 31.8.16 as follows:

Deposit Account £2,358.46  
Current Account £ 384.13  
Cash in hand £ 109.31

### **Membership / Subscriptions**

Membership now stood at 65, the increase resulting from recruitment of blind people at the earlier Kempford social event and from Carol's 'chivvying' of lapsed members. This number included one that derived from publicity at the Cricklade Town Council office, the payment for which was handed in at the meeting. It was agreed that the subscription rate should not be increased for at least another year.

### **7. STRIPLING FOR 2017:**

Helen Goody referred to articles being progressed to date, which included coloured illustrations. Other suggested contributions were an article by Sarah Wells of FWAG and, if information could be obtained, about curlews. The introduction of projects prior to raising them at the AGM was also suggested. The meeting was reminded that in 2015, a Waylands grant had made possible a larger than previous print run. This year – as in the past - Chris Graham would undertake the printing of STRIPLING copies and posting of them to members.

### **8. AGM SPEAKERS:**

It was decided that Chris Short, a member of the Upper Thames Steering Group, should be invited to give the main presentation, with Sarah Wells being offered a ten-minute slot at the end of the AGM. Chris Graham would contact Chris Short and relay the outcome to Margaret Hunt.

### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Cotswold Park Land Sale Richard Rumming referred to the 136 acres of land that had been sold for water skiing. Committee members feared that lack of regard for the environment would result from the activity – but given the existing use, there was nothing that could be done.

Visit to Cricklade by Daphne Neville An invitation might be extended to Daphne, accompanied by her otter Rudy, to give a talk in the spring/summer of 2017. It was thought that this would be particularly interesting to children.

There being **NO FURTHER BUSINESS**, the meeting closed at 9.03 pm, Helen Goody having been thanked for her hospitality.

The **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** would be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Aethelmar House, by invitation of Helen and sanction by Stefan Goody.

The **2016 AGM** would be held at the Cricklade Jenner Hall on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, starting at 7.30 pm.

