

MINUTES OF THE UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CRICKLADE JENNER HALL ON 2nd NOVEMBER 2016

In Attendance: Chris Graham (Chairman), Margaret Hunt (Secretary), Carol Rouse (Treasurer), Helen Goody (STRIPLING Editor).

Richard Ruming and Gerry Tamplin (Committee members), 9 UTPS members, 7 non-members and 6 Committee members, giving a total of 22 attendees.

Welcome: Chris Graham welcomed those present to the AGM. He then mentioned the recent death of past UTPS Chairman Seymour Aitken, making reference to his fine character and the invaluable support given by him to UTPS. A half-minute's silence was held in Seymour's memory.

Apologies for Absence were received from Arthur Webb (Committee member) and Jenny Phelps and Sarah Wells of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG).

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM: These had been signed as a correct record at the first Committee meeting in 2016. The contents were briefly referred to.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes: There were none.

Chairman's Annual Report:

Chris Graham announced an active UTPS year. Particular attention was drawn to the BREXIT outcome of the earlier referendum, with emphasis upon its possible effect upon the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. There was a part for relevant national and local organisations to play in taking safeguarding initiatives forward, including those relating to the Thames National Trail. UTPS needed 'marketing' in order to attract new members, additional to that carried out in Kempsford and Cricklade earlier in the year. Support by UTPS of the Upper Thames Catchment Partnership was important, and Richard Ruming was commended for his attendance at meetings. Chris then congratulated Helen Goody upon having produced such an informative and attractive STRIPLING magazine for 2016.

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

The **Accounts** as at 31st August 2016 were presented by Carol Rouse, who reported that member numbers had more than doubled during the past year as the result of a recruitment drive that she and Helen Goody had undertaken, and there had also been membership renewals. The active member total now stood at 65. The Account closing balance was £3,064.57, which was £100.00 over expenditure. Carol was thanked for her hard work.

Election of Auditor:

Chris Graham proposed, and Richard Ruming seconded the re-appointment of Philip Pope as Auditor for the coming year.

Election of UTPS Committee Members:

It was proposed by Chris Graham and seconded by Mike Hatton that the following Committee members be re-elected *en bloc*: Helen Goody, Chris Graham, Steve Greig, Margaret Hunt, Carol

Rouse, Richard Ruming, Gerry Tamplin and Arthur Webb. There were no vacancy nominations.

Any Other Business:

Address upon 'Contamination of the Thames by Pesticides in Run-off from Farms'. This was given by Jo Leigh of FWAG in place of Sarah Wells. FWAG's work upon tackling this problem was described by Jo, and enlarged upon in replying to the many questions and comments from the floor. Petrina Brown, of the 'River Churn Project', then requested opportunity to provide a feedback on recent progress. After a brief report, she arranged to discuss the topic further with Chris Graham later in the evening.

UTPS Website The opinion was given that the contents were in need of amplification - for example, possibly by being linked into the Cricklade Town Council website. This would be discussed with Chairman Mark Clarke [after the AGM had closed, Steven Tabbitt, Thames Trail Officer, made Margaret Hunt the offer of publicising UTPS events, etc. on the Trail website].

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 7.55 pm.

Presentation by Chris Short – 'Managing the River Landscape for the Community as a Whole'

Speaking as a member of the Upper Thames Catchment Partnership, Chris Short explained that the above initiative followed from the Water Framework Directive requirements that co-ordinated activity and joined-up thinking should be adopted by organisations such as the Cotswold Water Park and FWAG, plus others. The UPPER THAMES was one of the individual small catchments that had been set up in 2012 with a view to more efficient management of environmental issues. With the assistance of information shown on screen, Chris indicated that important adverse impacts to be addressed were changing land use, biodiversity, water flow and non-native species. Knowledge, communication, co-operation and trust were all required if the project was to be satisfactorily carried forward. Meetings and one-to-one contact were needed, including the involvement of members of the public and local community groups. With regard to flooding issues, it was not considered that large-scale inundations could necessarily be prevented, but small floods might be better controlled. On this matter, and that of agricultural pollution from run off run into rivers, it was important that Thames Water should be closely involved. After Chris Short was thanked for his detailed presentation by Chris Graham, the former responded to a considerable number of questions and comments from an enthusiastic audience.

The post-AGM item brought the meeting to a close at 9.15 pm, after which coffee/tea and biscuits were served by Helen and Stefan Goody.

REMINDER: THE NEXT UTPS COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
26TH JANUARY 2017

