

UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS) MEETING MINUTES FOR 5.9.2018

1. Present:

Chris Graham (chairman)
Margaret Hunt (secretary)
Helen Goody (*STRIPLING* Editor)

Richard Rumming
Arthur Webb

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Carol Rouse and Ben West

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the UTPS Meeting of 13th June 2018: This was confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham.

4. Matters Arising from the 13th June Meeting:

Fairview Fields Project Update Minor work, involving the provision of a dog-deterrence barrier, at the bottom of the bank, had now taken place. Helen Goody would seek more information from Cricklade Town Council for a *STRIPLING* article.

Thames Path Update Margaret Hunt had made no further contact with Steven Tabbitt, Thames Trail Officer, since the June 2018 meeting. Regarding the section of Path between Bailiff's Piece and the West Mill stables, only occasional puddles had been observed upon it during the spring and summer. Margaret would now, however, look into the matter of resurfacing in preparation for improved access during future wet weather.

Thames Boating Obstruction Update In Ben West's absence, no update was provided, apart from the fact that the River Thames channel was now fairly clear beyond Castle Eaton.

Potential Cotswold Lakes SSSI Designation Update No further information was available.

Frogsham Meadow Planning Application Update The Town Council had not been able to provide information upon the withdrawn planning application, other than that Wiltshire Council was aware of the situation. It was noted that the field had been given a grass cut that enabled the public path to be used, and that weed clearance had taken place on the stretch of path leading to the North Meadow footbridge.

Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership Update Environmental issues, the involvement of farmers and the Environment Agency's divergent opinions were mentioned.

5. Website Update: Chris Graham had not had any response as a result of contacting Rob Pymmer. If a second attempt failed, he would consider asking the girls in his office to take over basic website duties.

6. Thames & Severn Canal Reopening Information: Margaret Hunt read notes she had taken from the Cotswold Canals Trust magazine, the TROW. The main verdict of those present was that the outcome was inconclusive. Further information would be reported when available. Such matters as gravel extraction, water transfer and highways works were discussed.

7. 2018 STRIPLING Edition: Printing will take place on 24th September and copies be distributed to members and for publicity purposes on 26th. Helen Goody had already started to compose the first few of seven articles, with others to follow. The AGM notice would be included, Chris Graham would provide a Chairman's Report, and Louise Aitken would be referred to (see under AoB). AGM notices would go to the Cricklade Chronicle and RIPPLES.

8. Treasurer's Financial and Membership Reports: (copies provided by Carol Rouse attached to signed minutes). Net total funds at 29.8.2019 stood at £2,683.89. The current paid-up membership remained at 66. Thanks to Carol were recorded.

9. Date for 2018 AGM / AGM Speaker: The Jenner Hall had been booked for the evening of Wednesday 24th October, and the Hall hire had already been paid. Jim Seymour of the Environment Agency Fisheries and Field Team was pleased to have been asked to be speaker. His topic would be entitled 'Upper Thames Fish Populations'. Richard Ruming would provide a screen for the presentation and other equipment would be brought to the Hall by Chris Graham and Helen Goody. Richard would also ensure that Jim Seymour knew how to access the AGM venue. It was reiterated that there should be only one AGM speaker.

10. Date for First 2019 UTPS Meeting: This would be held on Wednesday 30th January.

11. Any Other Business:

General Data Protection Regulations Margaret Hunt would join with Helen Goody as second signatory to the Cricklade Town Council's CONSENT FORM FOR ORGANISATIONS.

Upper Thames Partnership Meeting Sarah Wells had sent an invitation to a 'Farmer Guardians' meeting, to be held at the Down Ampney Village Hall on 9th October – arrival at 9.15 am for a 9.30 am start. This led to a short discussion such matters as gravel extraction, current agricultural problems and farmers' attitudes.

Louise Aitken The sad news was given that Louise Aitken had recently died. Helen Goody informed the meeting that a Thanksgiving Service is to be held at St. Sampson' on Saturday 22nd September, starting at 12 noon. Refreshments at Brook House are being offered afterwards [please contact Louise's daughter Helen on 01425 613501 if you wish to attend]. Louise's past involvement with the UTPS Committee will be referred to in *STRIPLING*. Margaret Hunt will deliver a UTPS condolence card to the family.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm. Helen Goody was thanked for her hospitality.

