

## UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY MINUTES FOR 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019

- 1. Present:** Chris Graham (chairman), Margaret Hunt (secretary), Carol Rouse (treasurer), Helen Goody (Stripling editor), Richard Rumming, Gerry Tamplin, Ben West.
- 2. An Apology for Absence** was received from Arthur Webb after the meeting.
- 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Meeting:** These were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham.
- 4. Matters Arising from the 5<sup>th</sup> September Meeting:**

**Thames Path Update** Margaret Hunt stated that all the re-surfaced Thames Path sections within the Cricklade area were in a good condition. It was reported by Gerry Tamplin that work had been carried out on the stretch of Path on the opposite side of the A419.

**Boating Obstruction Update** The meeting was informed by Ben West that obstructions continued to hamper the passage of boats.

**Potential Designation of Cotswold Lakes SSSI** This designation, which was likely to cover only the water area, was progressing satisfactorily.

**Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership Update** Richard Rumming (representing NFU, Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames) updated the Committee on this topic, in particular by referring to the new WEGS designation, associated with Natural England. He would elaborate further at the next UTPS meeting. Sarah Wells, of FWAG, was continuing to hold regular local meetings, and Chris Graham referred to a number of environmental organisations that were members of the Partnership. Helen Goody gave a brief description of a recent meeting that she had attended. The Frogsham Meadow Planning Application was mentioned, and since this was currently seen as being in abeyance, rather than having been refused consent, future meeting agendas should include the item. Cotswold District Council's promotion of 'green credentials' in catchment areas was noted. It was considered that this might be promoted to support CDC claims, rather than being a clear policy. Committee members were invited to review details on the internet.

### **5. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2018 UTPS AGM:**

These were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham, subject to the addition of Stefan Goody as helping Helen to serve refreshments.

### **6. Matters Arising from the AGM:**

**AGM Attendance** It was observed that as a result of the talk by Jim Seymour of the Environment Agency's Fisheries Field Team, on the subject of 'Upper Thames Fish Populations', the attendees had included number of men with fishing interests. It was agreed that an effort should be made to persuade them to become UTPS members. Ways of increasing membership were to be further considered later in the meeting.

**7. Website Update:** Carol Rouse gave the welcome information that she had recently been contacted by a Kempsford resident, Mark Strange, with an offer to be involved with, or take responsibility for, future management of the UTPS website (as a replacement for Steve Greig). This would be free-of-charge. With the Committee's sanction, Carol will get in touch with Mark to arrange a preliminary meeting for further discussion, also to include Gerry Tamplin. A small payment would be offered to Mark Strange in recognition of his assistance.

**8. Thames and Severn Canal Re-opening** Margaret Hunt had found no further information in the Cotswold Canal Trust Winter 2018 Magazine. Water Transfer, however, had been the subject of an article.

**9. Treasurer's Financial and Membership Report** (copy attached to signed minutes) Carol Rouse gave the position as at 29.8.2018 as:

Income	£2,753.41
Expenditure	£ 77.96
Total Funds	£2,675.45

Paid Up members 31

Committee members 8

**There are 24 members whose subscriptions are out of date.**

**Membership Promotion** After discussion, it was agreed that an A4 size application form should be included as a separate sheet in the 2019 issue of the Stripling Newsletter. Another donation toward printing and distribution of Stripling would be sought from Cricklade Town Council, advertisements would be placed in the Cricklade Chronicle and a Kempsford Café Promotional Event would be arranged for the Spring.

#### **10. Any Other Business:**

**Dance Common Working Party** UTPS members were given basic information by Gerry Tamplin about the environmental activities regularly being carried out on the Common. He would contact Cathy Limbrick, the chief contact for more information, which he would bring to the next UTPS Meeting.

**Himalayan Balsam** The urgent need for removal of this invasive weed on the banks of the Thames was brought to attention. It was agreed that a letter of concern should be written to the Cricklade Town Council without delay. Margaret Hunt said that the demands on her time prevented her from being responsible for this.

**Otters in Kempsford** This matter was noted by Carol Rouse. Otters had been taking fish from her pond during the late autumn. It was thought that these otters may have been transferred from Europe in connection with increasing the British population. They were said to be considerably more destructive than those native to the UK.

**Slug Control** Gerry Tamplin expressed concern about the effects of the chemical commonly used to kill slugs. It was noted that Thames Water has a working policy to assist in the utilization of an alternative product that did not affect watercourses in the same way. Farmer take up of this was good.

**11. The Next UTPS Meeting Date** would be held on WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019, STARTING AT 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm, Helen and Stefan Goody having been thanked for their hospitality.

#### LIST OF POST-MEETING ACTIONS

##### 1) Membership Increase

Improve accessibility of Application Forms within the Stripling Newsletter. ACTION Helen Goody

Seek a Cricklade Town Council grant toward Stripling Production and Postage. ACTION Helen Goody

Advertise UTPS at Kempford Café Event in Spring 2019. ACTION Carol Rouse and Helen Goody

Place UTPS information in Cricklade Chronicle. ACTION Helen Goody

2) Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership ACTION Richard Rumming to bring information about WEGS to the next UTPS Meeting.

3) Future of UTPS Website ACTION Carol Rouse to contact Mark Strange to arrange a preliminary meeting - to include Gerry Tamplin.

4) Letter to Cricklade Town Council regarding Himalayan Balsam Eradication ACTION Chris Graham.

5) Provision of Information on Dance Common ACTION Gerry Tamplin to investigate.