

UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS)

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Aethelmar House, Cricklade on 19th June 2019

Present:

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

Richard Rumming
Arthur Webb
Ben West

Apologies for Absence were received from Gerry Tamplin.

Trusteeship: At the beginning of the meeting, Arthur Webb announced he had attended the meeting in order to give notice that because of age and infirmity, he was no longer able to act as a UTPS trustee. He has been an active member of the Society since 1989, when it had been under the chairmanship of the Commander Greig. During this time, much good work had been achieved in connection with UTPS interests and commitment, but there was still much to fulfil its objectives. With the endorsement of Committee members, Chris Graham warmly thanked Arthur for his very valuable input over a lengthy period of time. Arthur left the meeting at about 7.45 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes of UTPS Meeting on 30.1.2019: These were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham.

Matters Arising from the 30.1.2019 Meeting:

Thames Boating Obstruction Update The information was given that the Thames was now navigable from Lechlade to Cricklade. Jenny Phelps had organised a meeting, to which Chris Graham and Richard Rumming had been invited, that dealt with river issues between Cricklade and Oxford. Diesel-powered boats and the Canoe Club boating activities were mentioned as causing environmental conflicts, also flooding, water transfer to the Thames from canals, encroachment of farm livestock and vegetation growth on river banks. Seb Cooke, Waterways Technical Officer would be contacted with a view to examining these problems. Another topic considered was the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). This had been set up to manage pollution of the River [Coln] chalk stream in the Fairford area that the Environment Agency (EA) was getting closer to resolving, the ELMS scheme was a more permanent project, led by FWAG.

At the beginning of

Confirmation of the Minutes of the UTPS Meeting of 5th September 2018. These were confirmed as a correct record by Chris Graham

Matters Arising from the 5th September Meeting:

Thames Path Update Margaret Hunt reported that all the re-surfaced sections of Path through Cricklade were in good condition. Gerry Tamplin gave the information that work had been carried out on the Path beyond the A419.

Thames Boating Obstruction Update It was stated by Ben West that obstructions continued to make use of the river a problem.

Potential Cotswold Lakes SSSI Designation Update Action was continuing.

Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership Richard Rumming [add his involvement from document] updated the Committee on this topic, in particular, by referring to the 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, at least one of which Helen Goody had been present. This she briefly described. Water transfer from the Thames and Severn Canal to the Thames - for remediating lack of river water to areas downstream – was also mentioned. Frogsham Meadow Planning Application was also mentioned. It must appear on the meeting agenda in future, it being a matter that was considered to be in abeyance.

Website Update: priority.

Date Protection (GDPR) Issue: Ben West had copied to members a summary of the new regulation, and after discussion, undertook to send a more comprehensive copy to those on the UTPS Committee. It was agreed that Helen Goody and Carol Rouse would jointly contact those members whose e-Mail addresses were available, but it was not thought necessary to get in touch with those to whom paper mailings were sent. Information would be provided in the upcoming Stripling.

Treasurer's Financial and Membership Report: (copy attached to signed minutes) The following Total Funds figure of £2,672.46 at 13.6.18 was provided by Carol Rouse. There had been little change in finances during the past year. Cash to the value of £3.00 was handed to Carol on behalf of UTPS member Hugh Slater, £1.00 of which would be treated as a donation. The current paid-up membership continued to stand at 66.

Donation to Oak and Furrows Charity: After it had been reiterated that donations could not be paid out of UTPS funds, Carol Rouse told the meeting that she was now a regular supporter of the charity, and described the duties she was involved with. While she did not think it necessary to make donations at the present time, it was agreed that the means of doing so could be investigated in the future.

STRIPLING for 2018: (to be completed for publication by 24th September) A number of topics were brought forward and discussed, including articles on Oak and Furrows, Completion of Thames Path in the Hannington Bridge area, an evaluation of the Slugsham Meadow Planning Application, giving the history of the land, plus possibly the Natural England / Environmental Agency perspective, proposed Cotswold Water Park SSSI. Contributions should not run to more than 300 at most.

2018 AGM Speaker: Having heard from Richard Rumming that he had not yet been able to confirm that Jim Seymour was prepared to give the address at the AGM on Wednesday 24th October, Margaret Hunt had e-mailed the latter and had been informed that he was out of the office until 18th June. She would contact him again very soon after this. If Jim was unwilling / unable to be AGM

speaker, one of his colleagues might be prepared to oblige. The point was strongly made that only ONE SPEAKER SHOULD BE INVITED.

Date of Next UTPS Meeting: This would be held on Wednesday 5th September 2018.

Any Other Business:

Upper Thames Catchment Partnership

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been to the effect that the very muddy state of the path between Bailiffs Piece and West Mill stables would be dealt with in early spring. There was then a discussion upon even more unsatisfactory conditions on the Path in the Water Eaton area and beyond to Hannington and Lechlade. Gerry Tamplin gave adverse views upon this, and Chris Graham updated the meeting on the position concerning the Path at the Inglesham end. [NOTE: 'RICHARD KIDNER'S FIELD', REFERRED TO DURING DISCUSSION, HAS BEEN RENAMED 'HALLSFIELD MEADOW'].

Thames Boating Obstructions Update Ben West referred to continuing obstructions, which was followed by Richard Rumming's similar comments arising out of a walk that he and companions had taken a short time ago. The meeting was reminded that the EA was unable to impose sanctions upon landowners who did not wish to carry out debris clearance work on their land.. Richard, however, thought that contributions to the work would be forthcoming if this was requested, though it was noted that not all stakeholders are in favour of removing obstructions.

Potential Cotswold Lakes SSSI Designation While no further information was forthcoming, it was considered that the area's ecological status and the fact that it was the largest water body in the UK would ensure that SSSI designation would eventually be granted. It was likely to be an item on the agenda of the next Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership Meeting.

Frogsham Meadow Planning Application UTPS Committee members were pleased to hear from Ben West that the owners of the land had withdrawn the application, but it was recognised that the arguments they would use to gain consent may still, in part, be valid. Discussion concentrated upon recognition of the overriding need to preserve the ecology of this neglected area of land, and to encourage school children to regard it from that point of view, rather than as a sports area. Ben West would continue to seek updating via the internet.

UTPS Secretary's Duties Apart from sending out meeting agendas, taking meeting notes and compiling and distributing minutes, Margaret Hunt thought it important that it should be within her area of responsibility to liaise with outside organisations and individuals - after contact with committee members where appropriate. This should include advertising the AGM. All agreed that she should be kept fully advised and informed, noting that the production of STRIPLING is not within her remit.

UTPS Website Update After discussion of alternative arrangements, Chris Graham would contact Rob Pymer of Bridge Farm, Hannington, whom Steve Greig had earlier recommended as being an expert in this field. Steve will host the current site until a suitable replacement is appointed and the structure is put in place for uploading on to it.

Treasurer's Report (copy attached to signed minutes) / **Membership Update** / **Margaret Hunt's Trusteeship** Carol Rouse gave the financial position at 26.1.2018: total funds stand at £2,737.79 in a combination of Deposit Account, Current Account and Cash. There are currently 66 paid up members. Carol would confirm that she had dealt with Margaret's trusteeship (a positive result was notified after the meeting).

Data Protection A revised Data Protection Act was to be introduced in May 2018, and it was

important that the UTPS guidelines were found to be in line with it. Gerry Tamplin will discuss this with Bev Williams, and Ben West will also look into the matter.

Donation to Oak and Furrows Charity The matter of a UTPS donation to this wildlife rescue organisation was raised by Carol Rouse, and was considered in principle. It was pointed out by Chris Graham that one charity was debarred from contributing from its funds to another unless the interests of the recipient supported those of the donor. However, independently raised subscriptions could be given. The matter would be returned to at the next UTPS meeting.

Any Other Business:

AGM Speaker: Jim Seymour, Fisheries Field Team, was recommended. Richard Rumming would approach him, then liaise with Margaret Hunt.

Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership Chris Graham reminded Committee members that meetings of this organisation were regularly attended by himself and Richard Rumming on behalf of UTPS. They were open to all.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.33 pm, with thanks to Helen Goody for her hospitality.

