

UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY (UTPS)

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Aethelmar House, Cricklade on 3rd September 2019

1. Present:

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

Richard Rumming
Ben West

2. Absent was Gerry Tamplin.

3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the UTPS Meeting of 19th June 2019.** This was confirmed as a correct record and signed by Chris Graham.

4. Matters Arising from the 19th June Meeting:

Thames Boating Obstruction Update It was reported that tree-management activity had been taking place on the Lechlade end of the canal. More work had been arranged for October, but the Spring of 2020 had been agreed as a preferable time of year. It was thought, however, that there would be less interference with water flow if this took place in the coming autumn – starting from the Cricklade end.

Upper Thames Catchment Management Partnership Update The next Meeting would be held on 2nd October 2019, when Jenny Phelps would give latest information on the ELMS Project, which would include information about an Area Grazing Trial.

Himalayan Balsam Update from Cricklade Town Council The Town Council intended to deal with the matter, and was also taking advice on the Japanese Knotweed problem.

5. **Thames Water Business Plan 2020 -2025** Further to discussion at the previous UTPS meeting, Chris Graham would seek additional information.

6. **Website Update (report of meeting with Mark Strange)** Margaret Hunt would make contact with Gerry Tamplin about this matter, passing the result to Chris Graham in the first instance. [28.9.2019 Having spoken with Gerry on this date, it transpires that lack of time prevents him, at present, from undertaking technical work of the website. He has been informed by Mark Strange that the latter does not 'host' websites.]

7. **Financial and Membership Report** (copy attached to signed minutes) Carol Rouse gave the information that at 31.8.2019, Total Funds stood at £2,768.21. Income for the year had been £220.92 and Expenditure £136.60. A list of lapsed members was read to the meeting and it was noted that of the 24 of these, 8 had renewed subscriptions following reminders.

8. **STRIPLING for 2019** Helen Goody referred to articles (plus illustrations) that she had already produced. Mentioned again were Arthur Webb's reminiscences of this time as a UTPS member, Seb Cooke's description of 'Navigation on the Thames' and Chris Graham's 2019 UTPS Annual Report.

9. **AGM Date and Arrangements** The Jenner Hall had been booked from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on

Wednesday 23rd October 2019, and payment had been made. Agendas would be distributed at the appropriate time. Helen and Stefan Goody would, as usual, organise refreshments [this date was later changed].

10. AGM Speaker Due to Seb Cooke's... inability to attend as speaker, other options were put forward. These were: Steve Tabbitt of the Thames Trail; a member of the Cotswold Canals Trust; a speaker on the subject of North Common; Anita Barrett of Cricklade Bloomers; Richard's nephew on 'Farming With Nature' [it was discovered later that a date clash made this impossible]; Jenny Phelps would be engaged in the fall-back position.

11. Next UTPS Committee Meeting This would be held on Tuesday 14th January 2020.

12. Any Other Business Chris Graham referred to the Thames Blitz, which was the water test requirements. Kits had been circulated. It would be useful if there was more feedback.

The Meeting closed with thanks to Helen and Stefan Goody for their hospitality.