

MINUTES OF THE UPPER THAMES PROTECTION SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CRICKLADE JENNER HALL ON 20th November 2019

Committee Attendance: Chris Graham (Chairman), Margaret Hunt (Secretary), Helen Goody (STRIPLING Editor), Richard Ruming, Ben West.

Visitor Attendance: 3 UTPS members, 3 non-members and 5 Committee members, giving a total of 11 attendees.

Welcome and Apologies for Absence: Chris Graham welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Councillor Bob Jones, Carol Rouse (UTPS treasurer) and Hugh Slater (UTPS member).

Minutes of the 2018 AGM: These had been signed as a correct record at the 31.1.2019 Committee Meeting. Agreement was confirmed.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes: There were none.

Chairman's Annual Report:

Chris Graham began by stating that there had not much progress on matters under review as many of those were of an ongoing nature. However, UTPS Committee Meetings had been held at regular intervals during 2019. Richard Ruming was thanked for his attendance at Partnership Meetings as UTPS Representative. Locally important aspects of Environmental developments would be expanded upon in the talk to be given at the end of the AGM by Jo-Anne Leigh of FWAG South West. Helen Goody was congratulated upon the production of a brilliant Autumn 2019 issue of the STRIPLING Magazine, giving illustrated information about environmental activity in the Upper Thames and surrounding areas.

The Society is still working toward an update of the Web Site, with a delay currently caused by Hosting.

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

The Accounts as at 20th November 2019 were presented by Helen Goody in Carol Rouse's absence. The information was given that the Income for the period 2018 / 2019 stood £2,770.72 and Expenditure at £136.60. At the end of the financial year, funds in the deposit account were £2339.15, in the current account £324.72 and in cash £28.85. A figure of £86.60 income over expenditure was achieved. Membership currently stands at 48 active members.

Election of Auditor:

Philip Pope was re-appointed as Auditor, proposed by Stefan Goody and seconded by Richard Ruming.

Election of UTPS Committee Members:

Re-elected *en bloc* were: Helen Goody, Chris Graham, Margaret Hunt, Carol Rouse, Richard Ruming, Ben West. This was proposed and seconded from the floor. It was announced with regret that Arthur Webb had resigned as a Committee Member at the 19th June Committee meeting, having been very actively involved in UTPS campaigning since the inception of the Society in 1989. Gerry Tamplin had also tendered his resignation shortly before the AGM. Close involvement with family health matters prevented him from giving UTPS the required support.

Any Other Business:

Thames Trail Issues In answer to a request for updating, Steven Tabbitt (Thames Trail Officer) gave the information that he was seeking volunteers to walk the Path in the Lechlade area several times a year and to report upon its general condition.

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 7.30 pm.

Presentation by Jo-Anne Leigh of FWAG South West, giving an Update upon the Current Environmental Action on the Upper Thames

Jo-Anne had very kindly agreed at short notice to give the 2019 AGM talk. This was accompanied by a projected outline of the various initiatives. These were then amplified, questions and comments being invited.

FWAG's participants, partners and colleagues were listed: Wildlife Trusts, Thames Water, Environment Agency, Natural England, University of Gloucester. The Water Framework Directive was an important guide to activities.

Other supporters were: landowners, local environmental groups, parish councils, integrated local water delivery bodies, farming advisors.

Maps illustrating various described features were shown: water courses and associated features of the Daglingworth River Churn, Fairford water meadow, flooding (Cricklade North Meadow being a notable example), river dams (Thames Churn to Coln), eroded banks, Derry Brook (dairying problems), Swill Brook, cattle fencing aspects.

The detailed presentation finished with a description of the Environmental Management Scheme (ELMS), replacing Countryside Stewardship, which was currently being trialled in Gloucestershire and the Thames BLITZ Monitoring System. The importance of agricultural carbon reduction/offsetting is an important goal.

Jo-Anne was warmly thanked for her most interesting and enlightening presentation.

Helen and Stefan Goody then served coffee, tea and biscuits, and there was opportunity for general discussion.

