

THE RIVER WEY TRUST

Mallards Rectory Lane Bramshott Liphook Hampshire GU30 7QZ
01428-722162



A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
registered no 1177871

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held at Conford Village Hall on Wednesday 13th November 2019

Chairman's Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual Public Meeting, including speaker Dave Elliott, National Trust Head Ranger at Black Down. She noted that Adrian Bird would update the meeting of the Trust's successful activities throughout the year, including Alistair Young's sandbox which he has demonstrated in numerous locations

The annual garden party hosted by Kevin and Angela Moger in their riverside garden in Conford had been a happy, successful occasion, accompanied by Grandpa Spells Jazz Band.

She thanked her fellow Trustees for their support, including work party attendance to clear Himalayan Balsam, and river repair works in addition to organisation of the garden party. Especial thanks were extended to Adrian Bird for his management and industry, in particular for his informative Newsletter for which he welcomes contributions.

She thanked John Carne for volunteering to act as Hon Secretary.

Minutes of the APM – 7th November 2018

These were accepted by the Meeting as a true and accurate record. There were no matters/questions arising from the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report

The Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 30th April 2019 had been circulated by the Treasurer, Philip Jordan. The accounts had been seen and approved by Mr C M Meech, Chartered Accountant.

Note (a) confirmed that the figures took account of the 'old' charity number 288831 having been transferred to the CIO charity 1177871 (a CIO is a charity with limited liability which does not have to register at Companies House. Liability is in its own name, not in the name of the designated trustees, removing the possible financial burden from trustees).

Votes of thanks were extended to Bob Wilson for his efforts in drawing up the CIO and to Richard Hardman for his free legal advice in its completion.

Note (c) - Fixed Assets - confirmed the sum £1 was the nominal value of the Trust's land.

The Treasurer noted that the sums held were high, but were held in anticipation of planned expensive projects. Since these projects had been postponed for reasons outside the Trust's control, no grants had been requested from external organisations for capital expenditure in this financial year.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

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Executive Report

- **Land at Radford Bridge** – Planning Application has been refused, especially in view of Historic England's (HE) objection regarding the impact on the setting of the Scheduled Radford Aqueduct. Negotiations continue with the probability that a further application will be lodged, but with less buildings planned.
- **CABI** (Centre for Agricultural and Bioscience International) Japanese Knotweed control trials with psyllids continue.
- **Allees Meadow** – Work continues here and at the adjoining Radford Bridge land on 'Balsam bashing': Balsam remains widespread elsewhere, but some upstream owners are undertaking control. A successful work party in April cleared the top of the meadow. It is planned to install two small bridges to allow tractor access.
- **Griggs Green** – Potentially dangerous trees were felled In April.
- **Planning** – Symondstone caravan park's application to extend its use was commented upon adversely by the Trust, especially in view of sewage disposal. CLU (Certificate of Lawful Use) was not granted but mobile home activity apparently continues.
It has been suggested to consultants preparing EHDC's draft Green Infrastructure Plan that the whole southern Wey in East Hants should be included in the strategy (rather than Hammer to Headley Mill conservation area only): they appear to have agreed to this.
- **Water Quality** – Ammonia and phosphate tests have been carried out at 8 locations in Thames water watch BioBlitz, demonstrating seasonal variations dependent partly on rainfall and river volume. Testing sets have been obtained to ensure quicker, accurate results but more volunteers are needed to continue effective testing – a test kit was demonstrated.
- **'Kick sampling'** (testing water for invertebrate life after disturbing river sediment) may be introduced.
- **Maintenance work** on Passfield fish pass soon to assist passage of local native brown trout (but wholesale removal of obstructions needs careful consideration – there is the probability of admitting non-native species and of losing the genetic integrity of our local fish population).
Noted – signal crayfish have been practically impossible to eradicate and are adversely affecting the banks and success of trout spawning.
- **Outreach** – 'Adrian's excursions' throughout the year were successful, with an already planned walk next year from Standford to Hammer. Alistair Young's widespread demonstration of his interactive sandbox attracts great attention, and he has transformed the RWT website.
- **Wey Landscape Partnership (WLP)** – the catchment-wide grouping continues to provide a valuable forum for information and contacts. Adrian attended the WLP visit to Black Down, and the annual event at Addlestone in November with Alistair Young and his sandbox, where Woking Borough Council presented Raingardens (water-retention scheme for housing estates and roads). RWT also signed up to Cartographer mapping system for catchment-wide observations (demonstration mapping passed for information).

A.O.B.

No items raised.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the meeting, refreshments were provided by the Trustees followed by an extremely well-received talk by David Elliott, Head Ranger, National Trust Black Down regarding regeneration of the their area's natural habitat and the recently-approved introduction of a small number of European beavers in a closely managed remote area in an attempt to control local flooding with beaver dams, as part of a national reintroduction scheme.