



## Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on 24th April 2019

Plumpton Village Hall at 7.00 pm

#### 1. Welcome

The Chairman Hew Prendergast (HP) welcomed 18 members and guests and gave a broad outline of the evening's procedure. He let attendees know that there would be an opportunity to meet members of the committee and ask further questions at the end of the meeting over refreshments.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Trustees; Simon Turner and Philip Evans, and OART members Robin Pepper, Clive Fetter and Mark Orchin.

#### 3. Minutes of the AGM held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

HP asked if the minutes of the last AGM, which were available for members to view on the website, could be accepted. They were proposed as correct by members Nick Lear and Sarah Elliman and approved by the floor.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

HP introduced the new EPIC Project Officers: Linda Kerrison, who started in January 2019, and Alistair Whitby, who starts in May to the floor. HP also expressed OART's official thanks to Neil Pringle for his services to OART in financial matters and for this contribution to BMWP surveys over many years. HP also thanked his fellow Trustees and all the organisations OART works with for their support during the past year.

#### 5. Finance Report

Peter King (PK) presented the abbreviated accounts for the year-end December 2018 on behalf of Simon Turner and updated members that OART is now using the accounting system 'Quick Books' overseen by Andy Lucas. OART ended the year with £125,654 in the bank. 90% of income was received as grant income linked to project work. Money was received from supporting organisations including the EA, Lewes District Council, the Woodland Trust, the HLF and others. PK advised that membership had risen to 190 and subscriptions generated 8% of total income at £5,171 per annum. Full accounts will be submitted to Companies House and will be available for members to view. PK finished by thanking Simon Turner and Andy Lucas for their help during the year and for preparing the accounts for auditing.

#### 6. Project Officers' Report

PK presented a joint Project Officers report for Peter King and Rachel Paget (RP). An immense amount of work had been carried out in the year with September 2018 bringing the news of confirmed funding from HLF, the culmination of two years of development work. The project is known as EPIC – Enhancing Places Inspiring Communities and will run until September 2021 with the aims of enhancing the ecological status

of the Broadwater Brook and connecting people with this strategic green space through a range of activities and events. Further funding success came early in 2019 with WEG funding to deliver improvements to the Shell Brook and along the length upper Ouse. Other work included a new bristle fish pass at Hatterells weir and projects to improve fish habitat, supported by an Environment Agency FIP grant, with a total of 80 tonnes of gravel being installed across the catchment. SuDS work to complete a kerbside swale and signage for a community raingarden Hassocks, and the start of new work to manage surface water in Ringmer and Wivelsfield, supported by Lewes District Council, along with CIL funding for small works on the Bevern. PK also thanked all partners and landowners for their support; especially the Task Force for their help with practical projects, Sea Trout Watch survey volunteers, and both water quality monitoring teams who undertook 31 biological surveys and 135 chemical water surveys between them. PK and RP offered to take further questions over refreshments.

#### **7. Appointment and election of Trustees**

The members were asked to confirm the appointment of Philip Evans as a Trustee, which was approved by members. Approval was then sought to confirm the re-election of Trustees, Hew Prendergast and Dave Brown who were due to retire by rotation. No new nominations had been received for Trustees, which was disappointing, but HP thanked his fellow Trustees for their support throughout the year.

#### **8. Guest lecture Everything you might not want to know about our rivers!**

James Ebdon, OART trustee and reader in Environmental Microbiology at the University of Brighton gave an extremely informative and engaging talk and then took questions from the floor.

#### **9. Presentation of the Tony Barnard Shield**

The Tony Barnard Shield is presented each year to a person or group who has given outstanding support to the Trust. This year it was presented to Peter Chase for his considerable contribution to water testing and pollution incident follow up on the River Adur

#### **Close**

HP then brought the proceedings to a close, again thanking all the members for their support and saying that there was the opportunity to speak to the Trustees and speakers over the tea and coffee.