

Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Otter Valley Association

held at

7.30pm Tuesday 11 June 2024 at the Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton

PRESENT

Officers of the Executive Committee.

President/Chair - Haylor Lass,

Vice Chair - Bob Wiltshire

Treasurer/Membership - Martin Smith,

Secretary - Jane Kewley,

Also present in the room were **Trustees** Chris Hodgson, Geoff Porter and Dee Woods, together with 36 other **Members** of the Otter Valley Association and guest speaker Sam Bridgewater of Clinton Devon Estates.

Action

The Chair welcomed OVA Members to the meeting and confirmed that a quorum was present.

1.00 APOLOGIES

The Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from members, Nick & Gill Speare, Jacqui Ruhlig, David & Liz Ferguson, Celia Rustom, Paul & Penny Kurowski, Liz & Phil Donnelly, Jamie Justham, Trevor & Diane Waddington, Liz Culpeper, Chrissie Wells, Majorie & Martin Stockley, Michael & Anthea Downes, Sue Glover, David White, David & Nicola Daniel.

2.00 MINUTES of the Previous AGM held on 12 June 2023

The Chair confirmed that the draft Minutes of the previous AGM on 12th June 2023 were agreed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 27th June 23 as a true reflection of the AGM and have previously been made available to Members.

Members were asked if they had any comments or queries on the draft Minutes and there being none, Geoff Porter proposed, and Chris Hodgson seconded the proposal to approve the Minutes as a true reflection of the previous AGM which was then unanimously approved by the Members present by a show of hands.

The Chair signed the Minutes as a true reflection of that meeting.

3.00 MATTERS ARISING

The Chair updated the meeting on the matters arising from the previous AGM.

3.01 Item 3.00 – Charity Commission - The updated OVA Constitution has been successfully lodged with the Charity Commission.

- 3.02 Item 8.01 - OVA Storage facility** - following the 2023 AGM the Vice Chair was able to secure some storage space in a garage in Budleigh Salterton. The Chair highlighted that as the OVA do not have a property base, provision for the storage of their equipment & archives will need further consideration in the future.
- 3.03 Item 8.02 Future of the OVA** – the Chair confirmed that despite offering to stand as Chair for only 12 months at last year’s AGM, he has agreed to be nominated to continue in the role of Chair for another year, subject to the approval of the members, but the OVA remains ‘cash rich but people poor’.
- Following last year’s AGM Chris Boorman stepped up to edit the newsletter and rejuvenated the OVA communications using social media, and several other members are getting involved with Natural Environment & History initiatives, but more volunteers are always needed.
- The Chair reiterated that if becoming a trustee and being part of the Executive Committee does not appeal, volunteers could assist in a variety of ways reporting to the Executive Committee. Members were asked to talk to one of the Officers/Trustees to discuss how they may be able to contribute.
- 4.00 THE TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 March 24**
- The Chair confirmed that he had nothing further to add to his introductory comments in the Trustees Report which had been produced in sufficient time for all members to view it prior to the meeting, with further copies available at the meeting.
- The Chair asked if there were any questions arising on the Annual Report for the Treasurer on the Treasurers Report and Statement of Financial Activities included Trustees Report.
- There being no questions from the Members present, the Chair thanked David Conner for his help in preparing the accounts, as the Independent Examiner.
- Chris Boorman proposed and Heather Fereday seconded approval of the Trustees Report including the Accounts which was unanimously approved by a show of hands of the Members present.
- 5.00 APPOINTMENT of the INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**
- The Chair advised the meeting that David Conner had agreed to act as the Independent Examiner for the OVA.
- The appointment of David Conner as the Independent Examiner was proposed by Dee Woods and seconded by Chris Hodgson before being carried by a unanimous show of hands of the Members present.
- 6.00 ELECTION of TRUSTEES as OFFICERS**
- The Secretary reported that there was only one candidate for each Officer post, all of whom confirmed their willingness to stand and had been nominated and seconded.
- Chair – Haylor Lass
Vice Chair – Chris Boorman
Treasurer - Martin Smith
Secretary - Jane Kewley

The election of the Officers was carried by a unanimous show of hands of the Members present.

7.00 ELECTION of other TRUSTEES

The Secretary reported that nominations have been received for 3 further Trustees to serve on the Executive Committee, each of whom had agreed to stand and have been nominated and seconded as follows.

Geoff Porter

Robert Wiltshire

Dee Woods

The election of the Trustees was carried by a unanimous show of hands of the Members present.

8.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.01 Future of the OVA – the Chair highlighted that the OVA is currently working on several initiatives.

Water Quality – working in conjunction with other interested organisations.

Blue Plaques – working with the Fairlynch Museum and others.

Bird Boxes and other wildlife initiatives.

Flora & Fauna – a new group of OVA members is being set up.

Members are encouraged to become involved in any projects of interest to them.

9.00 PROPOSED DATE OF THE NEXT AGM – will be confirmed in advance of the meeting in 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

The formal business of the meeting was followed by an interesting and informative talk by Sam Bridgewater of Clinton Devon Estates on the 'Heaths to Sea: Landscape Recovery of the lower Otter Valley' project together with a Q&A session.