

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Otter Valley Association

held at

7.30pm Tuesday 17 June 2025 at the Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton

PRESENT

Officers of the Executive Committee.

President/Chair - Haylor Lass,

Vice Chair – Chris Boorman,

Treasurer/Membership - Martin Smith,

Secretary - Jane Kewley,

Also present in the room was **Trustee** Geoff Porter, together with 46 other **Members** of the Otter Valley Association, 2 non-members and the guest speaker Dr David Smith from South West Water.

Action

The Chair welcomed OVA Members to the meeting and confirmed that a quorum was present. The Chair introduced the Officers and Trustee present at the meeting and confirmed that the one other trustee Dee Woods had sent her apologies.

Before commencing formal business, the Chair took the opportunity to offer the Executive Committees thanks to

- (i) Bob Wiltshire who resigned as a trustee earlier this year for his many years of service on the Executive Committee in various roles and
- (ii) Jon Roseway and the walks committee and walks leaders who produced the new 'Otter Valley Walks Companion' book which members have received a complimentary copy of this evening.

The members concurred with their appreciation.

1.00 APOLOGIES

The Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from 21 members.

2.00 MINUTES of the Previous AGM held on 11 June 2024

The Chair confirmed that the draft Minutes of the previous AGM on 11th June 2024 were agreed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 2nd July 2024 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, Bob Wiltshire proposed, and Peter Williams 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 Secretary confirmed that there were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous AGM.

4.00 THE TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 March 25

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 receive a copy by email or view it on the website prior to the meeting.

The Chair advised the meeting that following the recent receipt of a substantial bequest, Hammett Associates were appointed as the Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year to 31/3/25.

The Chair asked if there were any questions arising on the Annual Report which includes the Treasurers Report and Statement of Financial Activities.

There being no questions from the Members present, the Chair thanked Hammett Associates for their help in preparing the accounts.

Geoff Porter proposed, and Olly Watts seconded acceptance of the Trustees Report and approval the Statement of Financial Activities 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 Hammett Associates are willing to act as the Independent Examiner for the OVA.

The appointment of Hammett Associates as the Independent Examiner was proposed by Peter Williams and seconded by Olly Watts 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 nomination for each Officer post. Each candidate has confirmed their willingness to stand and have been nominated and seconded in accordance with the OVA Constitution. The Secretary confirmed the candidates as.

Chair – Haylor Lass

Vice Chair – Chris Boorman

Treasurer - Martin Smith

Secretary - Jane Kewley

The Secretary asked for a show of hands from the Members present for those in favour of the election of the Officers which was unanimously approved.

7.00 ELECTION of other TRUSTEES

The Secretary reported that nominations have been received for 2 further Trustees to serve on the Executive Committee, each of whom has agreed to stand and been nominated and seconded in accordance with the Constitution as follows.

Geoff Porter

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 Trustees – the Chair highlighted that with only 6 trustees currently there is thin coverage for the formal running of the OVA so encouraged members to consider volunteering to stand as a trustee on the Executive Committee.

9.00 PROPOSED DATE OF THE NEXT AGM – the Secretary advised that the date will be confirmed in advance of the meeting in 2026.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.41pm

The formal business of the meeting was followed by a brief presentation by the Vice Chair on the OVA's strategy and six campaigns for 2025.

1. To champion for clean water in the river Otter and its tributaries
2. To encourage sustainable and appropriate development
3. To celebrate the incredible heritage of our Valley
4. To encourage thriving biodiversity across our Parishes, Heaths, Valley & Estuaries
5. To encourage our local communities & visitors to adapt to better ways of living
6. Helping the younger generation to care for our planet

The Chair and Vice Chair then introduced Dr David Smith, Natural Resources Manager for South West Water who gave an interesting and informative talk on SWW Natural Resources and Catchment Programmes 'Upstream Thinking' which was followed by questions from the audience.