



Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Board of Trustees and Associate Members held in the Kings Head, Masham on 8th March 2018

Attendance and Apologies:

Trustees	Andy Brown (Chair and acting Secretary) D Hartley C Ryder S Axford R Brown Tom Orde-Powlett	Lord Masham (President) Mark Facer (Treasurer) Sir Anthony Milnes Coates F Broughton
Associate Members	D Milward J Burton R Hunt C Bourne-Arton N Buck H Scrope R Bolton A Tunningley N Hopper R Bolton	D Hoyle A Fallows M Grace R Bourne-Arton J Shilcock Roger Lombard Alan Godlee Michael Chorlton-Eedy David Bryan Robert Hall Chris Hartley Stuart Hopper
Trust Officers	D Turner M Taylor D Bamford R Mercer C Mason C Simons C Forman (Director)	
Guests	Z Van Leeuwen	

Welcome

The Chair of Trustees, Andy Brown, welcomed everybody to the meeting. He explained that the AGM would be followed by an informal Members Evening. Apologies were read out and the full attendance and apologies list is provided above.

A1/18 Minutes of the AGM held 9 March 2017

The minutes from the previous AGM were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

A2/18 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the previous AGM were raised.

A3/18 – Chairman's report on the previous year

- The year had got off to a flying start as only a matter of days after the last AGM there had been a dinner and auction fund-raising event organized by the Ure Salmon Group. This had raised over £40k giving our unrestricted funds a significant boost. As the fund raising was done by the USG the vast bulk of this money would be spent on the Ure.
- YDRT had started with 5 members of staff but in April Caitlin Pearson - a very able staff member, much missed - had left to join the West Cumbria Rivers Trust. The Trust had subsequently grown significantly. In April, we had recruited Charles Forman as our first Director. Charles had been our EA catchment co-ordinator so he knew us well and we knew him. Charles had quickly got up to speed and had certainly made the life of the Chairman a lot easier: he would be giving an overview of all of our project work and achievements in the first presentation after the AGM. Over the next 5 months we recruited 3 other staff: Jack Hirst, Marie Taylor and Catherine Mason. That brought our total number to 8. The Chair stated that they had all bedded in very well, got involved in the project work very quickly and were proving to be real assets to the Trust.
- The increased staffing levels reflected our success in raising funds. We had secured grants totaling £1.3m during the year but some of this funding was spread out over a year or two and so we had lots of work to do before some of the money could be claimed in full. Dave Hartley had continued as our Treasurer for most of the year but had now handed over to Mark Facer: huge thanks were due to Dave. The Treasurer's role was a very significant one for the Trust with a lot of money coming from different sources with different accounting rules so that we need to keep track and ensure we can account for it in full and demonstrate what has been delivered. With the growth of the Trust it had become a more onerous role but we have had the benefit of Charlotte working as our finance officer for one day a week throughout the year. We had made some changes to our financial management arrangements which Mark would explain later.
- The Chairman mentioned four project areas to demonstrate the breadth of work that we are now engaged with.

- DVRN. This had gone from strength to strength under the guidance of Rita who had led the work and Chris Ryder who chaired the project board. It has developed into an effective partnership arrangement. There are now 15 active projects generated through this partnership, some led by us and others led by one or more of the 50 partners who are involved. These projects are spread throughout the two catchments we cover (Swale Ure Nidd and Upper Ouse; and the Wharfe and Lower Ouse). During the year catchment management plans had been developed collaboratively. Local community groups, wildlife groups, anglers, parish, district and county councils, statutory agencies, land managers, farmers, walking groups and others had all been involved. The plans were on the DVRN web site.
 - Second, we were continuing to deliver practical improvement projects along stretches of river. Examples were our work on the Mid Swale Tributaries and the Rivers in Elmet project. These tackle some of the water quality problems that are all too common such as excessive sediment inputs and high levels of phosphorus. This was very much bread and butter work for the Trust, but during the year we had branched out and really got involved in natural flood management. We identified this a few years ago as a potential growth area and this has proved to be the case. We had several NFM projects funded which Charles would describe later.
 - Third, YDRT had secured funds to expand our education work with our new mobile classroom. We had hoped it would be ready to have here today but unfortunately it was still being fitted out. Catherine Mason was present and would be ready to describe later how we would use it to reach out and teach people about rivers and how we need to look after them.
 - Fourth, our work to remove barriers to fish migration. Over the years many barriers to fish movement had been constructed in rivers. These had cut off spawning areas and depleted certain fish species. This year we had received substantial funding to address three significant barriers. These were large and complex projects with many challenges to overcome. We have been extremely busy doing all the preparatory work to gather the necessary data, consult with many different parties and obtain the necessary permissions. The Chair hoped that next year the Trust would be able to report the successful completion of these projects.
- During the year we had not just recruited new staff but also invested in staff development. Dan had been supported in doing a course at Lancaster University called Flood Risk Management and Coastal Management. Other staff have done courses on River Safety, First Aid and Use of Chain Saws. We had also had to adopt the new legal requirement to auto enroll new staff into approved pension schemes.
 - During the year we had approved the creation of a second River Group, in line with the idea we had developed a while ago to help address the challenges of working over such a large and diverse area with 5 main river systems to work on. Many people and communities were primarily interested in their local river and so the idea of local River Groups was to provide support and advise the Trust. The first of these was the Ure Salmon Group. Tom had guided this group during the year and deserved

thanks for his wise advice and support and for the work of the group as a whole. Now a second group had been formed, for the Swale. This was chaired by Sir Anthony Milnes Coates. It is very early days for the group but we hoped it would develop and be able to support and advise the Trust.

- The Chair then looked ahead a bit. The challenges were significant. It is essential for the Trust to continue to build on its achievements to date and continue to develop as a charity that can make a real difference to the Rivers in our area. There are improvements to water quality needed on many stretches; we needed to rise to the challenges of climate change with higher water temperatures and unseasonably large and often damaging flows; changes in land management; and also improve the understanding and enjoyment of the rivers.
- Funding-raising would remain a top priority. We faced some significant uncertainties as a result of Brexit as this has led to changes to funding streams that we have relied on in the past. New schemes are being designed and we await the outcome of this work and the funding decisions of Government.
- The Chair would like to see the Trust develop its public profile and its membership base and continue to build on our education work and develop a stronger role in monitoring and reporting what is happening in our rivers. This was a significant agenda for the future.
- Finally the Chair thanked Trustees for their support and in particular Andrew Fallows and Tom Orde-Powlett who were both stepping down. Andrew had helped with auction events and Tom with merger with UST and wise advice on all sorts of issues. The Chair was hugely impressed with the commitment, energy and expertise of staff: their self-motivation and work rate was quite extraordinary. They worked tirelessly for the Trust and the Chair had nothing but admiration for what they achieve. Our army of volunteers was indispensable, turning out in all weathers to help with fencing, tree planting, willow spilling, sampling, surveying and much more. The Chair thanked Alistair Logan for his masterly coordination and each and every volunteer for their work. We could only operate as a charity with their support and it was much appreciated by all of us.

A4/18 Treasurers Report and Accounts

Apologies were received from Mark Facer, Treasurer, who was sick. Charlotte Simons, finance officer, gave the update. Thanks were given to David Hartley, outgoing treasurer for his efforts and staged handover. Due to the expansion of the Trust and the number of new projects we needed a professional accounting software programme and so were now using Quickbooks to allow us to track the bank accounts and run reports. Over the last year, our

funding base had been extended and now included Prince's Countryside Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Postcode Lottery.

A5/18 Retirement of Trustees and the election of new Trustees

The chair advised that, as required by our articles of Association, the longest serving 25% of our trustees were standing down on rotation. These were Andy Brown, Tom Orde Powlett and Andrew Fallows, none of whom were standing for re-election. There were two new trustees for consideration: David Marks and Sir Anthony Milnes Coates. Their election was proposed by Harry Scrope and seconded by Tom Orde Powlett.

The chair also advised that he was standing down and that the Board had selected a new chair – Chris Ryder – who has been a trustee for 4 years and brings a breadth to the work of YDRT with his links with the Rivers Trust and national rivers work.

At this point Andrew Brown handed the meeting over to Chris Ryder in his role as the new Chair. Chris thanked Andy for all his hard work over the years – the outcome of which had been significant growth of the Trust and the work it does. A presentation would be made to Andy in honour of the work he had done for the Trust.

A presentation was then made to Rita Mercer who had led the DVRN since conception, building it up to a thriving network and the launch of the Catchment management plans at Fountains Abbey in January 2018.

A6/18 Date of future AGMs

The Trust's AGMs had up till now been held in March each year, six months after the end of the preceding accounting period. However, with the change to the financial year of the Trust (from Oct - Sept to April -March), AGMs needed to take place in September. The Trust's articles of association do not allow for two AGMs in one year nor for more than 15 months to elapse between AGMs. A resolution was therefore brought forward, stating that the AGM would in future take place in September (proposed by C Bourne-Arton, seconded by D Hartley). So the next AGM would be in September 2019.