The Wilbraham River Protection Society minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 25 November 2025
Venue: Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall

1. Present

30 members were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from nine members.

3. Minutes of the 26th AGM

The minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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5. Chairman's Report

Richard Townley

The Committee met four times during the year. Committee membership remained unchanged, with the exception of the resignation of St John Starkie after the end of the financial year.

River Flow and Augmentation

Early in 2025 there was good river flow, with springs running in the Temple grounds and possibly at Fulbourn. As borehole levels rose above 14 m AOD, the Environment Agency (EA) reduced flow augmentation from 24 hours to 12 hours daily, with the aim of further reduction if natural flow could be maintained.

Despite very low rainfall in March, river flow continued into April. However, by July, when rainfall was the lowest for 132 years, full augmentation resumed. At this time, water reached the New Cut confluence beyond Hawk Mill, but the stretch from there to the A1303 remained dry. This situation persisted into the autumn. Despite cumulative rainfall of only 28 cm up to mid-October, drought was not declared in the Society's area, unlike in surrounding regions, which were designated as experiencing a "prolonged dry period".

Adjustments to augmentation flow rates and pump operation demonstrated how rapidly river flow can be restored if swift action is taken, particularly following pump failure. It was also confirmed that flow loss was not due to cracked riverbeds.

Water Quality Monitoring

In January, the Committee agreed to initiate monitoring of phosphate levels in river water with the assistance of volunteers. It was considered essential that data collection be standardised to allow integration into wider studies.

A pilot water quality survey was conducted in late February, sampling 21 river sites. Encouragingly, no results required reporting to the EA, although some findings suggested possible contamination from sewage, road runoff, and agrochemicals. The Society benefited from the professional support of Dr Steve Boreham during this work.

A second sampling session took place in June, revealing higher levels of coliforms, ammonia, and turbidity, likely due to lower water levels. Low nitrate levels suggested that augmentation water (known to be nitrate-rich) may have been diluted by rainfall or filtered by reeds. Further monitoring, including additional sites, is under consideration. River fly monitoring is also being explored, and training has been undertaken by Stephen Cory.

Walks and Engagement

Three circular seasonal walks, as proposed in the previous year's report, took place in April, June, and October, coinciding with quarterly Committee meetings. The walks covered a 4.1-mile route from Little Wilbraham Windmill along the route of the river and returning via the droves. Twelve people attended the June and October walks. These events provided opportunities to observe reed cutting sites, citizen science sampling points, and potential locations for future monitoring of river levels and reed growth. The Society intends to continue this initiative. Although no annual river walk took place in 2025, one is planned for 2026.

River Monitoring Cameras

Three live cameras have been installed to monitor river flow at gauging stations at the Lanes, Fulbourn/Coles Bridge, and downstream near the wooden footbridge close to the A1303. All cameras are accessible via the Society's website. Improvements to camera quality and relocation of the downstream camera are being considered. EA activity has been noted at the Lanes and at Coles Bridge, where new steps have been installed.

Advocacy and Communications

The Society continues to monitor national and local reports and initiatives affecting chalk streams, the water industry, and local planning. Water supply, sewerage, and regulation remain high-profile issues, particularly given proposed increases in development in this water-scarce area and concerns about sewage treatment capacity.

The Society's website (thewrps.org) remains an important source of information. A recent video documenting the river from the Temple Springs to the A1303 illustrates conditions during the summer. Noticeboards are regularly updated with information on Society activities and wildlife sightings.

The Chairman concluded by encouraging further involvement in the Society, both in membership and Committee roles, to support protection of the river and its wildlife.

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6. Treasurer's Report

Sharon Mulley

- Opening cash balance: just over £1,400
- Income:
  - £283 from Fugolburna
  - £95 from AGM donations
- Expenditure:
  - Approximately £200 relating to Fugolburna
  - £725 for water testing

This resulted in an overall loss of £617, reducing cash reserves to £792.

The Chairman confirmed the Society's intention to continue water testing. Combined with bank charges of nearly £60 per annum, this means additional income sources will be required. Members were invited to suggest potential funding opportunities. Wadlow Wind Farm and the Kingsway Solar Fund were mentioned, both of which are under consideration.

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7. Secretary's Report

Rebecca Lomas

The Society currently has 145 members. During the year, four new members joined and five members were lost.

The Society aims to expand its membership and activities. To support this, Public Liability Insurance will be required. In exploring insurance options, the Society has developed supportive links with several local and national organisations.

Publicity continues through village magazines, the Society website, and noticeboards.

Most Committee officer roles are due for renewal this year. It was agreed by members present that re-elections may take place during the year.

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8. Discussion

- Fundraising ideas included approaching Wadlow Wind Farm and the Kingsway Solar Farm development for potential project funding.

- At the request of a member, David Lomas presented photographs of the river over the past 100 years and provided historical context regarding declining water levels.
- A question was raised as to why drought was not declared during the driest summer for 138 years. David Lomas explained that Cambridge Water had been reluctant to declare drought for unclear reasons, whereas Anglian Water had been more responsive. Members offered various theories.

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9. Film Screening

The film *Testing the Waters* was shown during the break.

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10. Guest Speaker

Richard Townley introduced **Dr Laurie Friday**, zoologist and former Programme Manager at the Cambridge Centre for Landscape Regeneration, with over 40 years' experience working in the Fens, particularly at Wicken Fen.

Dr Friday gave a talk entitled *Restoring Wetland Biodiversity in the Fens: What Can Ditches Do for Us?* She outlined the history of fenland drainage and the resulting biodiversity loss. The Great Fen Survey was discussed, highlighting differences in species richness across various ditch types. Ditches with wider, gently sloping or stepped profiles were shown to support greater plant and invertebrate biodiversity. Given the extensive network of ditches in Fenland, small structural changes could have significant positive impacts.

The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session and formal thanks to Dr Friday.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
Chairman's Report for 2023/2024

The Committee has met four times during the year. Two new committee members joined in January, Richard Lane and Sharon Mulley. Sharon was promptly appointed as Hon Treasurer, filling a vacancy.

The water level in the River started 2024 with a good flow perhaps not surprising as rainfall had been 30% above the average. The good news is that this has been maintained in most parts of the River over the remainder of the year. Levels started to drop as summer moved into autumn but have recently started to recover. Tony Goryn has continued to keep a close watch as has David Cottee of Fulbourn Forum within the Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve and the adjacent stream.

Work has continued on establishing near real-time monitoring of river levels and now the river has been in water for over a year we are considering some quality monitoring. This will involve river water sampling and we will likely need volunteers to help with this. The plan is to make this monitoring data available on the WRPS website for both public and Environmental Agency use. The EA now plan to reconnect and upgrade their monitoring systems during 2025, following an onsite meeting earlier this year.

On Sunday 19th May the annual River Walk proved very popular. The route across Wilbraham Common to Herrings House from Hawk Mill was a good length and highlighted the history of the Great Wilbraham River. It was particularly interesting to visit the House and hear about its origins from Mr Robson, the owner, and to visit the adjacent Parish Acre. Tea was taken in the attractive area close to the original course of the Great Wilbraham River amongst Mel Fraser's sculptures.

The society website (thewrps.org) is being improved and is well worth visiting to keep up to date with the Society's work. Here you will find information on relevant water reports, surveys, future planning, water politics and the current condition of the River. You will also find information on our social events. This year we held a Plant Sale at Great Wilbraham Farmers Market in April. Thank you to all who supported this. In February with the Wilbraham's Environmental Group we arranged a showing of Pure Clean Water a film by Tony Eva who followed with a Q&A session. Members of the committee attended the March for Clean Water in London in November. Next year we are hoping to have a series of four circular rambles along the river. We will take the same route and can compare changes in the river and ecosystem with changes in the seasons. All events are advertised on the Website.

The Society keeps a close watch on all matters in the local area concerning chalk streams and the likely effects of the actions of public bodies, and to press for action to maintain and improve the flow in the River and to seek measures that could benefit the surrounding biodiversity. To this end members of the Committee have attended meetings of CamEO (Cambridge, Ely and Ouse Catchment Partnership) with the aim of sharing expertise and creating a Cam Catchment Plan similar to ones produced for other adjacent catchment areas. The Wildlife Trust has also recently revived the local Cam Catchment Partnership to work closely with CamEO and link up all local river groups including the WRPS. Given the recent formation of the Cambridge Growth Company and the potential impact of this government-based initiative we will have to be particularly vigilant over the next few years.

A new WRPS noticeboard has now been erected in Fulbourn, adjacent to the chalk stream to the east of the Nature Reserve beside the public footpath, similar to that near Hawk Mill Farm giving information on the work of the Society. It is hoped that local wildlife sightings will be recorded here as well in due course.

As ever we are always looking for further interest in the work of the Society both for the Committee membership and that of the Society to help protect our local River and wildlife.

Minutes of the 26th AGM of the Wilbraham River Protection Society. November 26th 2024.

Present. Richard Townley, Rebecca Lomas, Sharon and Guy Mulley, David Lomas, John Willis, Jane Gaskell, Tony Goryn, Dave Sexton, David and Sylvia Cottee, Gill Aslett, Steven Cory, Roger Burton, David White, Allan Painter, Claire and Martin Daunton, Ian Cummings, Sue and David Lee, Graham and Hilary Burton, Ellen Francis, David Smith, Carol Williams, Cecil Willcocks, Peter Pope, Susy Worzencraft, Anne and Duncan Pass.

Apologies. Sally Ramus. David and Helga Lendrum. Alan Cody and Susan Simpson.

Minutes of the 25th AGM accepted as a true record.

Chairmans report for 23-24

The Committee has met four times during the year. Two new committee members joined in January, Richard Lane and Sharon Mulley. Sharon was promptly appointed as Hon Treasurer, filling a vacancy.

The water level in the River started 2024 with a good flow perhaps not surprising as rainfall had been 30% above the average. The good news is that this has been maintained in most parts of the River over the remainder of the year. Levels started to drop as summer moved into autumn but have recently started to recover. Tony Goryn has continued to keep a close watch as has David Cottee of Fulbourn Forum within the Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve and the adjacent stream.

Work has continued on establishing near real-time monitoring of river levels and now the river has been in water for over a year we are considering some quality monitoring. This will involve river water sampling and we will likely need volunteers to help with this. The plan is to make this monitoring data available on the WRPS website for both public and Environmental Agency use. The EA now plan to reconnect and upgrade their monitoring systems during 2025, following an onsite meeting earlier this year.

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The society website (thewrps.org) is being improved and is well worth visiting to keep up to date with the Society's work and has information on relevant water reports, surveys, future planning, water politics and the current condition of the River.

The Society keeps a close watch on all matters in the local area concerning chalk streams and the likely effects of the actions of public bodies, and to press for action to maintain and improve the flow in the River and to seek measures that could benefit the surrounding biodiversity. To this end members of the Committee have attended meetings of CamEO (Cambridge, Ely and Ouse Catchment Partnership) with the aim of sharing expertise and creating a Cam Catchment Plan similar to ones produced for other adjacent catchment areas. The Wildlife Trust has also recently revived the local Cam Catchment Partnership to work closely with CamEO and link up all local river groups including

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Treasurers report.

- Income this year £551.24
- Expenditure 215.54
- Surplus 335.70
- Total reserves at the bank £1,409.21

Secretary's report

We now have 146 members of the WRPS and ten committee members. Hopefully we now have a more comprehensive method of collecting correct mailing addresses. Emails will now come from wilbrahamriver@gmail.com this address can be used for any communication with the society.

Other sources of society news remain the website, thewrps.org the two notice boards at Fulbourn and Hawk Mill Farm and The Wilbraham Warbler.

Points arising from Last years AGM.

Monitoring of the river flow has progressed and live river levels will soon be posted on the website thanks to Stephen Cory's hard work. We are hoping to monitor water quality in the next year. David Lomas has been in discussion with CASTCO. This is a Rivers Trust group who are developing citizen science based river monitoring methods. They have been actively involved with the Norfolk Trust developing a website that can be used to report measurements. In the future this might be extended to cover the Cam catchment. The WRPS is planning to engage with these projects. The locations of monitoring on the river as well as the accuracy of results are important. Steve Boreham ,local geologist has offered to give us some guidance on a strategy.

Dungate Farm Augmentation Pump.

Tony Goryn has formed a stakeholder group of local organisations to promote the need for refurbishment of the Dungate Farm pump that augments the flow of the river. The pump is old and was last replaced in 2006. The pump has to be reset manually by the EA at times of failure. This can lead to delays and subsequent drying of the river which in turn quickly destroys the aquatic life.

A WRPS freedom of Information request has revealed that the Lodes Granta augmentation scheme covers six augmentation points including Wicken Fen and typically costs £90 000 PA to run that is £7,500 per pump. The Dungate farm pump is the most active of all the pumps.

David Cottee noted that Fulbourn Fen had been flooded for much of this year. DJL explained that this demonstrates the failure of the EA to properly and effectively monitor Fen and river levels. RT explained that the Wildlife Trust are responsible for reporting to the Environment Agency regarding the condition of Fulbourn Fen and the related meadows.

DC explained that FulbournFen is meant to be wet but the flooding this year is due to high ground water levels after the rain. So flooding of the Fen is probably not related to augmentation pumping. The augmentation to Fulbourn Fen is purely for the SSSI East Fen Pasture. It does not directly augment the river in contrast to pumping at the Temple Springs for the Wilbraham branch of the river.

Talk by David Smith on Fauna and Flora of Wilbraham Fen

This was a very interesting talk showing many photographs that Mr Smith had taken over years of walking The Fen. These recorded siting's of birds and animals including deer hares foxes Water voles and Mink and graphically illustrated the danger and inhumanity of setting snares.He has seen Oyster catchers ,Redshanks, Bearded Tits, Woodpeckers (not the lesser Spotted). All the Owls, Hen Harriers and Hobbies as well as Warblers, Cuckoos, Water Rails Bittern and Herons and many others. His photographs captured sunrise and sunset and the beauty of the fenland countryside. Mr Smith also monitors the water levels using the gauge at the 1303 end of the Wilbraham river and has kept records for many years.

Following the talk Mr Smith was asked about a market for the reeds and Ellen Francis, whose estate now cut the reeds rotationally annually to maintain the habitat for nesting birds, explained that this was a complicated issue and at present it was not possible to sell them commercially but might be possible in the future.

There was an enjoyable break between the AGM and David Smiths talk and many members enjoyed a glass of wine and a chat.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
Chairman's Report for 2022/23

The committee met four times during the year. Two new members joined, Stephen Cory and St. John Starkie.

Once more it has been a very busy year for the Committee and the Officers. In contrast to the previous year there has been greater rainfall starting in February and continuing during part of the summer months. Despite possibly being declared the hottest year on record and the higher level of rainfall it has been necessary to maintain continuous augmentation to achieve flow in the River. As before it has required chivvying of the Environment Agency to maintain this flow with breaks caused by failure of the pump at Dungate Farm and decisions to pause the pumping for no apparent reason. The need for a replacement pump has become even more urgent. There has, as yet, been no evidence of the springs running either at the Temple or at Fulbourn.

Tony Goryn has continued regular monitoring of the river levels at both gauging stations in Great Wilbraham and Fulbourn. Through this he has maintained pressure on the Environment Agency to secure continued pumping of the augmentation scheme.

To try and maintain flows attempts have been made to define for the Environment Agency the flow aims of the Society. The principal objective should be to maintain all year round flow in the river to support the related natural environment. This should be achieved by online monitoring of both gauging stations, exploring the possibility of additional monitoring sites, improving the criteria for augmentation management and upgrading the Dungate Farm pump.

Early in the year Stephen Cory proposed the use of telemetry to monitor flow, depth and chemical levels of the river water. The equipment would be positioned on or above the river at one site and would be able to link with other monitors potentially up to a kilometre away. A grant was obtained from Cam Valley Forum for river monitoring equipment. This is still work in progress though an experimental site at Hawk Mill has been established with telemetry of flow and depth. A number of technical issues have slowed down progress, though reliable internet connection difficulties have now been overcome and reliable flow sensors still have to be deployed. It is now hoped to complete the 12 month monitoring project by October 2024.

The noticeboard mentioned in last year's report has been set up near Hawk Mill and information notices posted. A similar noticeboard is planned to be erected in Fulbourn near the Nature Reserve.

The annual River Walk took place in July. Twenty-two people came and despite the weather was very successful. Two new members joined and David Lomas gave talks along the route on the history of the river and the fen. The path, to the west of Hawk Mill, was in places heavily overgrown despite clearance by several volunteers prior to the walk some walkers found the going hard and two had to turn back.

The Committee has been represented at meetings of the recently formed Cambridge Ely Ouse Catchment Organisation (CAMEO). This body is supported by the Rivers Trust and Anglian Water. It provides for presentations and discussion on matters relating to the catchment including river restoration projects and other relevant topics.

The Committee has noted the ongoing issues arising from large scale residential development proposals in the Cambridge area where both the Environment Agency and Natural England have both objected to such proposals on the basis of the inadequacy of the public water supply to meet increased demand on the grounds of the effects on the natural environment.

The website is maintained by David Lomas with StJohn Starkie. David has also engaged with the Wilbraham's Environment group about the river and what is happening at Little Wilbraham Fen SSSI.

We continue to look for further members of the Committee and the Society. It is still a challenging and interesting time with lots going on both locally and with the chalk streams. So please do come and join the WRPS and help protect our local river and wildlife.

Richard Townley (Chairman)
www.thewrps.org

Minutes of the 25th AGM of the Wilbraham River Protection Society held at Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall on 28th November 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Present. Richard Townley, Brian Jackson, Jane Gaskell, David and Rebecca Lomas, Stjohn Starkie, Tony Goryn, Alan Cody, Elaine Allison, Richard and Madhu Davies. Hilary and Graham Burton, Sylvia and David Cottee, Richard Lane, Roger Burton, Guy and Sharon Mulley, Martin and Claire Daunton, Rob White.

Apologies. Nick Toovey. Sally Ramus and Susan Simpson.

Chairman's report

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Once more it has been a very busy year for the Committee and the Officers. In contrast to the previous year there has been greater rainfall starting in February and continuing during part of the summer months. Despite possibly being declared the hottest year on record and the higher level of rainfall it has been necessary to maintain continuous augmentation to achieve flow in the River. This has required regular feedback to the Environment Agency and for breaks caused by failure of the pump at Dungate Farm and decisions to pause the pumping for no apparent reason. The need for a replacement pump has become even more urgent. There has, as yet, been no evidence of the springs running either at the Temple or at Fulbourn.

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Early in the year Stephen Cory proposed the use of telemetry to monitor flow, depth and chemical levels of the river water. The equipment would be positioned on or above the river at one site and would be able to link with other monitors potentially up to a kilometre away. A grant was obtained from Cam Valley Forum for river monitoring equipment. This is still work in progress though an experimental site at Hawk Mill has been established with telemetry of flow and depth. A number of technical issues have slowed down progress, though reliable internet connection difficulties have now been overcome and reliable flow sensors still have to be deployed. It is now hoped to complete the 12 month monitoring project by October 2024.

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despite clearance by several volunteers prior to the walk some walkers found the going hard and two had to turn back.

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The Committee has noted the ongoing issues arising from large scale residential development proposals in the Cambridge area where the Environment Agency and Natural England have both objected to such proposals on the basis of the inadequacy of the public water supply to meet increased demand on the grounds of the effects on the natural environment.

The website is maintained by David Lomas with StJohn Starkie. David has also engaged with the Wilbraham's Environment group about the river and what is happening at Little Wilbraham Fen SSSI.

We continue to look for further members of the Committee and the Society. It is still a challenging and interesting time with lots going on both locally and with the chalk streams. So please do come and join the WRPS and help protect our local river and wildlife.

Treasurer's report

Income from Nov 22 £15

Expenditure from Nov 22 £218

Total in account Nov 23 £1,073.51

Signatories for the account Rebecca (Steward) Lomas and Brian Jackson.

Secretaries Report

Thirteen new members have joined the committee in the last year mostly from the walk and the website. Membership is now 106 with active email addresses and 18 for whom we do not have an active email or postal address.

This year we decided to circulate Committee meeting minutes to the membership after they had been approved. Details of the AGM, the annual walk and of upcoming meetings of interest are also circulated. This will continue.

The society remains in close contact with Cameo and the Cam Valley Forum.

Nomination of new officers

Current members of the committee agreed to continue in post for a further year but new officers are actively sought. No new nominations were proposed at the meeting.

(Note: following the meeting Sharon Mulley and Richard Lane have expressed an interest in joining the committee.)

Presentation from Mr Tony Goryn on his work promoting the augmentation scheme.

Mr Goryn has liaised directly with the EA over the last two years to improve augmentation of the river. In his presentation he dealt with the following topics.

1. There is a system in place to augment the L. Wilbrahams River and Fulbourn Fen.

2. Is there enough water?

3. Does anything work as it should?

1. There is a system in place to augment the L. Wilbrahams River and Fulbourn Fen.

The Lodes Granta groundwater scheme was established in 1991 to protect environmental water requirements in the face of increasing abstraction for urban use. 21 megalitres/day of the scheme supplements the Wilbraham River and Fulbourn Fen. Only 75% of this allowance has ever been pumped to supplement these areas. There are gauging stations that monitor the flow at Little Wilbraham and Fulbourn Fen and these values feed back to the EA who then adjust the augmentation volumes. Recorded measurement of flow at the end of the river is made at Bottisham lock as the river empties into the Cam. However by this stage agricultural drains and the outflow from Teversham sewage treatment plant have joined the river much closer to the Cam. This water is not available for the Wilbraham River or Fen. Thus monitoring at Bottisham Lode does not represent flow in the Wilbraham River.

Conclusion: More comprehensive monitoring of Wilbraham River is required.

2. Is there enough water?

The Ely-Ouse transfer scheme Operational since 1970 transfers 400ML/day of water from the OUSE via brooks and tunnels to supply the reservoirs of Essex. This is water leaving our catchment area. It started as a scheme to provide water for the post war increased population of Essex. Prior to its inception it was proposed to site a reservoir at Great Bradley to the east of Cambridge which lies on the route of the Ely-Ouse transfer scheme. This scheme was superseded by the inception of the Ely-Ouse transfer scheme. In 2012 the capacity of the Colchester reservoirs was increased and new pipeline was laid to attempt to ameliorate the impact of this water transfer on the environment. In 1991 the Great Bradley reservoir was again proposed but discarded possibly due to public opposition. A further reservoir near Chittering is now being proposed to supply water to Cambridge development

Conclusion: There is probably enough water it just needs to be managed better?

3. Does anything work as it should?

Conclusion: Probably not

There followed a discussion with the audience who debated these questions and the following points were noted:

- Improved monitoring and timely feedback is required
- How can we make and monitoring count?
- Increase sophistication & validity of flow measurements
- Increased river flow monitoring sites
- It was noted that Castco (part of the Catchment Based Approach) is developing citizen science monitoring methods in two pilot project areas – these may be useful for our rivers.
- Leakage through the river bed occurs if the bed is allowed to dry out (pump failures).
- The Dungate farm pump is 20 years old and has to be manually reset during working hours if it fails – often owing to overheating. It may also not have the required capacity.
- More housing in Cambridge represents a direct threat to the environment and our rivers.
- Will "over-riding public interest" be used to support growth and ignore the environment?
- The EA has stated "growth or environment" that is the question facing us
- It was noted that transferring water may represent "robbing Peter to pay Paul" for both the water and the related biodiversity.
- Does the EA have a conflict of interest? – managing abstraction licences but also being responsible for water transfer schemes.
- **Pure clean water:** a film recently released. Directed by Tony Eva it highlights the problems for the environment in the rapidly expanding environs of Cambridge. The WRPS aim to arrange a showing of this very pertinent and informative film in the New Year.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
Chairman's Report for 2021/2022

The Committee have met five times during the year, once to plan for the long awaited meeting with the Environment Agency.

It has again been a busy year for the Committee. Following some extremely dry weather in the winter months there followed a drought in the summer leading to the need for continued augmentation of the river. This was largely successful as far as the stretch of the river between the Temple springs and Hawk Mill was concerned though there were periods when the pump failed and the flow decreased. The same was not true for the Fulbourn tributary as this was dependent on the outfall into the Nature Reserve that was not activated until later in the summer.

Tony Goryn has kindly continued his monitoring of the river levels at both gauging stations in Great Wilbraham and Fulbourn. Through this he kept in close touch with the Environment Agency to ensure continuity of pumping. We now have valuable records of river levels throughout the year as well as some photographic records of the varying levels.

We have kept in touch with the process of developing the updated Water Resource Management Plan by Water Resources East. At the time of writing the draft Plan has just been published for consultation. We will be reviewing it before sending in any comments. This will inform a similar plan for Cambridge Water. It is expected that the the Plan in its final form will be approved later on next year. In the meantime initial ideas for the location of the proposed Fens reservoir have been publicised with a possible site to the north of Chatteris, though if eventually approved, this will not be in use till the mid-2030's at the earliest.

Much of the work of the Committee has concentrated on preparing for the meeting with the Environment Agency that had been delayed due to the pandemic and constraints on meeting face to face. The meeting eventually took place in October. Following an interesting presentation giving an hydrological overview of the rivers and showing work on groundwater modelling we were able to pose key questions of concern.

We learnt that the pump at Dungate Farm was as reliable as possible but it was sensitive to weather conditions and, if it failed at weekends, then there was nobody on hand to re-start it till the following week. They had daily access to the water levels at the Wilbraham gauging station and could adjust the augmentation regime as required. The same was not true for Fulbourn as the outfall was directly into the Nature Reserve and was dependent on requests by the Wildlife Trust for pumping and there is no facility for monitoring river levels at the Coles Bridge gauging station. Online live

monitoring is based on the catchment outflow point at Bottisham Lode that often has flow even when the Wilbraham River is dry. We consider this unsatisfactory.

We were disturbed to discover that the impact of public water supply abstraction is the equivalent of a 3 metre drop at the Temple (and presumably also at Shardelowes' Well, Fulbourn). Decisions on the level of augmentation at any one time seemed to be based on a range of feedbacks but appeared ad hoc. We were assured that abstraction from water supply boreholes would be capped at current levels based on a previous average and actually reflect a 30-35% reduction on current year levels. However we do know that the water companies always have a let out by applying for 'overriding public interest'. We were not able to obtain a satisfactory answer to the question of the interim water supply regime prior to the operation of the Fens reservoir.

The possibility of augmenting the stream at Fulbourn which skirts the Nature Reserve was raised in an attempt to raise water levels on the river system locally as well as further downstream. Currently the outfall in the Nature Reserve is at a higher ground level and augmentation water is retained in the peaty soil before finding its way back into the river system. This was the prime reason for the augmentation scheme to safeguard the hydrological regime of the SSSI. Augmentation at the Temple Springs can be increased when the Nature Reserve is saturated. Modelling could be employed to see if it is feasible to increase augmentation volumes and allow greater run off into the river, a paper solution.

Altogether we found the Environment Agency responsive to our questions and concerns and we will follow up any outstanding matters.

A new WRPS notice board has been purchased and will be placed near Hawk Mill Farm to give publicity to the aims of the Society and to provide up to date information on sightings of wildlife along the river corridor. We are grateful to the common rights holders of Little Wilbraham Fen for their gift of the noticeboard.

The Society's website (thewrps.org) has been updated thanks to David Lomas and is well worth reviewing to keep up to date with the work of the Society.

Around the time of last year's AGM I exchanged correspondence with our MP, Lucy Frazer, on the need for restraint by the general public in the use of water. This had been raised in one of the consultative sessions with Water Resources East and Cambridge Water. I coupled this with our concern for the level of abstraction and its impact on our chalk stream.

We continue to look for further members of the Committee. It's a very interesting time with lots going on and there is renewed national interest in chalk streams - so please come and join the WRPS and help protect our local river and wildlife.

Richard Townley (Chairman)

Minutes of the 24th Wilbraham River Protection Society AGM held on 22nd November 2022 at Great Wilbraham Village Hall.

Present There were twenty four attendees at the meeting.

Apologies There were five apologies**.**

Treasurer's Report . The society account contains £1431.97 There have been no transactions in the last year.

Secretary's Report : There have been four new members to the society this year. All applications were through the website.

The Treasurers post is vacant within the committee. New committee members are needed and any applications would be welcome.

Chairman's Report.

The Committee met five times during the yea**r,** once to plan for the long awaited meeting with the Environment Agency.

It has again been a busy year for the Committee. Following some extremely dry weather in the winter months there followed a drought in the summer leading to the need for continued augmentation of the river. This was largely successful as far as the stretch of the river between the Temple springs and Hawk Mill was concerned though there were periods when the pump failed and the flow decreased. The same was not true for the Fulbourn tributary as this was dependent on the outfall into the Nature Reserve that was not activated until later in the summer.

Tony Goryn has kindly continued his monitoring of the river levels at both gauging stations in Great Wilbraham and Fulbourn. Through this he kept in close touch with the Environment Agency to ensure continuity of pumping. We now have valuable records of river levels throughout the year as well as some photographic records of the varying levels.

We have kept in touch with the process of developing the updated Water Resource Management Plan by Water Resources East. At the time of writing the draft Plan has just been published for consultation. We will be reviewing it before sending in any comments. This will inform a similar plan for Cambridge Water. It is expected that the Plan in its final form will be approved later next year. In the meantime initial ideas for the location of the proposed Fens reservoir have been publicised with a possible site to the north of Chatteris, though if eventually approved, this will not be in use till the mid-2030s at the earliest.

Much of the work of the Committee has concentrated on preparing for the meeting with the Environment Agency that had been delayed due to the pandemic and constraints on meeting face to face. The meeting eventually took place in October. Following an interesting

presentation giving a hydrological overview of the rivers and showing work on groundwater modelling we were able to pose key questions of concern.

We learnt that the pump at Dungate Farm was as reliable as possible but it was sensitive to weather conditions and, if it failed at weekends, then there was nobody on hand to re-start it till the following week. The EA had daily access to the water levels at the Wilbraham gauging station and could adjust the augmentation regime as required. The same was not true for Fulbourn as the outfall was directly into the Nature Reserve and was dependent on requests by the Wildlife Trust for pumping and there is no online facility for monitoring river levels at the Coles Bridge gauging station. Online live monitoring is based on the catchment outflow point at Bottisham Lode that often has flow even when the Wilbraham River is dry. We consider this unsatisfactory.

We were disturbed to discover that the impact of public water supply abstraction is the equivalent of a 3 metre drop at the Temple (and presumably also at Shardelowes' Well, Fulbourn). Decisions on the level of augmentation at any one time seemed to be based on a range of feedbacks but appeared "ad hoc". We were assured that abstraction from water supply boreholes would be capped at current levels based on a previous 6 year average and actually reflect a 30-35% reduction on current year levels. However we do know that the water companies always have a let out by applying for 'overriding public interest'. We were not able to obtain a satisfactory answer to the question of the interim water supply regime prior to the operation of the Fens reservoir.

The possibility of augmenting the stream at Fulbourn which skirts the Nature Reserve was raised in an attempt to raise water levels on the river system locally as well as further downstream. Currently the outfall in the Nature Reserve is at a higher ground level and augmentation water is retained in the peaty soil before finding its way back into the river system. This was the prime reason for the augmentation scheme to safeguard the hydrological regime of the SSSI. Augmentation at the Temple Springs can be increased when the Nature Reserve is saturated. Modelling could be employed to see if it is feasible to increase augmentation volumes and allow greater run off into the river, a paper solution.

Altogether we found the Environment Agency responsive to our questions and concerns and we will follow up any outstanding matters.

A new WRPS notice board has been purchased and will be placed near Hawk Mill Farm to give publicity to the aims of the Society and to provide up to date information on sightings of wildlife along the river corridor. We are grateful to the common rights holders of Little Wilbraham Fen for their gift of the noticeboard.

The Society's website (thewrps.org) has been updated thanks to David Lomas and is well worth reviewing to keep up to date with the work of the Society.

Around the time of last year's AGM I exchanged correspondence with our MP, Lucy Frazer, on the need for restraint by the general public in the use of water. This had been raised in one of the consultative sessions with Water Resources East and Cambridge Water. I coupled this with our concern for the level of abstraction and its impact on our chalk stream.

We continue to look for further members of the Committee. It's a very interesting time with lots going on and there is renewed national interest in chalk streams - so please come and join the WRPS and help protect our local river and wildlife.

Following the report Mr Tony Goryn gave a summary of his work with the EA this year on promoting augmentation and supporting the EA to provide a timely response to falling water levels.

Suggestions from the audience

To provide a table at the monthly Farmers Market to promote the river society.
It was agreed that this would be a good idea but more members of the committee would be required to do this and to restart our presence at village Fetes and events.

To have two further notice boards, one at Great Wilbraham and one at Fulbourn.
Funds are already being sought for this and the current account funds could be used.
Discuss at next committee meeting.

Talk by Mr. Martin Baker Conservation Manager from the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants on the Nature Recovery Network.

The network covers and area within a ten km radius of Cambridge. It is a cluster of existing habitats and the aim is to improve and enlarge those habitats and add to them. These areas will act as stepping stones and links for wildlife.
This is being achieved by discussion and interactive survey suggestions with local landowners and increasingly with businesses.

Cambridge currently has 7-8% of natural habitat and a low level of access to this.

Wilbraham Fen is an area of natural habitat and should be conserved and could be extended to include wetlands and retaining and extending the wet grassland meadows and scrub. This would enable it to support more of the wildlife varieties currently found there.

The slides for this very interesting and informative talk can be found on the website.
thewrps.org/
Slide 11 shows our local current stepping stones and the flow between them Slide 12 shows potential extensions to this area. Slide 13 shows the greater local area and its habitat and links.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
Chairman's Report for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

The Committee have met nine times during the past two yea**rs** but only twice in person, with seven meetings by Zoom following the imposition of limitations on meeting face to face arising from the health emergency. Tony Goryn joined the Committee for a limited period and has been active in questioning certain matters.

Despite the effects of the lockdown and the subsequent restrictions it has been a busy two years in terms of reports published and studies being carried out by national, regional and local organisations. Following the well-attended AGM November 2019, where Stephen Tomkins Chairman of the Cam Valley Forum gave a very forthright review of the issues and problems facing the local river system, the Society has been active in responding to public bodies and studies expressing our views about the dryness of the Wilbraham River.

In the summer of 2020 Cam Valley Forum published their report 'Let it Flow' which detailed proposals to restore the River Cam. It outlined the environmental impact of water abstraction in the Cam Valley and called for action in seven main areas to protect and restore the river, including the chalk streams of which the Wilbraham River is one. It is encouraging that the local authorities appear to understand these concerns and are factoring them into the preparation of future development plans.

Further reports and studies have been published and initiated in 2021. These include a report on the condition and future opportunities for improvement of our chalk streams including the Wilbraham River which we queried owing to a rather dismissive approach to our River. When coupled with the 'opportunity mapping' study commissioned by the Wildlife Trust and Cambridge Past Present and Future we believe there should be opportunities to restore and improve the condition of the Wilbraham River and its tributaries. The initial draft of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan contains the concept of encouraging the establishment of green infrastructure and nature recovery sweeping round the south and the east of Cambridge.

Both Water Resources East and Cambridge Water are in the process of preparing forward plans and have held meetings with stakeholders including myself on behalf of the Committee. There seems to be recognition that significant additional water supplies need to be brought to the region both by transfer from neighbouring regions and in the longer term by provision of a reservoir in the Fens. This is required not only to meet present and future needs but also to allow reduction in the level of abstraction from the chalk aquifer. Drafts of these plans should be published in 2022 with the aim of them reaching approval the following year.

Owing to the lockdown and continuing restrictions we have been unable to hold our annual walks along a stretch of the river. However members of the committee continue to record sightings of wildlife in the area.

It is with great sadness we record the deaths of Richard Wright of Wilbraham Temple and his wife Angela earlier in 2019/20. Richard had been a member of the Society from the outset and we have fond memories of visits to the grounds of the Temple and indeed the Temple Springs during past annual walks.

We decided not to hold an AGM last year owing to the health emergency at the time. This year we had hoped to hold the meeting in person but in the end decided it should be by Zoom as we did not have a speaker available and we know some members are still uncertain about venturing out in the evening.

We continue to look for further members of the Committee. Both myself as Interim Chairman and our Hon. Secretary would like step down and allow others to take the Society forward into what will be a challenging period in the life of our River and the Society.

Richard Townley (Chairman)

Minutes of 23rd AGM of the Wilbraham River Protection Society held by Zoom on 25th November 2021.

Apologies:

Allan Painter, Mary Wright, Bruce Huett, Roger Horton, Pat Simpson. Susan Simpson, Ray Tilbrook, David White, Guy Mulley Brian Jackson.

Present:

Richard Townley, Rebecca Lomas, Jane Gaskell, David Lomas, Gill Aslett, Claire Daunton, David Cottee, Tony Goryn.

Minutes of the last meeting

The last AGM was held in November 2019 and the minutes of this meeting were accepted as a true record.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman presented a report of the societies activities over the last two years.

He thanked Jackie Beadsmore and Ray Tilbrook for their support on the committee and Tony Goryn for his significant work on behalf of the river in the last year.

There is currently a lot of political, planning and environmental activity surrounding water management, chalk streams and planning affecting the Greater Cambridge area. Involvement with key regional and local organisations to represent our support for the Wilbraham River and its tributaries to try and ensure its continued survival as a functioning chalk stream and the maintenance of the surrounding SSSI's is of utmost importance.

Treasurer's report

Balance of account: Oct 2020: £1505.57

Income: Sale of Dr Hawkin's books £25.00

Expenses: Wix Website & Domain 1yr £93.60

Balance of account: Nov 2021 £1436.97

Secretaries Report: Current membership numbers are 93 for whom we have no address for 12 and incorrect email addresses for 5. There have been two new members join this year.

Three members of the committee have left in the last two years.

The new website has a contact page to attract new society members. We are keen to enlarge the membership and bring new members to the committee. David Cottee will promote the website through Fulbourn Forum. David White will be approached regarding advertising the society on boards along the river footpath.

Election of Officers:

The Chairman has been holding the post temporarily for two years. He is keen to step down. The secretary has been in post for fourteen years and is also happy to step down. However there were no nominations for these posts. The current holders agreed to continue at present.

Presentation by Tony Goryn of his work this year with the Environment agency tp maintain river flow in 2021.

Tony worked with the EA for many years before his retirement. This year he has regularly monitored the river water levels at Wil-

braham and Fulbourn gauging stations. He has reported directly back to the EA and they have been very responsive to increasing the augmentation scheme pumping. As a result the river bed has not dried out fully this year. The initial GCCS report was negative regarding project funding for the river due to the intermittent flow through the year. The ability to maintain flow may affect their enthusiasm to support projects for the Wilbraham River.

His conclusion is that adequate augmentation maintains flow and the river (though leaky) has the capacity to hold the water. He believes that the aquifers in this area are able to replenish from the current abstraction levels.

The report was discussed -

The springs at Fulbourn ran dry early in the summer and RT considers this must be closely linked to abstraction from the nearby Fleam Dyke Pumping Station. It was also noted that augmentation at the Fulbourn end of the river is designed to keep the Fulbourn nature reserve and SSSI wet – rather than the river directly. The feedback regarding Fulbourn Fen to the EA is primarily managed by the Nature Reserve Warden & team. RT will explore this feedback further.

To minimise the need for direct observation of the river levels we should discuss with the EA the potential to record levels online.

It was noted that last winter was the wettest on record and this may have helped maintain the water levels. TG has offered to continue to monitor the water levels through the next two years .

Date of next AGM 24th November 2022.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
Chairman's Report for 2019/2020

The Committee have met four times during the year but only once in person, with three meetings by Zoom following the imposition of limitations on meeting face to face arising from the health emergency. Tony Goryn joined the Committee and has been active in questioning certain matters.

Despite the effects of the lockdown it has been a busy year in terms of reports published and studies being carried out by national, regional and local organisations. Following the well-attended AGM last autumn where Stephen Tomkins, Chairman of the Cam Valley Forum, gave a very forthright review of the issues and problems facing the local river system the Society has been active in responding to public bodies and studies expressing our views about the dryness of the Wilbraham River.

In the summer Cam Valley Forum published their report 'Let it Flow' which detailed proposals to restore the River Cam. It outlined the environmental impact of water abstraction in the Cam Valley and called for action in seven main areas to protect and restore the river, including the chalk streams of which the Wilbraham River is one. It is encouraging that the local authorities appear to understand these concerns and are factoring them into the preparation of future development plans.

Owing to the lockdown we were unable to hold our annual walk along a stretch of the river. However members of the committee continue to record sightings of wildlife in the area.

It is with great sadness we record the recent deaths of Richard Wright of Wilbraham Temple and his wife Angela earlier in the year. Richard had been a member of the Society from the outset and we have fond memories of visits to the grounds of the Temple and indeed the Temple Springs during past annual walks.

We have decided not to hold an AGM this year as it would have had to be by Zoom and we thought, without a speaker, it might only attract interest from a limited number of members. It is thought that in 2021, subject to any health restrictions, we might plan an autumn meeting with a speaker to bring members up to date on the outcomes from the various studies and reports mentioned above.

Richard Townley (Chairman)

Wilbraham River Protection Society
22nd Annual General Meeting - Thursday 14 November 2019
Chairman's Report

The Committee have met four times during the year to promote the key aims of the Society…..'to further the future of the Wilbraham River and its flora and fauna'.

As reported by my predecessor, Brian Jackson, last year the weather pattern has continued to be exceptional. Indeed there has been no spring flow from the Cherry Tree Stud borehole since August 2018. This borehole only runs when the water level reaches 14 metres AOD and at the latest reading in September 2019 was well below this at 11.04 metres AOD, almost 3 metres down.

This state of affairs has been a major worry at each of our meetings. Coupled with this has been increasing concern over the soil moisture deficit which could lead to loss of vegetation affecting trees in particular unless we experience significant rainfall over the winter months.

The dryness of the River was readily apparent to the 34 people who took part in the annual River walk on 2 June which ran from Hawk Mill north-westwards down the short drove to Quy Water and back along the River to Hawk Mill. We were accompanied by an experienced birder which added to the interest of the walk and were grateful to both David White and David Lomas for clearing the paths. A sumptuous tea was then enjoyed by David White's lake to finish off a very enjoyable afternoon.

We continue to try and find ways to encourage others to take an interest in the work of the Society and to update our database of 'friends'. We hope that through the annual walk, publicity at events in the Wilbrahams and Fulbourn we will be able to draw more people in. We hope too that the talk by Stephen Tomkins following the AGM will stimulate a lot of interest and concern for the future of our river system. Should you know of anyone who would like to become a 'Friend' please contact our Secretary, Rebecca Lomas (01223 811189) or bex@drcr.info.

Richard Townley (Chairman)

Minutes of 22nd AGM. November 14th 2019 at Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall.

Present:

Richard Townley. Jane Gaskell. David White. Susan Simpson. Ray Tilbrook. Rebecca Lomas. Jackie Beadsmore.

Stephen Tomkins,visiting speaker. Carol Williams. Cecil Willcocks. Susy Worzencroft. Mike Smith. David Nobel. Anne Robinson. RoddyTippen. Jonathan Barker. Jo and Peter Ladbrooke. Simon Skelton? Clare Daunton. Ann Waldock.David Pickstone. John Bramwell. David Thurnham. Diane Bramwell. Christine Clewes. Graham Burton. Bruce Huett. David Cottee. Dave Olney. John Willis Peter Woor. Kieran Saunders. Renee Tamburn

Apologies:

Lord Fairhaven. James Pace. Pat Simpson.Jackie Beadsmore. Sally Ramus.

Minutes of 21st AGM.

Accepted as a true record. But notes Mr Lampard has retired from the Environment agency.

Chairmans Report.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
22nd Annual General Meeting - Thursday 14 November 2019
Chairman's Report

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Richard Townley (Chairman)

Treasurer's report :

Balance end 2018: £1570.52

Credits 2019: £25 from sale of books

Debits 2019: £59.95 for refreshments during annual river walk.

£30 for hire of hall for AGM

Secretary's report : Nothing to report.

Election of new officers.

Chairman: Richard Townley will continue as acting chairman for the next year.

Secretary: Rebecca Lomas will continue for a further 3 year tenure period unless there are other proposals.

Treasurer: Pat Simpson will continue for year 3 of her 3 year tenure.

Committee Members: Sue Simpson, Jane Gaskell, Ray Tilbrook, David White Ray Tilbrook and Jackie Beadsmore are willing to continue for 2020.

AOB.

Lord Fairhaven may wish to stand down as President. To be discussed at next committee meeting.

Date of Next AGM. Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7.30.

The meeting was followed by an interesting talk

'Is the plight of our chalk streams reversible?'

The speaker Stephen Tomkins. Mr Tomkins is co-author of the recent Cam Valley Forum manifesto published in August 2019 and formerly Director of Studies for Biological Sciences and Head of the Science Faculty at Homerton College and Lecturer in Biological Education at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge.

He highlighted the plight of the chalk stream network showing photos of dry steams locally and pointing out that the trend of the last fifty years has been stable for winter rainfall. Twenty pumping stations are now abstracting from the chalk in Cambs. Although Cambridge water does a good job of abstracting chalky nitrate free water low flow in the rivers turns contaminants to pollutants.

Graphs show that ground water disappeared below the lowest level recorded this year and nobody knows why or where it has gone.

Augmentation started in the 1990s now 20% of the water licensed in the Cambridge and Granta area is environmental support water. This has been a good system but may not be the future.

He highlighted the low cost of water as a commodity. The fact that 20% of households do not have water meters and suggested simple conservation methods.

There are multiple River Cam related groups like the WRPS and the Cam River Forum, a community group set up by Max Walters who was a botanist and conservationist, is very active.

Wilbraham River Protection Society
21st Annual General Meeting- Thursday 8th November 2018
Chairman's Report.

The Committee have met four times during the year to promote the key aims of the Society ....."to further the future of the Wilbraham River and its flora and fauna".
Key issues through the year have included:

- The weather pattern has been exceptional. The winter period was generally wet with rainfall exceeding the Long Term Average for the period November 2017 to May 2018 by around 100mm. This surplus contributed to an increase in the level of the groundwater table and the resultant steady river flows in May and June.

  However from June to September we experienced little or no rainfall and very high temperatures. Reports in July were typical of the summer....."second driest May to July since 1921...". River flows depended on supplementary pumping by the Environment Agency from Dungate Farm to the Temple Spring area to maintain some flow in the river.

  Currently groundwater is at the point of making a contribution to flow in the river once again.

- The Society's annual walk took place in July with around 20 Friends walking from Bottisham Lock to Anglesey Abbey. Photographs taken on the walk featured in the Wilbraham's Warbler; the walk was a success and enjoyed by all who took part.

- I am going to relinquish the post Chairman at this AGM. I believe it is in the interest of the Society that new ideas, and energy, are developed in order to maintain the life of the Society. Now is the time for this to happen. We have an interim arrangement for Chairman but we would be very interested to recruit a "Volunteer".....please let a Committee member know of your interest.

We are trying to update our membership database. Please let us know if your contact details have changed. Should you know of anyone who would like to become a "Friend" please contact our Secretary Rebecca Lomas (01223 811189) or bex@drcr.info.

Brian Jackson (Chairman)

Wilbraham River Protection Society AGM November 8th 2018 at Wilbraham Memorial Hall.

Apologies.
Lord Fairhaven. Eve and David White. David Taylor. Penny White.

Present
Jane Gaskell. Susan Simpson. Jackie Beadsmoore. David Wright. Pat Simpson. Mike Smith. Stephen Bartlett. Ray Tilbrook. Richard Townley. David Cottee. Richard Wright

Minutes of 20th AGM. Approved as a true record.

Chairman's report.
Brian Jackson highlighted the exceptionally low rainfall this year and its implications for the river welfare.

The highlight of the year remains the annual walk, again this year it was well supported from Anglesea Abbey to Bottisham lock.

The chairman stated his intention to stand down this year and expressed the committees need to find a replacement. Ideally someone with some technical experience in water management. He asked for any nominations or suggestions.

The chairman highlighted the problems that we have with updating our database of members.

Discussion of the report.
Mr Wright noted that the Temple Springs commenced flow in June this year which was late after the wet winter.
Mr Lampard from the Environment agency inspects the river monthly and reviews the pump augmentation.It was noted that he was always approachable and quick to respond to problems. He chairman will write and express the society's thanks.
The chairman thanked Pat Simpson for her creation of the new figures for the model this year.

Treasurers report
Pat Simpson gave the treasure's report.
2017 the balance of the account was :£1500
2018 the balance of the account was :£1570

Income is from the sale of the river book.
Expenditure has been on high visibility jackets for the walk and hire of the hall for the AGM.

Secretaries report.
Nil to add.

Election of officers.
Richard Townley was nominated as the chairman by Richard Wright and seconded by Jane Gaskell.
The chairman explained that the committee have divided the known tasks amongst themselves for the next year.

Jane Gaskell. Lead for the Fulbourn feast and the Wilbraham walk.
Jackie Beadsmore. Lead for Web site
Pat Simpson. Treasurer
Rebecca Lomas Secretary.
Brian Jackson. Engineering and technical adviser.

The secretary is due for re-election next year and the treasurer in two years' time.
The committee has the capacity to enlarge and members were invited to consider joining.

Any other business.
Richard Townley on behalf of the society, thanked Brian Jackson for his lengthy service as chairman of the committee.

It was suggested that the committee contacted the two local schools ,Great Wilbraham and Fulbourn to discuss an educational project about the river.

It was suggested that the River society should have a greater presence in the Wilbraham Warbler and the The Mill. It would be a good vehicle for seeking new members.
The chairman will prepare an article containing a photograph of the river map for this months publications.

The next AGM is set for November 14th 2019 at 7.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed.