



**The Inland  
Waterways  
Association**

*Keeping our waterways alive*

**Great Ouse Branch  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

**Thursday, 23rd March 2017**

*This will be followed by an update  
from the River Managers of the  
Environment Agency.*

*Please forward any questions to be directed to  
the Environment Agency to our Secretary  
[john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk](mailto:john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk)*

# Ouse News - Appendix 1

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**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association will be held on Thursday, 23rd March 2017 at the Cole's Road Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6BL at 8.00 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 24th March 2016 - printed in Appendix 2
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes, not included on this agenda
4. Chairman's Report - printed in Appendix 3
5. Secretary's Report - printed in Appendix 4
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts - printed in Appendix 5
7. Election of Branch Committee
8. Close of Meeting

**Notes:** (following the amendment of Byelaws dated 14/3/09)

1. Accounts are audited by IWA Head Office. There is no need to adopt the accounts or appoint an auditor.
2. There is no longer any limit to Committee numbers. Members serve for 3 years after which they retire but may seek re-election.
3. There are 4 committee members due to retire by rotation : Carole Alderton, Keith Alderton, Enid Hodgson and John Hodgson.
4. New Committee Members are most welcome. Those who would like to stand must sign the consent form below and send to the Branch Secretary, John Hodgson (9 Beaufort Way, Brickhill, Bedford, MK41 7XQ) *before the AGM.*

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## **INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION CONSENT FORM**

I agree to stand for election at the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch. I am a member of the Great Ouse Branch.

(Sign) ..... Print Name .....

Date .....

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### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association on Thursday 24 March 2016. Held at the Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge at 8.00 pm.**

Present: Keith Alderton (Chairman) plus 21 Cambridge Branch members.

#### 1. Apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Gail and Jonathan Mead, Meg and Stephen Foote and Jean Webb.

#### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 2015

The minutes of the previous AGM, having been previously circulated as Appendix 2 to the Spring issue of Ouse News, were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Derek Bradley and seconded by Carole Alderton. This was agreed unanimously.

#### 3. Matters arising from the AGM on 26 March 2015

None.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was similarly included in Ouse News in Appendix 3. The Chairman thanked the members of the committee for their help and support. There were no questions for the Chairman

#### 5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was also printed in Ouse News as Appendix 4. There was nothing to add to these notes. There were no questions for the Secretary.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 2 cont'd.**

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### **6. Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer's report and accounts were available in Appendix 5 of Ouse News. It was added that the total amount of funds is lower than they might have otherwise been because of the donation to the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) towards their replacement vans appeal. It was emphasised that the income from advertisers in Ouse News was important. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

### **7. Election of Committee Members.**

Derek Bradley, Stephen Foote and Peter Webb were all due for re-election after their three year term of office had ended. All were eligible for re-election. The meeting was content to elect them en-bloc; proposed by P Baker and seconded by R Adams. All were elected unanimously.

8. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08 pm.

## **Ouse News - Appendix 3: Chairman's Report 2016-2017**

I am pleased to report that the branch has had another good year, with reasonable numbers attending winter meetings and outdoor events. We held our annual visit to the village of Reach over the Mayday bank holiday weekend with a dinner in a local pub on the Saturday evening and a barbecue and quiz on Sunday. On the bank holiday Monday the committee manned our stand at the historic Reach Fair. This year we erected two gazebos, one for general merchandise and the other to house WOW (Wild over Waterways) activities for the kids. This event, together with our presence at Ely Aquafest in July, provided a good opportunity to spread the word about the IWA and give children the chance to learn about our waterways.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 3 cont'd.**

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Also in May, we held our first volunteering exercise for many years, when nine members spent time painting the lock gates, railings, fences and seats at Baits Bite Lock on the River Cam. A similar event has been arranged at Jesus Lock this year. Hopefully, volunteering events will become a regular feature of our branch programme and we can encourage more members and friends to make an active contribution.

We did not manage to hold our customary 'away day' during the year, but have arranged a visit and barbecue at the Prickwillow Drainage Museum in April 2017 (see details in *Ouse News*).

At the first of our winter meetings in October IWA Trustee, John Dodwell, outlined the progress made by the Canal & River Trust since taking over responsibility for the canal system from British Waterways. It was explained that all interested parties are keen to progress the transfer of the EA navigations to CRT, although the crucial matter of on-going financial support has yet to be resolved. In November, Ivan Cane gave a fascinating account of the development of sluices and staunches over the years. Our February meeting consisted of a talk by Simon Judge entitled *Boating Across the Wash*.

Throughout the year members have taken part in various meetings and events held by other organisations:

- a) In September, member Anthony Marris attended a joint IWA/CRT workshop aimed at helping branches become aware and keep track of planning applications likely to affect waterways in their area.
  - b) In November, representatives attended a conference about *The People Who Shape the Ouse Washes Landscape*, organised by the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership. There has not been a lot of news regarding the proposed restoration of navigation on the Little Ouse, although a 'scoping report' has been commissioned to determine the work required and costs involved.
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## Ouse News - Appendix 4

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Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the branch committee and helpers for all the hard work that takes place throughout the year to enable such a varied programme to be successfully executed each year.

*Keith Alderton*

### **Ouse News - Appendix 4: Secretary's Report 2016-17**

Unfortunately, I must start my report with some disappointing news, in that over the last twelve months the branch membership has fallen by about 6.5%. This is a trend followed nationally and by other boating organisations too. There are a number of factors affecting this, including the rise in the average age of boaters generally. Nonetheless, this branch still has a membership of around 300 so it would be nice to see a few more at branch meetings and the AGM.

In my report last year I mentioned the reduction in the “per-capita” allowance from Head Office. We were told at the time that the planned year on year reduction would stop; which it did by being cancelled completely without any consultation and little notice! However, Head Office is now funding the printing and distribution of our newsletter. The branch is, therefore, now more reliant on advertising revenue.

The per-capita allowance also helped a little in the funding of room rents and speakers at meetings; that now needs replacing by the contributions made by members at each meeting. The suggested £2 per person is a low figure and some may like to help by making a slightly increased contribution. The overall funding continues to be monitored by the committee.

Returning to the newsletter, “Ouse News,” this continues to attract praise from a number of sources under the editorship of Carole Alderton, who is always happy to receive contributions for inclusion from as many people as possible – variety is a welcome ingredient in any production. Again, our thanks are due to our advertisers, new and old.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 4 cont'd.**

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The sale of Christmas cards has again been an even more valuable source of income; so please continue to buy these either at branch meetings, events, or through Ely Boat Chandlers.

Again there is nothing significant to report on either the EA / Cam Conservators (CamCon) interchange agreement of the navigation licensing above Bottisham lock, or on the transfer of the navigation responsibilities in general from EA to Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT). It remains Government policy for the transfer to be completed so, hopefully, some real progress will be achieved before too much longer. This is, however the EA!

At the forthcoming AGM, four members reach the end of their three year terms. They are: Carole Alderton, Enid Hodgson, Keith Alderton and John Hodgson. All are eligible for re-election. Speaking of committee membership, I will make my, by now traditional, plea for a new social secretary. The job is not too onerous, there being only four branch meetings a year and one of those is the AGM. If anyone is able and willing to take on this role they will be more than welcome as it will take the extra load from the shoulders of the existing members.

The branch continues to be represented on Project Hereward, which has the aim of restoring Welches Dam lock and the Forty Foot navigation to Horseway lock. This project is one with a high prospect of success and progress is being made.

The branch section of the IWA web site is active and I would commend a visit to it. The easiest way is to go to the IWA home page [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk) and follow the links from there.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy 2017 boating season and hope to meet as many of you as possible somewhere along the waterways.

*John Hodgson*

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# Ouse News - Appendix 5

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## TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2016

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2016

	£		£
Balance at 1 Jan 2016	<u>2,140.93</u>	Current assets:	
Surplus/(deficit) for year	407.24	Debtors	0.00
		Current account	100.00
		Business Premium a/c	2,448.17
		Cash, Sales Officer	0.00
		Less liabilities	0.00
		Creditors	
<b>Balance at 31 December 2016</b>	<u><b>2,548.17</b></u>		<u><b>2,548.17</b></u>

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subs: Per capita re newsletter	243.18	Newsletter:	
Collections at meetings	152.00	Production	125.84
Branch sales	241.26	Distribution	47.78
Donations:		Guest speakers	102.00
Branch sales of donated goods	-	Purchase of Sales stock	162.95
Meeting refreshments	32.00	Rotary Club: Aquafest	-
Income from Advertising	426.00	Meeting costs	201.60
		Raffle costs	-
		Subscription: EAWA	10.00
Interest received	27.88	Officers expenses (Postage)	19.68
		printer ink & paper	54.16
Uncashed cheque	45.70	envelopes	1.00
		table cover	20.00
		items for WOW	5.00
Raffle at Reach BBQ	-	IWA Sales reconciliation	-
		Work party	10.77
		<i>Excess of income/ expenditure</i>	<u>407.24</u>
Total Income	<u>1,168.02</u>	Total Payments	<u>1,168.02</u>

### Notes:

Per capita payments were discontinued part way through the year and at the same time the cost of printing and distributing the newsletter was paid by Head Office.

*Enid Hodgson*

*Treasurer*

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