



RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of RLCP meeting held virtually and in person on 15th September 2022 at 5.30pm

Present: Andrew Hinchley – Chairperson and Trustee, RLCP (AH) – in person
 Steph Holland – Admin, Volunteer Coordinator and Citizen Science Coordinator, RLCP (SH)
 John Findlay – Environment Agency (JF)
 Graham Showell – Trustee, RLCP (GS)
 Alice Wickman – rivers advisor, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (AW)
 Caroline Chamberlain – Trustee, RLCP (CCh)
 David Hudson – Bury Trout Club (DH) – Part of meeting
 Nigel Elbourne – Volunteer, RLCP (NE)
 Gary Quilter – Parks and Open Spaces Manager, West Suffolk Council (GQ)
 Chris Power – Volunteer, RLCP (CP)
 Chris Cross – Bury Water Meadows Group (CCr)
 Lindsay Hargreaves – Lark Abstractors Group (LH) – in person
 Richard Summers – Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership (RS) – part of meeting

1	APOLOGIES	ACTION						
	<p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Andrew Francis, Richard Mortlock, Kerry Jordan, Gary Pizzey, Bill Sutherland, Jessie Leach, Sam Westwood, Chris Hainsworth, Glenn Smithson, Jim Stephens</p>							
2	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF RLCP MEETING OF 16th June 2022 (RLCP 2022-11)							
	<p>Minutes from RLCP Meeting of 16th June 2022 were confirmed by attendees who had been present for that meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1541 1315 2054"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="225 1541 1098 1720">Attendees noted a summer social event was planned for 20 August 2022 and SH asked for suggestions for what format and for help in planning it. Done</td> <td data-bbox="1098 1541 1315 1720">RLCP members/vols</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="225 1720 1098 1854">AH and SH would check dates for the Autumn CamEO conference. Done</td> <td data-bbox="1098 1720 1315 1854">AH and SH</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="225 1854 1098 2054">RS also suggested once BWMG and SWT had looked at mitigation they then contact local planning to discuss this so local planning knew BWMG and SWT were aware of the development and wanted to contribute in a positive way. CCr agreed to take this back to BWMG</td> <td data-bbox="1098 1854 1315 2054">CCr</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Attendees noted a summer social event was planned for 20 August 2022 and SH asked for suggestions for what format and for help in planning it. Done	RLCP members/vols	AH and SH would check dates for the Autumn CamEO conference. Done	AH and SH	RS also suggested once BWMG and SWT had looked at mitigation they then contact local planning to discuss this so local planning knew BWMG and SWT were aware of the development and wanted to contribute in a positive way. CCr agreed to take this back to BWMG	CCr	
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	Caroline Chamberlain (CC) said she would also be involved with the Abbots Vale discussion, together with AH and JS	CC	
	AH to circulate Green Infrastructure document	AH	
3	RIVER ACTIVITY ECOLOGY, CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION		
	<p>Bury Trout Club/BFER Alder Carr Project – West Stow DH updated the group with the plans for the Alder Carr project at West Stow Country Park. It is a £35k project 50m downstream of the lock.. The restoration plan includes putting in 200 tonnes of gravel and 16-20 large trees.</p> <p>There is a 100m stretch of river which will be restored. The funding and permits are all in place and the contract has been appointed. The work will be from late September until early October at the latest. RLCP volunteers will be invited to help after this with reseedling with wildflowers, tree planting and erecting of willow fencing.</p> <p>BWMG would like to use the RLCP winch – David H and Glenn will provide training for anyone who is going to be using it. DH to check about insurance with BWMG</p> <p>David H left the meeting after his update.</p> <p>Tollgate restoration project – Coop to Golf Course (EA/BFER supported) The EA permit was approved on 15th September. Work will begin in October to improve a stretch of the Lark between the two weirs from the Bury St Edmunds Co-op to the Golf Course.</p> <p>Shallow fast sections will have solid sections of timber installed to promote bed scour and sediment loosening. Along these sections, brash will be placed to collect lifted sediment and eventually become naturalised berms with plants.</p> <p>Deeper slow sections are mainly devoid of any scruffy habitat. Large woody debris will be installed in the margins to provide shelter and refuge areas.</p> <p>Litter is to be removed as work progresses. Litter islands to be replaced by more natural products and features.</p> <p>Citizen Science survey work is to be carried out along the project reach to provide better understanding of the river and any underlying issues. A water vole survey will take place and we will mitigate for the presence of voles with the design of any installations.</p> <p>ACTION: GQ said the council may be able to help with the removal of litter etc if we get it out of the river.</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam Update David Emerson has been mapping the surveying and pulling efforts from the summer. BWMG and RLCP volunteers have pulled a large amount of balsam between them over several weeks. Thank you to everyone who got involved.</p>		<p>DH</p> <p>GQ</p>

4	<p>CITIZEN SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>National Trust – Ickworth The RLCP are signing a memorandum of understanding with the National Trust at Ickworth to enable us to survey and help look after the Linnet in the estate. We hope to do water quality monitoring, flow monitoring and possibly invertebrate monitoring.</p> <p>West Suffolk College GS will be working with the college to help their students conduct water quality monitoring along the Lark in Bury St Edmunds using the same Lovibond colorimeter equipment our citizen scientists are currently using. Graham will provide them with training to use their equipment to enable them to do long-term monitoring of the South of Bury.</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring The tributary group have not conducted any monitoring since May due to the conditions and bird nesting season. We hope to make a start to choosing monitoring points along the Linnet tributary as our next project. We will then revisit some of our previous sampling points from the last year.</p> <p>Our water quality monitoring volunteers are sampling along the River Lark in the reach for the Tollgate, Coop to Golf Course project. We also plan to sample further upstream in Bury St Edmunds until the college take over to see the impact of the Abbots Vale development.</p> <p>CaSTCo update There was an article in the Guardian newspaper today (15th September) about CaSTCo. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/14/citizen-scientists-to-monitor-english-rivers-in-7m-scheme</p> <p>John Findlay from the Environment Agency is looking into data storage/data sharing for us. He will help us make our data useful for the EA and other statutory bodies. He has a background in invertebrate analysis. The Wensum Group is using an app for integrating their data.</p>	JF
5	<p>OTHER VOLUNTEER UPDATES</p> <p>Volunteer Needed! A volunteer is required to take the minutes at RLCP meetings. This can be a shared role. There are about five meetings a year and an AGM. Please get in touch if you are able to help.</p> <p>Summer social at Fullers Mill – Steph shared some photos of the event and thanked all the volunteers again for all their hard work in 2021-2022. Photos are available to see on the website: https://www.riverlark.org.uk/news/rlcp-garden-party-august-2022</p> <p>Training If anyone else is interested in doing some QGIS training to help us input sample data etc please get in touch.</p> <p>Restoration training will now involve in-river training with Glenn at work parties. We will be offering a theory session either online or in person to accompany practical training shortly. We also hope to organise another river safety training and first aid training session this year.</p>	All

	<p>CCh asked if the restoration training was a requirement for new vols to do in-river work – it isn't for RLCP. Vols can train while working after doing bankside work initially.</p> <p>SmartRivers – we are offering ten places for the Wildfish SmartRivers training course for invertebrate monitoring over two sessions, the first one is on 20th October 2022.</p>	
6	CamEO	
	<p>The CamEO conference is being held in person this year on Friday October 7th from 10-4 at the British Trust for Ornithology centre in Thetford. RLCP will have a stand at the event.</p> <p>Jessie Leach is moving to a senior CaSTco role and is currently interviewing candidates to replace her role. Sam Westwood is also being seconded from Anglian Water/CamEO to the Rivers Trust to deliver the project dashboard – a new CABA/Rivers Trust/Anglian Water project development tool.</p> <p>Flagship – there is an Anglian Water MOU implementation meeting on September 30th.</p> <p>WINEP – Attached document from Anglian Water with the WRMP24 presentation. This is a confidential document and is not to be shared to other parties, but RLCP have permission to share it with our members.</p> <p>Action: AH to find out meeting details and a date for the next WRMP24 meeting for our members.</p>	AH
7	POLLUTION GROUP UPDATE	
	<p>Next pollution group meeting will be on Monday 17th October via zoom at 6.30pm</p> <p>Mariana will present her thesis work when she has completed it, hopefully before the end of 2022.</p> <p>There was a visit from two MPs in July – Jo Churchill MP and Rebecca Pow MP called for a meeting with various members of Anglian Water, Environment Agency, the Rivers Trust, BFER and RLCP to visit the River Lark at the water recycling centre outfall at Fornham All Saints and at Fullers Mill. They hope to make the Lark chalk stream a top priority. The Chalk Stream Roundtable meeting for September was postponed.</p>	
	<p>CCr left the meeting at 19:00 RS joined the meeting at 19:00</p>	
8	PLANNING	
	<p>Abbots Vale AH showed the group the landscape master plan map. AW told us that Suffolk Wildlife Trust had been contacted by BWMG. RS asked about communication about the response. SWT have a team who can respond to the planning consultation. RS asked if BQMG's comments had been taken into account. AW just commented on river restoration in her role for SWT. AW is not sure what the planning team included. There is another consultation phase and the comments are now publicly available to see. RS suggested better collaboration for a unified response. A new options proposal is to extend Abbot's Vale up to Blackthorpe close to Blackthorpe Barn.</p>	

	<p>ACTION: Connect with BWMG and SWT to work together</p> <p>West Suffolk Plan RS has written to Marie Smith to request two meetings – One for the Bury Society for a re-run presentation by Anne-Marie Howell. The other for a technical meeting to include RLCP, BWMG, Heritage Partnership, Bury Society focussing on the overlap of policies. The interests of the River Lark corridor and the heritage of the Abbey ruins overlap with the town centre. Organisations are working together to influence the draft plan.</p> <p>ACTION: Send RS the RLCP's comments for the West Suffolk Plan</p>	AH/SH AH/SH
9	<p>ABBEY OF ST EDMUND HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP (RS)</p> <p>RS reported that together with English Heritage, the heritage interpretation panels were installed just in time for Picnic in the Park. Phase 2 heritage interpretation panels will be for the outer areas including the Lark/Linnet/Water Meadows about the natural environment. RLCP/BWMG could have an input.</p> <p>There has been a funding application to the Lottery Heritage Fund for £8.5m including match funding which might include a visitor centre. English Heritage/Cathedral/West Suffolk Council leading on this. It will need to include info about the natural environment as well as the historical aspects. Libby Ranzetta gave a presentation to the Heritage Partnership about the Lark and the Linnet.</p>	
10	AOB	
	<p>BFER There will be a Christmas Celebration at the Guildhall, Thetford on Thursday 8th December for all volunteers.</p> <p>RLCP Meetings Hybrid meeting style not very successful so we will revert to zoom for the next meeting. Also general preference to have a later start time, so will now start at 6.30pm instead.</p>	
11	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Thursday 17 th November 2022, 6.30pm via Zoom	

Minutes taken by Steph Holland

ACTION LOG

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM
3	BWMG would like to use the RLCP winch – David H and Glenn will provide training for anyone who is going to be using it. DH to check about insurance with BWMG	David Hudson
3	GQ said the council may be able to help with the removal of litter etc if we get it out of the river.	Gary Quilter

RLCP 2022/16

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6	AH to find out meeting details and a date for the next WRMP24 meeting for our members.	Andrew Hinchley
8	Connect with BWMG and SWT to work together on Abbots Vale	Andrew/Steph
8	Send RS the RLCP's comments for the West Suffolk Plan	Andrew/Steph