



## **Minutes from RLCP AGM 2022-2023**

### **6.30pm Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### Attending:

Andrew Hinchley - RLCP Chairman and Trustee (AH)  
Steph Holland – RLCP Admin, Volunteer Coordinator and Citizen Science Manager (SH)  
Jim Stephens – RLCP Treasurer and Trustee (JS)  
Will Cranstoun – RLCP Trustee, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (WC)  
Caroline Chamberlain – RLCP Trustee (CC)  
Graham Showell – RLCP Trustee (GSh)  
Chris Hainsworth – RLCP Trustee, Natural England (CH)  
Glenn Smithson – RLCP Restoration Manager (GS)  
Steve Lane – CaSTCo delivery officer(SL)  
John Finlay – Environment Agency Citizen Science co-ordinator Lark and Wensum(JF)  
Gary Quilter – West Suffolk Council Parks Manager (GQ)  
David Hudson – Bury Trout Club (DH)  
Becky Carter – Anglian Water Catchment Adviser (RC)  
Lindsay Hargreaves – Lark Abstractors Group (LH)  
Ian Campbell – Bury Water Meadows Group (IC)  
Nigel Elbourne – RLCP (NE)  
Gary Pizzey – RLCP (GP)  
Mariana Sandifer – RLCP (MS)  
Michelle Gault – Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer, Natural England (MG)  
Jim Meadows – LAPS (JM)  
Chris Power – RLCP (CP)

#### Apologies:

Sue Leigh  
Paul Wood  
Chris Cross  
Libby Ranzetta

1. Minutes of 2021-2022 AGM -matters arising

No matters arising

2. Report on activity 1/12/2021 – 30/11/2022 Final Document to be distributed in advance of AGM

JS reported on activity for 2021 – 2022. (Document *2023-02 RLCP tar for 2022\_signed*)

- Comment from DH – the work at West Stow was funded by RLCP and EA

3. Summary of Accounts 1/12/2021 – 30/11/2022 Final Document to be distributed in advance of AGM

JS reported on finances for 2021-2022. (Document *2023-01 RLCP Annual Accounts for 2022\_1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022\_signed*)

4. Trustees

Caroline Chamberlain, Andrew Hinchley and Graham Showell all continue as trustees.

AH formally welcomed Chris Hainsworth as a trustee.

In accordance with rotation rules Will Cranstoun and Jim Stephens stood down as trustees and were formally nominated to stand again for the next 3 years.

David Palmer has resigned from the Board during the year. The trustees would like to thank him for his services to RLCP.

5. Roles for RLCP volunteers and trustees

DH offered to become a trustee. GSh nominated him and the nomination was accepted by members who were present.

MG offered to volunteer for 1-2hrs per week to help with pollution research.

6. AOB

None

## Bi-Annual RLCP Open Meeting

### 1. The Lark National Flagship for chalk stream recovery (Andrew Hinchley and Jim Stephens)

JS updated the group about the progress of the flagship scheme. He said it was a huge opportunity to invest into the improvement of the river. We are pushing for a holistic view of the catchment. We are hoping to tackle big issues over the long-term. Hoping for large improvements in upstream catchment. Using nature-based solutions, improving flood plain connections and improving river morphology. It will be well aligned with WINEP and will provide an upswing in river water quality. Anglian Water (AW) has embraced RLCP as a community partner to drive this forwards. The flagship plan will be owned by RLCP. Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT) has been contracted by Anglian Water who will deliver the flagship plan by 2025. The implementation phase will be from 2025-2030. RLCP will be engaging stakeholders from within the catchment. We will have monthly updates from NRT, quarterly management meetings with AW and NRT and then bi-annual high level meetings with AW.

AH shared that Defra have released an integrated plan. (document – *2023-06 DEFRA Plan\_for\_Water\_-\_our\_integrated\_plan\_for\_delivering\_clean\_and\_plentiful\_water\_PDF\_version\_*) He particularly highlighted item 2.11 – Protect and restore chalk streams. Anglian Water have identified a number of investment schemes as part of their WRMP24 plans (water resources management plan). They are working with a range of partners on the world's first ecological digital twin on the river Stiffkey with Norfolk Rivers Trust.

LH asked where other stakeholders other than AW and NRT fit in to flagship. AH said there is a strong role for EA and greater engagement with Natural England. It is still early on in the planning phases. The Water Management Forum will be a good place for this. JS said that engagement was crucial. We need to get NRT's plan to the stakeholders in a strong/user-friendly way. We need strong, active engagement and more engagement from the council and from landowners. He said we should invite NRT to the Water Management Forum. SH said that RLCP and NRT are already working together on developing an engagement/landowner plan. We are also working with our Catchment Sensitive Farming officer, Michelle Gault to engage farmers. Anglian Water's Robin Price is delivering a talk about flagship later in May. MG said that she felt the council would be on board when they have more information. She still hopes to hold a joint event after harvest for catchment farmers funded by CSF. GS said it was unavoidable for everyone to have to speak to one another.

### 2. River restoration - Current and future sites for restoration (Glenn Smithson)

Glenn said that he was very proud of everyone involved in the Co-op-Golf Course project and it has been the most demanding job RLCP has done so far. Sue Leigh wanted to note how much extra work Glenn and Nigel have put in before and after every session. Steph particular wanted to thank Glenn, Nigel and Caroline, who have been at every session and managed all the equipment, resources and volunteers.

Future work will include working behind the Tollgate pub. The permit there will be similar to the Co-op work installing brash shelving. The removal of a weir by the EA has had a big impact on the river. There are plans to work above Fullers Mill in the forestry section. This will be a Forestry England project and no material will need to be brought in for this. There is also a section below Mildenhall with two types of river – chalk stream and fenland. Glenn showed us drone footage from Lackford Bridge to the A11 showing sediment moving down the river but not getting out and causing blockages due to a disconnection with the flood plain. The EA and RLCP are looking into this area.

3. Volunteer report 2022-2023 (Steph Holland)

Steph shared a document about the volunteer work for the last year. (Document *2023-05 RLCP Progress Report 2022-2023 Volunteers and Cit Science*). She also showed a draft version of a new volunteer handbook she has been making for all RLCP volunteers.

DH updated about two projects at West Stow – Alder Carr project is looking more naturalised. More pre-planted coir mats are arriving in May. There is potential for a large project at Curved Lock which is being surveyed by Rob Mungovan. DH left the meeting at 20:15

CC thanked Steph for all her work updating the website and creating the volunteer handbook.

4. RLCP joins the national citizen science programme CaSTCo (Mariana Sandifer)

Mariana shared a presentation about CaSTCo (document *2023-08 RLCP CaSTCo update May 2023*)  
The focus is on people – making it easier for citizen scientists to get involved.

5. AOB

Pollution group now being chaired by AH.

Upcoming webinars and presentations with RLCP are now on the website at:

<https://www.riverlark.org.uk/webinars>