



**INLAND  
WATERWAYS**  
ASSOCIATION

*Great Ouse  
Branch*

**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

**to be held on  
Thursday, 28th March 2024  
at 8.00 pm**

*This will be followed by an update  
from a River Manager 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, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the North Lodge Pavilion, North Lodge Park, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6UD at 8.00 p.m.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 23rd March 2023 - 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. The future of the branch.
8. Any other business.
9. 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 and may seek re-election.
3. There are no committee members due to retire by rotation this year.
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 (e-mail: jandehodgson@gmail.com) or by hand *before the start of AGM.*



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### **INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION CONSENT FORM**

I agree to stand for election at the 2024 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 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.**

Held at the North Lodge Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Keith Alderton (Chairman) plus 11 Great Ouse Branch members.

#### 1. Apologies for absence.

The meeting was opened at 8.04 pm and the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Meg and Stephen Foote, Phillip Baker and Ian Cornish.

#### 2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The minutes of the previous AGM, having been circulated as Appendix 2 of the AGM booklet were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

#### 3. Matters arising from the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

There were none.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was similarly included in the AGM booklet as Appendix 3. He had nothing to add to the report as presented. There were no questions for the Chairman.

#### 5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was also printed in the AGM booklet 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 the AGM booklet. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

### 7. Election of Committee Members.

Carole Alderton, Enid Hodgson, Keith Alderton and John Hodgson were due for re-election as their three year term of office has ended. They are all eligible and available for re-election. This was proposed by Chris Buck and seconded by Peter Webb.

All were re-elected unanimously.

### 8. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

9. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08 pm.

## **Ouse News - Appendix 3: Chairman's Report 2023-2024**

Throughout the past year, the branch has continued with its usual varied programme of off-season evening talks at Milton, some of which were sparsely attended. However, the content of all of the meetings proved to be to the usual high standard and they were much appreciated by those present.

Our theme for the past year has been to catch up with developments on our local waterways, with talks from the Environment Agency, Middle Level Commissioners, Cam Conservators and RevIvel (a group dedicated to the revival of the River Ivel). It is just amazing how much has been achieved by the custodians of our smaller navigation authorities on a very limited budget. However, the future maintenance of the waterways controlled by the countries' major navigation authorities looks to be bleak due to much reduced government funding.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 3 contd.**

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Locally, our friends at the Environment Agency have been dispersed to assist in other regions, leaving the Anglia Region poorly served. At the time of writing the EA staff are stretched to the extreme, dealing with substantial flooding throughout the country.

I would like to thank the branch committee members for their work and support throughout the past year. As often stated, we would welcome new blood to serve on the committee, as our numbers are steadily diminishing and none of us are getting any younger.

As always, I would like to thank our Ouse News advertisers for their continued support. Their contribution helps us pay for items such as room hire and administration expenses.

Lastly, I would like to thank those members who are not active in the organisation, but continue to renew their membership every year because they support the ideals of the IWA.

We intend to present another interesting branch programme in the coming year and look forward to meeting you all.

*Keith Alderton*

## **Ouse News - Appendix 4: Secretary's Report 2023-22024**

As I write, again, no boating is possible – this time because of severe flooding covering much of the country as well as this region at near record levels.

The February meeting was successful and the March meeting, as usual, incorporated the AGM. At that meeting Carole Alderton, Enid Hodgson, Keith Alderton and John Hodgson were all re-elected for another three year term. The full minutes can be seen elsewhere. The short formal element of the meeting was followed by the traditional address from the Environment Agency.

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## Ouse News - Appendix 4 cont'd.

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There was no “away day” during this year because of the extremely low level of interest shown the previous year. The October and November meetings respectively presentations from the Middle Level Commissioners and the Cam Conservators were both successful and well received.

Fortunately committee meetings have continued in person now that our magazine editor Carole has recovered. Members will recall that, in common with meetings over a number of years past, I (and the Chairman) have appealed for members to join the committee as numbers are dwindling. Consequently we are no longer able to man a stand at Reach Fair or Ely Aquafest and so have disposed of the gazebos and all other equipment relating to those.

Members will note from the agenda for this AGM that there is to be no election. This is because the committee member who was due for re-election has decided not to seek another term and to stand down – another one lost.

The need is now more urgent than ever for more members to step up and join the committee – there is a very real possibility that the AGM next year could be the last!

Please contact the Chairman, Keith Alderton or Secretary, John Hodgson for details. Nomination forms can be sent to the Secretary or completed prior to the start of the meeting. A nomination form is appended to the agenda, please consider this seriously.

The branch membership continues to decline. Because of the reasons touched on above committee meetings were few. There was no meeting between August 2022 and March 2023 so continuity of membership numbers from one AGM to the next is awkward to compare.

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

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However between August 2022 and March 2023 there was a 6.8% decline in branch membership and between March 2023 and November 2023 a further 7.3% decline from a reduced baseline. Whilst this is disappointing it continues to fare better than the national trend. A sign of the times perhaps.

The branch accounts remain in a healthy state as expenditure has again been slightly lower than normal. We no longer have an income from sales of stock and the income from advertising in the magazine has not yet been re-established.

Our newsletter editor, Carole Alderton is always pleased to receive contributions from as many authors as possible to offer a variety of style and content.

*John Hodgson*

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# Ouse News - Appendix 5

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## TREASURERS REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2023

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

	£		£
Balance at 1st Jan 2023	<u>3,703.85</u>	Current assets:	
		Debtors	
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-117.64	Current account	3,556.21
		Cash, Sales Officer	30.00
		Less liabilities	
		Creditors	
<b>Balance at 31st December 2023</b>	<u><b>3,586.21</b></u>		<u><b>3,586.21</b></u>

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£		£
Collections at meetings	113.60	Guest speakers	60.00
Branch sales	9.00	Meeting costs	278.24
Donations:		Subscription: EAWA	10.00
Branch sales of donated goods		Officers expenses (Postage)	18.00
Meeting refreshments	14.00	printer ink & paper	8.00
Income from Advertising			
Sale of equipment	120.00		
Interest received			
		Excess of income/ expenditure	<u>-117.64</u>
Total Income	<u>256.60</u>	Total Payments	<u>256.60</u>

### Notes:

As we are now unable to go to Ely Aquafest or Reach Fair due to lack of helpers the equipment used has been either sold, returned to Head Office or donated to Canal Cavalcade.

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Enid Hodgson

Treasurer