

ARK Annual General Meeting 2025

Minutes

Thursday 2nd October 5.00 – 6.30 pm
Avington Barn (Avington Estate)
Hungerford, RG17 0UL by kind invitation of David Hill

- **5.15pm – Chairman’s Welcome – Richard Clarke**

- **5.20pm - Formal Business**

- Apologies

The AGM was well attended with around 70 people, all trustees and committee members were present. Apologies were received from around 40 members.

- Minutes from 2024 AGM

Minutes from the last AGM held on 29th November 2024 at Marlborough Town Football Club, were agreed

- Treasurer’s Report

Martin Gibson stated that the 2024/25 Accounts had been completed and summarised accounts to end of March 2025 would be available to members on the ARK website. The full independently reviewed accounts would be available on the Charity Commission website.

Total income increased to £559,056 from £196,005 in 2024, putting ARK in a strong position to expand the staff team to deliver more in the coming year.

Unrestricted income, which can be used for general expenditure, was £137,296 (2024 - £76,246), with income from donations and memberships higher at £43,052 (2024 - £28,129). We received £28,000 (2024 - £28,000) of donations from Trusts and Foundations. Total income rose by £363,051 (2024 – rose by £383,386).

Our investments and cash produced an income of £18,225 (2024 - £2,314) due to our high project balances and the increase in bank interest rates. Our long-term investments lost £1,576 in value (2024 – gain of £3,296) and were worth

£72,574 (2024 - £73,273) at the financial year end. This continues to be a satisfactory performance, and we remain resilient for the future.

The expansion of our geographic focus has opened new opportunities. Our activities continue to focus on positive practical action, alongside campaigning against pollution, over abstraction and habitat loss to ensure that the chalk streams in our catchment are protected.

- Election of Officers

- ❖ Martin Gibson nominated Richard Clarke as a Trustee and Chairman. This was seconded by ARK member Glyn Horn
- ❖ Richard Clarke accepted and nominated Martin Gibson as Treasurer. This was seconded by Zoe Cliffe and all members agreed.
- ❖ John Lawson, Rob Starr, David Hill, Judy Pitts and Sam Marshall were nominated as Committee members by Richard Clarke. The proposal was seconded by all with a show of hands.
- ❖ The four trustees in the Executive Committee, with responsibility for the management of the charity, Richard Clarke, Martin Gibson, David Hill and Judy Pitts, were all happy to stand as trustees, seconded by ARK member Bruce Hayllar and agreed by all present with a show of hands.
- ❖ The formal business was completed at 5.35pm.

- ARK IN 2025

- Charlotte introduced the ARK team who each gave individual presentations on the projects they had delivered over the last year, copies of which are available on request.
- Rupert Kelton – Fish passage improvements, river restoration and topographic surveys and design
- James Hubbard – Data Streams, monitoring the river Pang and river Kennet
- Anna Forbes – Community outreach and education, Water Vole Surveying and River Fly monitoring, River School, Stonebridge Wild River Reserve and running ARK's volunteer programme including Corporate volunteer days

- ARK Volunteer of the Year

ARK Volunteer of the Year was awarded to David Stoye, who has been a regular volunteer over the years. Anna Forbes thanked all ARK volunteers for their continued support and help throughout the year.

- Close

With the formal business completed, the AGM was brought to a close, the Chairman, Richard Clarke, gave a big thanks saying that ARK's impact was only possible because of the people involved. ARK has around 500 members and 450 active volunteers including highly skilled riverfly monitors and habitat surveyors.

ARK Director, Charlotte Hitchmough thanked all landowners and riverkeepers for their continued support, and for allowing ARK to work on their land and rivers, and Avington Estate for generously hosting the AGM.