FOBB General Meeting 14/10/26

Present: S Dixon, G Hale, B Malby from Ilkley Clean River Group, R Reeve, C Beasant, K Sunderland, S Patchett, R Martin, I Lofthouse, F Cleaver, D Pitts, M Pitts, A Pick, H Bryson, R Jones, D Helliwell, R Helliwell, M Price, P Hayes

G Hale introduction

R Reeve gave a tribute to Joy Crampton who had worked with FOBB for many years.

G Hale gave an update on discussions around organising the group and requested volunteers to help organise the group's activities.

A Pick gave a presentation about his and ART's work on knotweed control.

R Helliwell gave a Main Rivers Status presentation. Making the argument for Bradford Becks to have equality with other local becks and rivers. Bradford Becks being the largest tributer of the river Aire, with the beck running underground for one mile.

There followed a discussion from members about the river status. K Sunderland suggested that the status was refused by the Council as they wanted to build on the areas along the river. This would have been refused had the beck gained main river status.

Prof B Malby gave a presentation about the Ilkley Clean Rivers Campaign and their involvement with the media, and an update on the progress of their work and proposals for changes to legislation.

K Sunderland started a discussion about the history of the responsibility of the river from the 1960's, regarding the wildlife.

Prof B Malby talked about the financial organisation of the river authorities, and the benefits of having a community owned system.

There was then a musical interlude from the group Latterhand, followed by a quiz.

G Hale wrapped up the meeting and said that the next meeting would be arranged, proposing the 18th or the 25th of January.

S Dixon, Secretary