



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Campaigning to protect our rural county

CPRE Oxfordshire Annual General Meeting 2021

Saturday, 19 June 2021 at 10.30am
by Zoom video/telephone conference call

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Chairman's Report..... | 2-3 |
| Annual Report and Accounts..... | 4-8 |
| Minutes of the 2020 AGM..... | 9-10 |
| Proxy voting form..... | 11 |
| Agenda | 12 |

So that we can send you instructions on how to join the meeting, **PLEASE REGISTER** to attend **BY MONDAY 7 JUNE** with **THE ADMINISTRATOR**, sending the following to:

The Administrator, CPRE Oxfordshire, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5PY
Telephone 01491 612079 administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

(A) your name

(B) the email address through which you wish to access the meeting (or telephone number if you do not have email)

For security reasons, only registered attendees will be allowed into the meeting.

Proxy Voting Forms should be returned by Monday 14 June.

Chairman's Report, AGM 2021

Should a valedictory Chairman's Report be the usual 'tour d'horizon', a 'State of the Campaign' message, or do our members deserve something more, something different?

This Chairman, on the point of departure, has been fortunate to be able to announce two particular achievements of Branch during his watch and, though very much a joint effort, reflect well on CPRE Oxfordshire for its continuing work over the last four years.

One, known through the media to all, is the removal by the Government of the word and the future reality of an 'Expressway' from the vocabulary concerning the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, or now, 'Growth Corridor'. We can hardly be blamed for this success on our own – there are a number of Counties, let alone organisations across the Arc, which have also worked tirelessly to resist the building of this road which would have cut a swathe through our green and pleasant land. However, we can at least claim that our organisation's prestige has given us access to many important discussions along the way and can have done no harm to the cause. We thank those of you who have sent us congratulatory messages. There of course remain challenges in respect of excessive building and road 'improvements' along the Ox-Cam Corridor, some continuing to threaten Oxford's Green Belt, that will give my successor some employment.

A second Branch success has been an internal matter. The health of a long-term committee depends on a process of renewal matching the stability and experience commanded by continuity. However, in the modern world, charities up and down the Kingdom are finding the latter easier to maintain than the former. Not so CPRE Oxfordshire which has attracted and, at its March meeting, co-opted seven, yes seven, new Trustees – admittedly, two coming to us because of change in Chairmanship of two District Committees. With their considerable – and variety of – skills and experience, the new women and men are already making their presence felt, and make a fine addition to our Executive Committee. You will find their names in the AGM papers, alongside those of other members nominated for election.

The Executive Committee loses, alas, three Trustees who have each given extraordinary service over many years. Both Gill Salway and Bruce Tremayne were not only noted Chairmen, Bruce even for two spells of duty, but were then and until this day, the first source of wisdom and knowledge sought by the CPRE Committees in the Districts where they live. They have contributed in so many different ways to our activities. Gordon Garraway has too, but his name, and hence our name, is known far and wide for one particular contribution: an expertise on the County's footpaths and by-ways, including the creation of the Oxford Green Belt Way for which he won a National CPRE medal. Future opportunities to gain advice from all three should not be lost, and you will find nominations as Vice President in your AGM papers. We also much regret losing our Trustee and West Oxfordshire Chairman, John Histon, who has had to withdraw on health grounds. He is replaced by Philippa Phelan and the new Vale Chairman is Heneage Legge-Bourke. We welcome them both.

That the Executive Committee can speak with authority often depends on expert advice. To a twenty-one year-old Lecturer at St Edmund Hall in 1966, my senior colleagues seemed to have some age about them. However, Ian Scargill was young then and maintained his youthful enthusiasm as longtime Chairman of the Oxford Green Belt Network. So, you will understand that it is with personal, as well as institutional, sadness that I have now to record his retirement as an Honorary Consultant. Legend in his lifetime, he has done immense good work for Oxfordshire. We welcome Martin Harris, another experienced Green Belter in his place, and also as Honorary Consultant, Lisa Cheung, a senior planner at another place, but maybe not a place you expect: Chelsea and Kensington.

Is longevity a success? That probably depends on what has been achieved along the way. I note that this year records ninety years of CPRE Oxfordshire's existence. Celebrations will take place later in the year when we hope to be able get together in person. This will give us the welcome opportunity to applaud our retiring Trustees and not forget my earlier anticipation concerning one long-serving member of the Executive Committee who continues as Trustee after his retirement as Treasurer. He is Brian Wood, my predecessor as Chairman, who has now received the accolade of a National CPRE award. However, none of our venerable figures are quite ninety yet! You need not watch this space for event information – we'll let you know!

Our summer focus will be on discussions with the Oxfordshire Growth Board about the 'Oxfordshire 2050' plan. We construe that an early determination of what the plan may contain could help resist the imposition of undesirable diktats from Whitehall, in particular concerning the Arc/Corridor.

We refuse to be submerged by the fast increasing number of planning consultations emanating from Whitehall, and are working closely with National CPRE in their response on behalf of the CPRE Network. Our main interest has been in demonstrating the importance of democratic involvement of local people in determining decisions that closely affect them. We are glad that, as a result of CPRE's intervention, the Government has withdrawn yet another of their unfortunate algorithms that would *inter alia* have doubled the currently proposed increase in housing in the Vale and Cherwell Districts.

In closing this sequence of messages to you, I want to express my thanks. I have clocked up quite a few committees over the years, but none have been so rewarding and worthwhile as the two I have chaired for CPRE in Oxfordshire, the District Committee in the Vale and then Branch. I am grateful for the many friendships I have made when pursuing our cause. It would be invidious to single out anyone in particular; so, I will – but not any of my fellow Trustees on the Executive Committee, nor the ever-helpful communications and administration friends in the Watlington Office. John Harwood has brought a special and very individual perspective to his rôle as President, as well as being great fun to work with! I was told when I was encouraged to allow my name to go forward for the post that it would take up perhaps eight hours of each week. My experience is that it is nearer eighty! That it is at all manageable is because of the assistance I have had from our Director, Helen Marshall. No request is ever too much trouble. Every reply has been properly considered – and we even agree on quite a lot!

I knew it was an honour when I took on the rôle, and that is how it will remain in my thoughts. Thank you.

Peter Collins



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CPRE Oxfordshire Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended
31 December 2020

CPRE Oxfordshire Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Mr John Harwood |
| Vice President | Mr David Astor |
| Chairman of the Executive Committee | Dr Peter Collins * |
| Vice Chairmen | Mrs Gillian Salway * Mr Bruce Tremayne * |
| Executive Committee | Dr Mark Barnett * to 17 September 2020 Mr Gordon Garraway * Sir David Gilmour * Professor Richard Harding * Mr John Histon * Mr Colin Thomas * Mr Michael Tyce * to 17 September 2020 Mr Brian Wood * |
| Secretary | Miss Dorian Grier * |
| Treasurer | Mr Brian Wood * ** |
| Director | Mrs Helen Marshall |
| CPRE Oxfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust Ltd | Mr John Alexander |
| Honorary Consultants | Mr Angus Dart – Farming Mr Jim Fletcher – Transport Professor Richard Harding – Water Mr George Lambrick – Archaeology and Historic Buildings Mr Nick Moon and Mr. Garraway – Rights of Way and Footpaths Dr Ian Scargill – Oxford Green Belt Network Mr Michael Tyce – Without Portfolio from 17 September |

* trustee and director

** Mr. Brian Wood was Treasurer until his sudden retirement through ill-health on 17 September 2020. The Chairman agreed to stand in as Treasurer until a new Treasurer was appointed.

Report of the trustees

The objective of the CPRE Oxfordshire is to protect and enhance the Oxfordshire countryside and landscape, together with its rural villages and market towns.

CPRE Oxfordshire has continued to manage its investments to provide funds in the pursuit of its objectives.

There was a deficit on general activities of £14,784 (£448 surplus in 2019). After adjustments for the reduction in district balances and the unrealised increase in value of investments, the net surplus for the period was £3,284 (£53,577 surplus in 2019). The Accumulated Fund as at 31 December 2020, represented by investments and bank and building society accounts and other assets totalled £399,233 (£395,949 in 2019).

The trustees have determined that a reserves policy is not required at the present time. The Charity is in receipt of a regular income and holds an accumulated fund which is sufficient to meet all identified present and future commitments.

The trustees have complied with their duty in having due regard to the guidance on public benefit, as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties.

For the year ended 31 December 2020, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on their behalf.

Dr Peter Collins
Chairman and Director
13 April 2021

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 December 2020

| | Year to 31-Dec-20 | Year to 31-Dec-19 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income | | |
| National subscriptions – branch share | 24,934 | 24,541 |
| Donations grants and local support | 15,306 | 36,854 |
| Investment Income | 11,107 | 10,864 |
| Bank interest | 83 | 130 |
| Sale of books | 1,638 | 1,651 |
| Sundry income | - | - |
| Total income | <u>53,068</u> | <u>74,040</u> |
| Charitable Expenses | | |
| Director | 35,511 | 37,245 |
| Communications manager | 2,145 | 2,090 |
| Voice | 3,594 | 5,537 |
| Projects | 10,012 | 13,996 |
| Subscriptions and donations | 429 | 365 |
| Events | 573 | - |
| | <u>52,264</u> | <u>59,233</u> |
| Other Expenditure | | |
| Adminstration | 15,588 | 15,295 |
| Total expenditure | <u>67,852</u> | <u>74,528</u> |
| Surplus/(deficit) on general activities | (14,784) | (488) |
| Decrease in district balances | (3,281) | (240) |
| Unrealised change in the value of investments | 21,349 | 54,305 |
| Total surplus/ (deficit) for the period | <u>3,284</u> | <u>53,577</u> |

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2020

| | | Total Funds 2020 £ | Total Funds 2019 £ |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Investments at valuation | | | |
| COIF Charities Investment Fund | 372,423 | | 351,074 |
| COIF Charities Deposit Account | <u>31,559</u> | | <u>20,394</u> |
| | | 403,982 | 371,468 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Barclays Bank – Branch | 69,402 | | 29,738 |
| Banks & Building Societies – Districts | 5,375 | | 8,656 |
| Debtors | 7,146 | | 7,129 |
| Less: Creditors | <u>-</u> | | <u>(4,984)</u> |
| Net current assets | | 81,923 | 40,539 |
| Total net assets | | <u><u>485,905</u></u> | <u><u>412,007</u></u> |
| Represented by | | | |
| Accumulated Fund 1 January 2020 | 395,949 | | 342,372 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 3,284 | | 53,577 |
| Accumulated Fund 31 December 2020 | <u> </u> | 399,233 | <u>395,949</u> |
| Restricted funds | | | |
| Need not Greed | 7,001 | | 8,058 |
| GARD | 11,750 | | 8,000 |
| Donation in memory of Margot Collins | 62,500 | | - |
| CDWA | 2,661 | | - |
| Vale District | <u>2,760</u> | | <u>-</u> |
| | | 86,672 | 16,058 |
| | | <u><u>485,905</u></u> | <u><u>412,007</u></u> |

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I have reviewed the accounting records held by the charity, and compared them with these accounts. I am convinced that proper records, in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 have been kept, and that these accounts for the year to 31 December 2020 reflect accurately the financial activities of the charity during the year, and its financial position at the year end. The charity is entitled to small company's exemption from the full requirements of the Companies' Act 1985 and these accounts have been prepared in accordance with that exemption.

No matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement to keep accounting records, and prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, has not been kept.

I have examined these records and accounts as an Independent Examiner, and not as a qualified accountant.

Richard Broadbent

14 April 2021

Minutes of the 2020 AGM

In the AGM communication dated June 15th, 2020, members of CPRE Oxfordshire were asked to read the covering letter from the President and Chairman of CPRE Oxfordshire (copy below). The Minutes of the 2019 AGM and the Annual Report and Accounts 2019 were provided, as was a list of current Trustees and Officers. Members were also sent the Chairman's Report on activities carried out by CPRE Oxfordshire during the year.

Members were asked to vote on the following and the results are recorded:

| | | YES | NO |
|---|--|-----|----|
| 1 | Approval of the Minutes of the CPRE Oxfordshire AGM held on 6 July 2019 | 73 | 0 |
| 2 | Adoption of the CPRE Oxfordshire Annual Report and Accounts 2019 | 76 | 0 |
| 3 | Approval <i>en bloc</i> of the appointment of the Trustees and Officers 2019-2020 of CPRE Oxfordshire for the year 2020-21 | 78 | 0 |

Of the responses, 38 were returned by email and 40 by post.

Sent to Members of CPRE Oxfordshire, June 2020

We hope that this letter finds you and your families well and bearing up in these very different times. As you know, so many plans are needing to change as a result of the Coronavirus, and sadly CPRE Oxfordshire's activities are no exception.

You will realise that our plans to hold an AGM this summer have been subject to considerable scrutiny over the last few weeks. The likelihood of its being held in the usual way has reduced to zero recently. Thoughts of using such commercial enterprises as 'Zoom' to organise a meeting online prove to be unsatisfactory, as a quarter of our membership does not have, or prefers not to give CPRE, an email address. Further, we understand that the Charity Commissioners, during the COVID-19 emergency, are relaxed about departure from a strict adherence to the Constitution if reasonable procedures are followed to which we could be held accountable. Accordingly, the Branch Executive Committee (containing the Trustees of the charity) has decided it would be best to proceed as follows.

For 2020 and for members such as yourselves who have given us an email address, we attach the usual pack of material containing the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019, together with the Chairman's Report, plus a proposal on the continuation of the existing Trustees (see below). At the same time, we shall ensure that this pack will be distributed by ordinary mail to all other members. The Annual Report and Accounts have been approved by the Trustees and passed without qualification by our distinguished Independent Examiner, Richard Broadbent. The BEC ask for your confirmation they be adopted on the form (below and also attached) and would welcome any questions or comments you wished to make on this report.

The Committee has also spent some time considering the best way of dealing with this year's elections which would have taken place at the AGM. In the emergency situation we find ourselves, we consider it essential that we have experienced and sure hands at the helm. On the other hand, we consider it is not the time to be asking for new Trustees to present themselves. Hence, the Trustees propose that the current membership should continue for the next year. We again ask you to let us know if you approve of this proposal on the form provided.

The Spring issue of CPRE Oxfordshire Voice will be available online by early June. In light of the practical challenges of printing and distributing the magazine at the current time, we have decided that this edition will be digital only. We will email a link to Voice to those for whom we have email addresses, but otherwise please find it on the CPRE Oxfordshire website. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please contact the office on 01491 612079 or email administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk. We hope to return to a normal printed edition in the Autumn.

If the Branch Executive Committee or a sufficient number of members, as determined by our Constitution, see the need for an Extraordinary General Meeting at a later date, that will be arranged when possible.

As always, the Committee awaits approaches from members with ideas, comments and proposals.

We recognise that these are exceptional actions, but we hope you will agree are the best way forward in these exceptional times. Whilst many industries have come to a standstill, developers are still pressing ahead with applications and planning inspectors are still writing their Local Plan reports. We thank all our CPRE volunteers who are continuing to be vigilant and active in challenging and guiding development proposals.

Meanwhile, it is clear that our countryside and access to green space is more important than ever for our physical and mental well-being. We hope that our decision-makers will take this to heart as things return to 'normal'. CPRE Oxfordshire will certainly be there to make the case as forcefully as we can, and we are grateful for your ongoing support to help make this possible.

John Harwood
(President, CPRE Oxfordshire)

Dr Peter Collins
(Chairman, CPRE Oxfordshire)

CPRE Oxfordshire Annual General Meeting 2021

19 June 2021 – Proxy notice

This form is for the use of members who are unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate a proxy to vote on their behalf. Please complete and return the form by post to The Administrator, CPRE Oxfordshire, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5PY, or by email to administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk **TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN MONDAY 14 JUNE 2021.**

Your name _____

Your address _____

I appoint the following as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the above meeting or any adjournment thereof as he/she sees fit (please select ONE of the options below):

the Chairman of the meeting

OR

the following person _____ (name of your proxy)

Signed _____ Date _____

Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 19 June 2021 at 10.30am

by Zoom video/telephone conference call.

So that we can send you instructions on how to join the meeting, PLEASE REGISTER to attend BY MONDAY 7 JUNE: E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk. (See front cover of this report pack for further details.
NB Only registered attendees will be allowed into the meeting.)

Welcome by the Branch President, John Harwood DL

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM, which took place by post
3. Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee
4. Finance: Treasurer's Report
Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2020

5a. Election of Honorary Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:

President: John Harwood
Vice Presidents: David Astor
Dr Peter Collins
Gordon Garraway
Gill Salway
Bruce Tremayne

Chairman: Professor Richard Harding
Vice Chairman: Brian Wood
Treasurer: Nick Dolden
Secretary: Dorian Grier

Ordinary Members: Geoff Botting
Lisa Buchan
Peter Emery
Olivia Field
Colin Thomas

District Chairmen: Sir David Gilmour,
CPRE Cherwell
Heneage Legge-Bourke,
CPRE Vale of White Horse
Richard Harding,
CPRE South Oxfordshire
Philippa Phelan,
CPRE West Oxfordshire

5b. Honorary Consultants (as appointed by the Branch Executive Committee)

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lisa Cheung | Planning |
| Angus Dart | Farming |
| Jim Fletcher | Transport |
| Gordon Garraway/Nick Moon | Footpaths/ Rights of Way |
| Richard Harding | Water |
| Martin Harris | Oxford Green Belt Network |
| George Lambrick | Archaeology and Historic Buildings |
| Michael Tyce | Without Portfolio |

5c. The following are employees of the Branch:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Director | Helen Marshall |
| Administrator | Becky Crockett |
| Communications Manager | Julia Benning |

6. Any Other Business