

# PAPERS FOR THE 2019 AGM

Chairman's Report.....	2-3
Accounts .....	4-6
Minutes of the 2018 AGM .....	6-7
Agenda .....	8

# Chairman's Report

This has been a year when CPRE Oxfordshire has truly lived up to its name and prime purpose: the 'Campaign to Protect Rural England'. Our activities continue apace, but we have needed to be fleet of foot to keep up with unexpected revisions and name changes imposed behind closed doors and without warning by the relevant agencies.

A classic example is the 'Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Growth Corridor', now rebranded the 'Ox-Cam Arc'. It was clear from the outset that the aspirational ideas emanating from Government, handed to the National Infrastructure Commission, then on to Highways England, had not been thought through and were hardly likely to be realisable and certainly not desirable. A million houses on England's green and pleasant land are envisaged, seemingly for the most part to accommodate London commuters. There is little likelihood that even the few obligatory 'affordable' houses, costed at 80% of the market price, would be financially accessible to many local people, let alone the 'key workers' the proposed growth would require.

There has never been any question but that CPRE, both locally and nationally, would oppose the whole idea of a Growth Corridor. We are therefore seeking the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee to question the entire set of proposals. Alongside the Oxfordshire Growth Board's 'Joint Statutory Spatial Plan' (JSSP) – now the 'Oxfordshire Plan 2050' – CPRE Oxfordshire has prepared its own vision of the County's future, a 'rural manifesto', to challenge the growth proposed. We are hoping this will give us more traction with MPs and local authorities, as we have yet to have any real indication that the Government or the Growth Board is really listening to the public or key stakeholders.

However, whilst total opposition is the main plank of our engagement, CPRE has also to consider the mitigation of what Government might force on us. We are driven by the desire to do our best by local people whilst guarding the environment and preserving rural Oxfordshire.

Emerging Local Plans continue to be a major concern. We have had important successes in the Vale in defeating a proposed allocation of 1,000 houses in the North Wessex Downs AONB and strengthening the District's heritage policy. However, the Oxford Green Belt remains under considerable threat, much of it caused by national legislation to fulfil the so-called 'unmet need' of the City by neighbouring District Councils. CPRE is putting up strong resistance through consultations and public hearings to major Green Belt housing allocations that would, in Cherwell District, coalesce Oxford/Kidlington/Begbroke/Yarnton, and we are expecting a similar fight in South Oxfordshire in respect of Grenoble Road, Culham and other sites. The emerging City Plan will follow. CPRE's main argument is that the City should use all its vacant brownfield sites for genuinely affordable, sustainable development of appropriate density, which could solve most of the City's housing need at a stroke and save the Green Belt for the enjoyment and well-being of local people.

We continue to be on the front foot in working with GARD (the Group Against Reservoir Development), which opposes the gigantic proposed Abingdon Reservoir on expert technical and environmental grounds. A strong case was made for meeting the expected need through other means. Thames Water was forced to hold a further round of consultations in view of considerable changes to their Water Resources Management Plan. We now work with other CPRE Branches to challenge the justification of their plans which relies on support from Affinity Water, itself providing water to millions of households across the South-East. A particular urgent threat is to environmentally precious chalk streams which are a rare phenomenon in Europe.

It has been particularly useful throughout the year to be able to work with Need Not Greed Oxfordshire, a growing coalition of local organisations campaigning against inappropriate development in their particular communities. The coalition currently has 37 members.

Many thanks are due to our donors and supporters who ensured that we reached the fundraising target in our autumn appeal. This will help us significantly to finance our work on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, to deliver our Rural Manifesto, and to establish a firm and ongoing presence with the Oxfordshire Growth Board and local MPs and Councillors.

Grateful thanks too go to Gordon Garraway and Nick Moon for updating our guide to the Oxford Green Belt Way and producing a new guide to the Oxfordshire Way, which encourage so many to appreciate the need for preserving green spaces around Oxford and the unspoilt countryside of the County.

We are grateful to our President, John Harwood, for his encouragement and sage advice, and all the Trustees and expert advisers for their hard work and continued campaigning spirit. Your Branch Executive Committee has made every effort to ensure that the views of our members in Oxford are taken into account in its deliberations, and we hope that a City Committee can soon be re-instated. In the meantime, we are particularly grateful to have the continuing advice and assistance of former Committee members. Our Districts are in good heart and have appointed two new Chairmen, Mark Barnett in the Vale of White Horse and John Histon in West Oxfordshire. We wish them well.

I continue to laud with gratitude the enormous contribution Helen Marshall makes as our Director. In fact, the whole of Helen's team punches above its weight, and Julia Benning (Communications) and Becky Crockett (Admin.) respond with efficiency and effectiveness to any challenge we lob at them.

The Branch Executive and Management Committees are sorry to lose Judy Crockett who retires after many years' service. Particularly valued for her precise interventions in Committee, Judy will be missed as a friend and supportive colleague. We are glad that she will continue to be involved with South Oxfordshire District and helping to organise our very popular member events.

We also lose Mike Tite as a meticulous and punctilious Branch Honorary Secretary who has been keeping us legal by renewing our Articles of Association, as well as providing timely minutes – so timely that he must have known what we would say before we did!

I have already reported on the much regretted loss of our great map-maker and long-time Trustee, Alun Jones. An appreciation appears in Oxfordshire Voice.

**Peter Collins**

## Circular Walk

A circular walk, including a section of the Oxford Green Belt Way, will take place prior to the AGM, leaving the village hall at 11am.

The route is about 4 miles on relatively level walking with some stiles. The ground could be muddy after rain, please wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

Booking for the walk – places are limited to 20 walkers and MUST be booked in advance.  
Tel: 01491 612079 or email [administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk)

More information can be found in the Spring 2019 edition of *Oxfordshire Voice* or on our website: [cpreoxon.org.uk](http://cpreoxon.org.uk)

## From Milestones to Millstones

### *An exploration and celebration of Oxfordshire's footpaths*

We are delighted to welcome Elaine Steane MBE as our speaker at this year's CPRE Oxfordshire Branch AGM.

Elaine is a daughter of a cartographer and a geographer, so grew up able to identify glacial moraines and U-shaped valleys and with an enduring love of maps.

She has put these passions to great use, publishing a number of books on walks in Oxfordshire including the The Seven Shires Way, a 234-mile walk around the Oxfordshire county boundary, and The Roman Way, a 174-mile walk on the theme of Roman roads in the Oxford region. Her latest book, *From Milestones to Millstones\**, describes 17 circular walks featuring mills in Oxfordshire and beyond, including Ardington, Ascott-under Wychwood, Chinnor, the Hanneys and Wantage.

Elaine tells us that she may also be putting you, the audience, to the test, with a chance to consider why certain footpaths are where they are.

However, we don't think this will be too gruelling and you can recover with tea & cake afterwards!

Please do come & join us – all welcome.

*\*Copies of the book will be available for purchase on the day, £9.99.  
See [www.milestonestomillstones.co.uk](http://www.milestonestomillstones.co.uk) for further info.*

*The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England*

## Income and Expenditure Account

*For the 12 month period to 31st December 2018*

	Year to 31.12.18	Year to 31.12.17
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
National subscriptions – branch share	24,848	24,379
Donations and local support	32,356	30,452
Investment Income	10,661	10,282
Bank interest	104	67
Sale of books	659	1,109
Sundry income	165	-
<b>Total income</b>	<u>68,793</u>	<u>66,289</u>
<b>Charitable Expenses</b>		
Director	34,387	25,581
Comms manager	3,610	10,408
Voice	6,781	6,273
Projects	553	7,198
Subscriptions and donations	310	280
Events	4	430
	<u>45,645</u>	<u>50,170</u>
<b>Other Expenditure</b>		
Adminstration	15,920	13,032
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>61,565</u>	<u>63,202</u>
<b>Surplus/deficit on general activities</b>	<u>7,228</u>	<u>3,087</u>
Increase/decrease in district balances	(3,008)	775
Unrealised change in the value of investments	(9,078)	22,526
<b>Total surplus/ deficit for the period</b>	<u>(4,858)</u>	<u>26,388</u>

## The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

# Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2018

	£	Previous year £
<b>Investments at valuation</b>		
COIF Charities Investment Fund	296,769	305,847
COIF Charities Deposit Account	19,400	28,635
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	316,169	334,482
<b>Current assets</b>		
Barclays Bank – Branch	87,481	17,602
Banks & Building Societies - Districts	8,896	10,404
Debtors	22,808	7,295
Less: Creditors	nil	nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total assets</b>	435,354	369,783
Represented by		
Accumulated Fund 1st January 2018	347,230	320,842
Surplus/Deficit	(4,858)	26,388
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund 31st December 2018	342,372	347,230
Restricted funds		
Wolvercote Action Group	89	
Need not Greed	9,280	
GARD	81,500	
Cumnor Green	113	
West Hanney	2,000	
	<hr/>	
	92,982	22,553
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	435,354	369,783

For the year ended 31st December 2018 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for (i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386, and (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the company.

*These accounts have been signed off by Alastair Craig, Independent Examiner,  
Tierce Acre, High Street, Charlton-on-Otmoor.*

**A full copy of the accounts will be available to view at the AGM or can be obtained by contacting the CPRE Oxfordshire Branch Office.**

# The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Fleet Meadow Community Hall, Didcot, Oxfordshire on Saturday 21st July 2018

Before the business of the meeting, the Branch President, John Harwood, welcomed some 50 members to the meeting, and thanked the Branch Chairman, Peter Collins, the members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC), and Helen Marshall and her staff for all the hard work that they had done in challenging the wide range of proposed developments in Oxfordshire during the past year. He also thanked the CPRE South Oxfordshire Committee for hosting the meeting.

## AGENDA A

1. **Revision of Branch Articles of Association:** Michael Tite explained that the current Branch Articles of Association dated back to 2002 when the Branch became a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. As a result of changes in the Companies Acts in 2006 as well as more recent changes in Charity regulations, CPRE National Office (NO) had recommended that the Branch completely update its Articles of Association, and further recommended the use of their recently prepared new Model Articles of Association. Subsequent to the 2017 AGM, the Charity Commission had given its consent for the Branch to modify its Articles as proposed by NO. He explained that these new Articles would not alter the way in which the Branch operated, but that, should the Branch encounter any serious legal problems or challenges at some time in the future, the new Articles would provide the necessary legal backing to resolve them.

A special resolution to adopt these new Articles, copies of which had been made available, was moved by Michael Tite, seconded by Brian Wood, and accepted unanimously

## AGENDA B

1. **Apologies for absence:** Vernon King, John Onslow, Jane Cadogan, Peter Clarke, Elizabeth Poskitt, Mary-Ann Evans, Professor Davies, Mr and Mrs Rosa, Chris Hone, Julian Golec, Mike Murray, Colin Hives, Colin Thomas, Mary Thompson, Bessy Bedren, Pam Roberts, Betty Raymond and Margaret Drage.
2. **Minutes of the 2017 AGM** were accepted and signed.
3. **Chairman's Report:** Peter Collins reminded members that his Chairman's Report had been circulated, and that he would now only be highlighting certain aspects and subsequent developments, starting with thanking John Harwood for his support and active involvement as President. He also thanked members of the BEC and local District Committees for their crucial help and support during the past year. Second, he highlighted various administrative changes including the merging of the North and South Cherwell District Groups into a single Cherwell District Group with David Gilmour as its Chairman. In addition, he reported that John Broad had resigned from the BEC as a result of having been elected to the Cherwell District Council, a matter of congratulation, and that Helena Whall had resigned from her position as Campaign Manager and was thanked for her long and excellent service. She was replaced by Julia Benning as Communications Manager. Third, in the context of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, he first expressed concern at the lack of public consultation, and stated that CPRE Oxfordshire continues to have total opposition to the Growth Corridor in general and its Expressway and, in particular, maintains its November 2017 agreement (by an overwhelming majority) to work to mitigate the effects of an Expressway if its realisation was unavoidable. CPRE Oxfordshire continues to work with CPRE National Office's policy: "...upgrading existing roads is generally preferable to the creation of new roads across virgin countryside" and further, that '...damage to designated areas (e.g. Green Belt, AONBs, SSSIs and SACs) should be kept to a minimum' It had to be accepted that CPRE National Office's (NO's) response to the Highways England consultation on different corridors, one of which would contain the final Expressway routing, would carry greater weight than a single County response. As the NO response contained nearly all the Oxfordshire recommendations, including a strong statement disapproving of any Expressway being built, we agreed to sign-up to it despite its being firmer on the A34 routing possibility than we would have wished.

The Secretary of the City District Committee had informed the Branch that members of the Committee had in May chosen to resign as Committee members. The Chairman emphasized that Branch regretted their taking this course of action.

**Following the Chairman's report,** Natasha Robinson, on behalf of members of the City District Group, made a statement explaining the reasons for their resignation. In particular, they believed that use of the existing western route (i.e., A34) would result in as much damage to the countryside as any of the other routes, and as a result, they wanted the freedom to campaign with other local groups against the western route. However, she emphasised that

*...continues overleaf*

the members who had resigned still supported the Branch in its other campaigns and that they would work with the Branch in challenging the potential damage caused by whatever route was eventually chosen. The full statement is attached to these Minutes.

4. **The Treasurer's Report:** Brian Wood, presented the accounts for the year to 31st December 2017 which had been previously circulated. He highlighted the fact that the surplus for the year on General Activities was some £3000 which was mainly as a result of an increase in donations, and emphasised the importance of further fund-raising appeals in sustaining the financial well-being of the Branch. He also indicated that the value of the Branch's investments, the majority of which were held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund, had again increased by some £20K. The adoption of the accounts was moved by Richard Harding, seconded by Gill Salway, and accepted unanimously by the meeting.
5. **Election of Officers and Branch Executive Committee:** As there were no nominations, other than those listed on the Agenda, the Branch President declared the following duly elected:
- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairman           | Peter Collins               |
| Vice-Chairmen      | Bruce Tremayne, Gill Salway |
| Treasurer          | Brian Wood                  |
| Honorary Secretary | Michael Tite                |

Elected by the membership: Gordon Garraway, Judith Crockett, Michael Tyce, Colin Thomas

**Continuing appointments:**

President	John Harwood
Vice-President	David Astor

**The following are members of the BEC ex officio:** Richard Harding, David Gilmour

6. **Any Other Business:**

(a) **Richard Harding** highlighted the display boards providing details of the development of Didcot as a Garden Town which, prior to the resignation of Gerry Brough as Interim Head of Development and Regeneration at SODC, had been the original topic of the talk following this AGM;

(b) **Peter Collins** expressed his special thanks to Helen Marshall and Becky Crockett for their crucial help and support during the past year;

(c) **Gordon Garraway** highlighted the fact that Nick Moon, who was joint consultant with him for Footpaths and Rights of Way and who had played a major part in the preparation of publications of walks in Oxfordshire, was present at the current AGM.

After the business of the meeting, Dr Jill Eyres, Director of Chiltern Archaeology, gave a very informative talk, illustrated with a wonderful range of photographs, both past and present, on Chilterns at Work: People and Industries through the Years. In this, she emphasised the importance of geology in determining the wide range of industries (e.g., agriculture, wood-based, brick-making, cement-works) that had flourished, and continued to flourish, in the Chilterns. Refreshments were provided by South Oxfordshire District CPRE. Members were then taken on a tour of the Mowbray Fields Nature Reserve by Richard Harding.

**MST 28th February 2019**

APPENDIX

**Statement made by Natasha Robinson, Secretary of the City District Committee**

I would like those present at the AGM to be made aware that the Committee of CPRE Oxford District resigned in June as the officers and members were unable to accept the position taken by the Oxfordshire Branch Executive in their submission to the NIC consultation regarding the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, namely support for the corridor passing to the west of Oxford as the 'least worst' option. Branch Executive had previously agreed that it would not support any of the proposed road routes as all are harmful to their local environments, and CPRE opposes major road building. The revised position implicitly supports development of a road route which passes through heritage landscape and precious environments to the west of the City, an area which is as deserving of protection as those threatened by the alternative proposed routes.

The Oxford District CPRE Committee only acted after lengthy discussion of the alternatives, but as members wished to be free to campaign alongside other organisations against all the proposed road routes for the Expressway, there did not appear to be any alternative. Individual ex-Committee members will continue to support the wider role of CPRE in campaigning to protect the countryside, for the enjoyment of all.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*To be held on Saturday 6th July 2019 at 2.30pm in Shipton on Cherwell Village Hall, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 1JP*

There is limited parking at the village hall, this will be reserved for those with limited mobility – please contact us if you would like a space. Tel: 01491 612079 Email: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Map: [tinyurl.com/cpreshipton](http://tinyurl.com/cpreshipton)

## **Circular walk**

Prior to the AGM, members are invited on a 4 mile walk. *Details on page 3.*

## **Welcome by the Branch President, John Harwood DL**

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. The minutes of the AGM of 21st July 2018
3. Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee
4. Branch Treasurer's Report and the adoption of the Annual Accounts
5. Election of Officers and Branch Executive Committee (nominated by the Branch Executive Committee)
6. *From Milestones to Millstones: An exploration and celebration of Oxfordshire's footpaths.* We are delighted to welcome Elaine Steane MBE as our speaker. *See page 3 for further information.*

<b>Chairman</b>	Peter Collins
<b>Vice-Chairmen</b>	Gill Salway, Bruce Tremayne
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brian Wood
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	TBC
<b>Ordinary Members</b>	Gordon Garraway, Michael Tyce, Colin Thomas*

Continuing appointments

**President** John Harwood

**Vice-President** David Astor

### **The following are members of the BEC ex officio:**

Mark Barnett, *Chairman, CPRE Vale of White Horse District Committee*

Sir David Gilmour, *Chairman, CPRE Cherwell District Committee*

Professor Richard Harding, *Chairman, CPRE South Oxfordshire District Committee*

John Histon, *Chairman, CPRE West Oxfordshire District Committee*

Honorary Consultants

Richard Harding *Water*

Gordon Garraway/Nick Moon *Footpaths/Rights of Way*

Angus Dart *Farming*

Ian Scargill *Oxford Green Belt Network*

George Lambrick *Archaeology and Historic Buildings*

The following are employees of the Branch

**Director** Helen Marshall      **Administrator** Becky Crockett      **Communications Manager** Julia Benning

Refreshments will be provided by CPRE Cherwell District

\* There is a maximum of 5 Ordinary Elected Members. Further nominations for Ordinary Members should be communicated to the Secretary by Friday 7th June (Nominations must be made 28 clear days before the AGM) – contact administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk T: 01491 612079