



Papers for the 2024 Annual General Meeting

2.30pm, Saturday 29 June 2024

St Edmund Hall, Queen's Lane, Oxford OX1 4AR



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

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A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England
number 04443278. Registered charity number 1093081.

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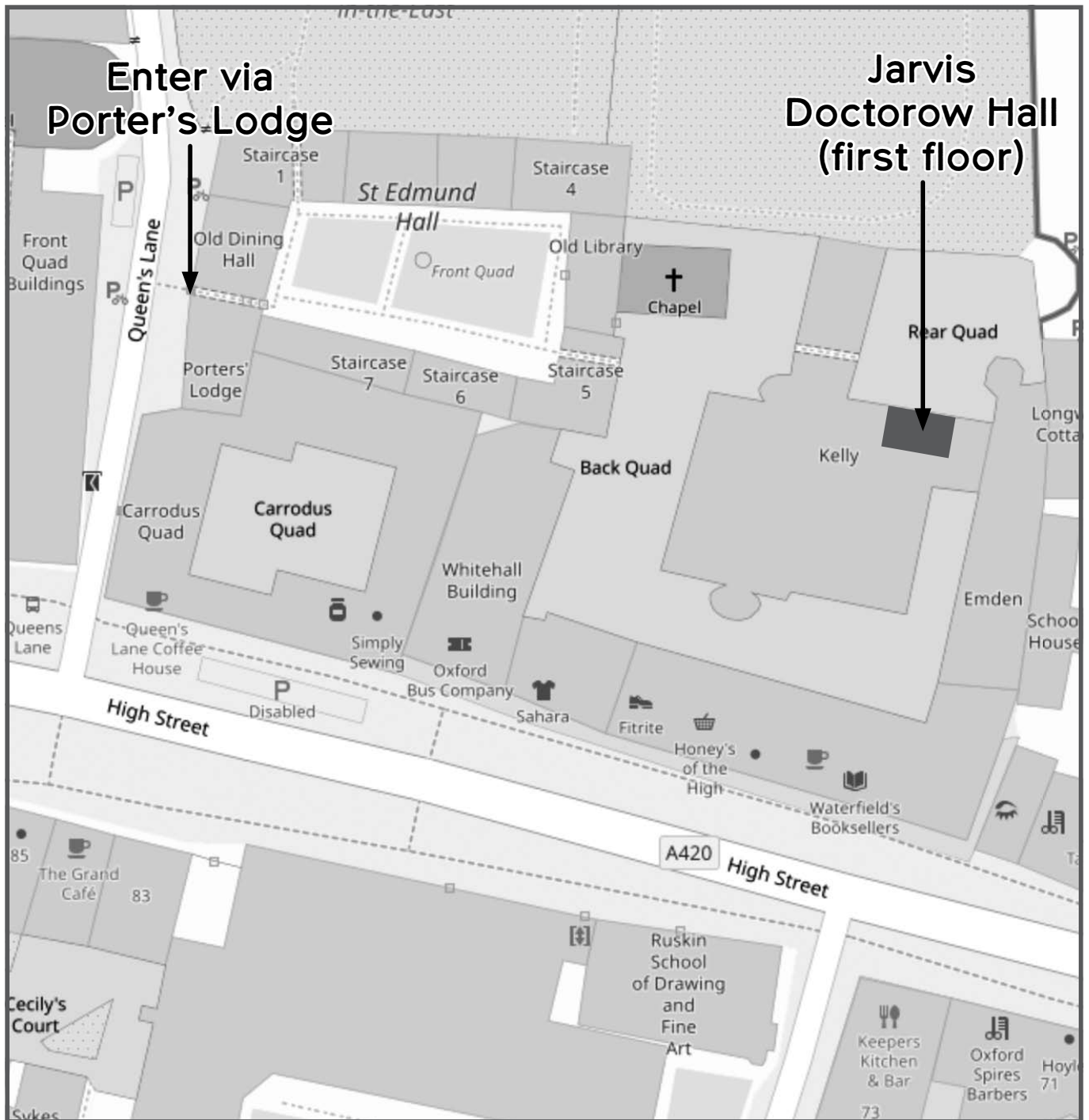
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The Jarvis Doctorow Hall at St Edmund Hall, Queen's Lane, Oxford OX1 4AR

Google map: <https://tinyurl.com/52bsn6k8>

Please note that there is no parking at the venue.

There are good bus services along the High Street.

See: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services>

Accessibility information for the venue is here:

<https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk/st-edmund-hall#collapse1401136>

If you would like assistance to attend, please contact the Branch Office and we will do our best to help.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England, Oxfordshire (CPRE Oxfordshire Branch)

Trustees' annual report for the year end 31 December 2023 (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

This information is extracted from the Full Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the year end 31 December 2023, copies of which are available via the Branch Office T: 01491 612079 E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Activities in 2023

Looking back at last year's annual report on one hand little has changed. We are still seeing overdevelopment in the countryside – including housing developments, warehouses and speculative solar farms. There are, however, some encouraging signs. At a national level the updates to the National Planning Policy Framework have been introduced. The revisions have many positives, including a partial removal of the five year housing land supply rule, a strengthening of the Green Belt and the statement that the 'standard method' used to calculate housing need is only advisory. One can see the voice of CPRE in these welcome changes.

In Oxfordshire, with the demise of the Oxfordshire 2050 plan, the Districts are going their own way. Unfortunately, Oxford City and Cherwell are still set on excessive growth, but South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse have set themselves on a more moderate path – with a small reduction in their overall housing target and extending the delivery date out to 2041. There are also many other welcome policies in the current draft combined South and Vale Local Plan such as dark skies, tranquil areas and low carbon buildings. We await to see whether these developments survive inspections.

At a local level we've seen some successes. In Cholsey, a 400 house development was thrown out by the Secretary of State on the grounds that the views of local people and their Neighbourhood Plan must be adhered to. In Cherwell, CPRE successfully challenged speculative housing developments at Chesterton and Ambrosden. Over in the Vale there is no sign of any activity concerning proposals for an intrusive caravan park and in Eynsham the courts have ruled that the Inspector was wrong to reject the community led plan for low carbon housing at the Salt Cross development. While CPRE can't claim full credit for all these successes it does show that local people are being listened to and campaigning is worthwhile.

Hedgerow Heroes has had another successful year working with 13 communities to plant and restore hedgerows and our Green Belt Stiles project has improved accessibility of the Green Belt Way around Oxford. Our Green Belt Planning Seminar drew over 50 local campaigners and decision-makers into a discussion on planning, the Green Belt and 'exceptional circumstances'. Many thanks to donors, landowners and local groups who have supported these initiatives.

We continue to support GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) to oppose the Abingdon Reservoir. Unfortunately Thames Water continues with its plans – CPRE and GARD have been calling for a full Public Inquiry to consider the need, consequences and alternatives to this unwanted development. We continue to support the local groups campaigning for improved sewage treatment and the proposals for water bathing status along the Thames and its tributaries. As an aside it was heartening to see the Environment Agency objecting to the proposed housing development at Bayswater Brook, NE of Oxford on the grounds of inadequate capacity for sewage treatment and potential flooding. CPRE has been campaigning for years that, if we are to have more housing, adequate infrastructure must be in place.

Many of the long-term challenges remain. The proposals for the Botley West Solar Farm are inching forward. CPRE remains opposed to large solar farms and believes that solar panels should be accommodated on roofs of houses and warehouses, above car parks and on other brownfield sites. We have been supporting the Stop Botley West campaign and pushing for stronger policies in the Local Plans to make solar panels on roofs mandatory and to discourage speculative solar farm developments on green fields. We are developing a new campaign in the coming year.

This time last year we were planning to dip into our reserves to support our campaigning. Thanks to support in terms of donations and grants (alongside our membership contributions and investment income) we have broken even over 2023. Our staff team do a fantastic job for Oxfordshire, but we do need more volunteers, particularly to help with the District Committees – so please get in touch if you think you can spare some time to help. One excellent initiative we've started off this year is our Student Planning Ambassadors. We have teamed up with Oxford Brookes University to recruit three young planning students to help us assess planning applications in the County. This will give the students real world experience and provide CPRE with a new resource. Thanks to Oxford Brookes for their support.

Sadly Helen Marshall, our Director, is leaving us this year. Helen has been a fantastic ambassador and advocate for CPRE for 13 years, providing excellent support to our campaigns and volunteers. As I write we are putting together the advert for her replacement – she will be a hard act to follow.

After three enjoyable years in the Chairman's role, I will also be stepping down at the Branch AGM on 29 June, in line with our Constitution. I will continue to support CPRE in an advisory capacity, particularly around water issues. I am delighted that my fellow trustee, Susie Mather, has allowed her name to go forward for election as Chair.

While we've had our challenges in the last year it does seem that local activism is working and Government, at all levels, is listening to local people. Many thanks to our volunteers, staff and donors and I look forward to your support in the coming year.

Financial Review

There was a net excess of expenditure over income before gains/losses on investments on unrestricted funds of £6,227 (net expenditure of £26,123 in 2022) and net expenditure of £6,881 on restricted funds (net expenditure of £35,062 in 2022). After adjustments for transfers between funds and the unrealised increase in value of investments, there was a net gain in unrestricted funds of £14,975 (net loss of £81,162 in 2022) and a net loss of £5,220 in restricted funds (net loss of £32,515 in 2022). Total unrestricted funds as at 31 December were £389,061 (£374,086 in 2022) and restricted funds were £88,992 (£94,212 in 2022). Total funds were represented by investments and bank and building society accounts and other assets totalled £478,053 (£468,298 in 2022).

The Trustees have determined that the level of unrestricted reserves should be set at the equivalent of around six months annualised expenditure (£45,000). The Trustees have set out a future Branch Strategy and designated funds will be set up as appropriate to fund key priorities identified as part of the Strategy. In addition, the trustees are anticipating that current unrestricted reserves will be required to meet costs arising from as yet unidentified challenges and threats to the Oxfordshire Countryside. Trustees have produced a future finance plan and are anticipating that current reserves will be required to fulfil future identified shortfalls in resources to enable it to support its current activities.

Professor Richard Harding,
Chair, CPRE Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2023

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Fund 2023 £	Unrestricted Fund 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Restricted Fund 2022 £	Unrestricted Fund 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and legacies							
National subscriptions – branch share			25,466	25,466	–	24,599	24,599
Donations grants and local support		108,789	22,643	131,432	21,846	18,079	39,925
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of books			1,319	1,319	–	1,308	1,308
Sundry			396	396	–	800	800
Investments							
Dividends COIF Charities Investment Funds – Income Units			15,824	15,824	–	11,554	11,554
Bank Deposit interest			13	13	–	508	508
Total income		108,789	65,661	174,450	21,846	56,848	79,694
Expenditure on							
Raising Funds:							
Direct Costs of Fundraising			540	540	–	301	301
Indirect Costs			2,609	2,609	–	826	826
Charitable Activities	1	115,670	68,739	184,409	56,908	81,844	138,752
Total expenditure		115,670	71,888	187,558	56,908	82,971	139,879
Net gains(losses) on investments			22,863	22,863	–	(52,492)	(52,492)
Net Income/(expenditure)		(6,881)	16,636	9,755	(35,062)	(78,615)	(113,677)
Transfers between funds		1,661	(1,661)	0	2,547	(2,547)	0
Net Movement in Funds		(5,220)	14,975	9,755	(32,515)	(81,162)	(113,677)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund Balances Previous Year		94,212	374,086	468,298	126,727	455,248	581,975
Fund balances at Year End		88,992	389,061	478,053	94,212	374,086	468,298

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2023

		Total Funds 2023 £		Total Funds 2022 £
Fixed Assets				
Investments	463,925		425,237	
		463,925		425,237
Current assets				
Barclays Bank – Branch	44,397		39,153	
Banks & Building Societies – Districts	0		1,698	
Debtors	6,015		6,449	
	50,412		47,300	
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	(1,605)		(4,239)	
Deferred Grants	(34,679)			
Net current assets		14,128		43,061
Total net assets		478,053		468,298
Total Funds				
Unrestricted Fund	131,242		139,130	
Revaluation Reserve	257,819		234,956	
		389,061		374,086
Restricted Fund		88,992		94,212
		478,053		468,298

For the year ended 31 December 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors/Trustees on 15 April 2024 and signed on their behalf.

Professor Richard Harding – Chair

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Note 1: Expenditure on charitable activities

	Restricted 2023 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Restricted 2022 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Campaign Costs						
Staff Salaries	24,989	49,653	74,642	8,483	59,778	68,261
Projects	4,189	2,191	6,380	4,888	3,870	8,758
Subscriptions and donations	50,000	830	50,830	25,000	535	25,535
Bank Charges		176	176	–	218	218
Travel/Expenses	153	1,161	1,314	57	951	1,008
Telephone/Internet	119	1,376	1,495	47	1,378	1,425
Stationary/Office Expenses	199	1,811	2,010	13	1,562	1,575
Web/Email Expenses		663	663	–	55	55
Rent Insurance	477	5,126	5,603	–	5,320	5,320
Sundry		806	806	–	850	850
Contractors Costs	35,406		35,406	18,359	–	18,359
Events/ Meeting Expenses		290	290	–	665	665
	115,532	64,083	179,615	56,847	75,182	132,029
Allocated to expenditure on raising funds		(2,609)	(2,609)	–	(826)	(826)
	115,532	61,474	177,006	56,847	74,356	131,203
Members newsletters		3,014	3,014	–	5,954	5,954
Governance						
AGM and Annual Report	138	3,351	3,489	61	635	696
Independent Examination Fees		900	900	–	900	900
	138	4,251	4,389	61	1,535	1,596
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	115,670	68,739	184,409	56,908	81,844	138,752

Independent Examiner's Statement to the Trustees of the Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the year ended 31 December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the year ended 31 December 2023.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Barnes FCCA
Barnes4Business Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Murdock Road
Bicester
Oxfordshire OX26 4PP

NB: The accounts information presented here is a summarised version. This audit certificate is based on the audit of the full CPRE Oxfordshire 2022 accounts which are available via the CPRE Oxfordshire Branch Office.
T: 01491 612079 E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Date: 15 April 2024

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch Annual General Meeting 2.30pm, Saturday 29 June 2024 The Jarvis Doctorow Hall at St Edmund Hall, Queen's Lane, Oxford OX1 4AR

Google map: tinyurl.com/52bsn6k8

Welcome by the Branch President, John Harwood DL

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee

4. Finance:

Treasurer's Report
Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2023

5. Election of Honorary Officers and Members of the Branch Executive Committee

President: Felicity Dick DL

Vice Presidents:

David Astor
Dr Peter Collins
Gordon Garraway
Elizabeth Gillespie
Gill Salway
Bruce Tremayne
Brian Wood

Chairman: Susie Mather

Vice-Chairs: Olivia Field / Claudia Lusardi

Treasurer: Nick Dolden

Secretary: Dorian Grier

Ordinary Members:

Lisa Buchan
Elizabeth Gillespie
Debby Hallett

District Representatives:

David Marsh, CPRE Vale of White Horse District Secretary
Philippa Phelan, CPRE West Oxfordshire District Chair

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

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

5c. The following are employees of the Branch:

Director Helen Marshall
Administrator Becky Crockett
Planning Co-ordinator Lynda Moore
Communications & Events Manager Nemone Caldwell

6. Any Other Business

Close of the AGM followed by:

Speaker: Professor Rosie Hails, Nature and Science Director, The National Trust

After the AGM, we are delighted that our speaker will be Professor Rosie Hails, Nature and Science Director at The National Trust.

We are in the midst of a nature and climate crisis. The response required includes profound land use change. As a major land owner in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, The National Trust is developing a strategy to become net zero in carbon by 2030. Rosie will describe the journey they are on, and how they are using scientific evidence to respond to the nature and climate crisis at scale. Part of this involves the creation of seventeen Nature Accelerators across the National Trust estate, including the Buscot and Coleshill Estate just outside Swindon.

Followed by refreshments.

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington on Saturday 24 June 2023

CPRE Oxfordshire President, John Harwood, thanked the CPRE Vale of White Horse district for hosting us today and providing teas.

JH welcomed our speakers, Sarah Wright and Mary-Ann Ochota, and Roger Mortlock, our new National Office Chief Executive. He noted that RM had been with us for several hours earlier today looking at the proposed site of Botley West solar farm.

JH thanked the BEC, the district committees and the loyal and hard-working staff and volunteers for their support for CPRE. Year on year the pressure on the countryside mounts, so thank you all.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence: Julia Benning, Mike Breakell, Peter Collins, Mike J Dagleish, Michael Hutchings, Jean Loudon, Julia Middleton, Michael Tyce, Anna Shute, Professor Andrew Wilkinson
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM, which was held at Enstone Parish Hall, were accepted as a correct record, and signed.
3. Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee: As read in the Papers for the 2023 AGM.
4. Finance: Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022:

Accounts are covering the year to 31 December 2022 with submissions required for Companies House and the Charity Commission.

The Treasurer's review was as read in the Papers for the 2023 AGM.

The members agreed the reception of the Treasurer's Report and the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022.

- 5a. Election of Honorary Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:
(John Harwood handed over to Richard Harding). RH asked the members to move to elect John Harwood as our President. The vote was a unanimous approval.

President: John Harwood

(Richard Harding handed back to John Harwood).

JH proposed the continued roles of our Honorary Officers

Vice Presidents:

David Astor

Dr Peter Collins

Gordon Garraway

Gill Salway

Bruce Tremayne

Brian Wood

Elizabeth Gillespie has been put forward by the BEC as a Vice President.

A unanimous yes was confirmed.

The election of the BEC.

JH then asked the consent of members that our Branch Secretary, who had been stepping down due to a move which did not happen, be added back in as trustee and Secretary. A unanimous yes. He, therefore, moved the appointment of the following:

Chairman: Professor Richard Harding

Vice Chairs: Olivia Field/Susie Mather

Treasurer: Nick Dolden

Secretary: Dorian Grier

Ordinary Members:

Lisa Buchan

Claudia Lusardi

Simon Warr

District Chairmen:

Robin Oliver, CPRE Cherwell District

David Marsh, CPRE Vale of White Horse District Secretary

Geoff Botting, CPRE South Oxfordshire District

Philippa Phelan, CPRE West Oxfordshire District

These were duly elected and appointed to the Branch Executive Committee. JH thanked the above for taking on their roles He then added that items 5b and 5c were for information.

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch: the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington on Saturday 24 June 2023

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

Angus Dart: Farming

Jim Fletcher: Transport

Richard Harding: Water

Gordon Garraway/Nick Moon:
Footpaths/ Rights of Way

George Lambrick: Archaeology and Historic Buildings

Martin Harris: Oxford Green Belt Network

Michael Tyce: Without Portfolio

5c. The following are employees of the Branch:

Director Helen Marshall

Administrator Becky Crockett

Communications Manager Julia Benning

Planning Co-ordinator Lynda Moore

6. Welcome to Roger Mortlock, new Chief Executive Officer, National CPRE.

JH introduced Roger Mortlock as the new CEO of National CPRE. RM joins us from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (9 years) and has an amazing track record to include the Soil Association and work as a lobbyist. His specialities are planning, land use and agriculture.

RM thanked the Branch for inviting him. He joined in May, so it is early days for him and CPRE Oxfordshire is one of his first Branch visits. However, he has past and present family connections with Oxfordshire, so knows the county well.

He viewed our priorities as better defining CPRE's role as a solution finder, understanding and growing our membership, engaging with the political parties in the run up to a General Election, involving a younger generation with CPRE and preparing for CPRE's national centenary in 2026.

Without CPRE, there would have been no Green Belts, no National Parks, no sustainable development, tranquillity mapping and planning. We have a rich history which must now be reimagined to take us forward for the next 100 years.

JH thanked RM for his inspiring words.

7. Any Other Business:

JH concluded the meeting.

A talk by Sarah Wright and Mary-Ann Ochota on 'The Ridgeway: The Future of Britain's Oldest Road' followed, and Sarah and Mary-Ann kindly answered many questions during the tea which followed.

JH gave thanks to Sarah, to Mary-Ann and to all in attendance.

CPRE Oxfordshire

Annual General Meeting 2024

29 June 2024 – 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 24 JUNE 2024.

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

