



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Papers for the 2025 Annual General Meeting

2pm, Saturday 7th June

Eynsham Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW

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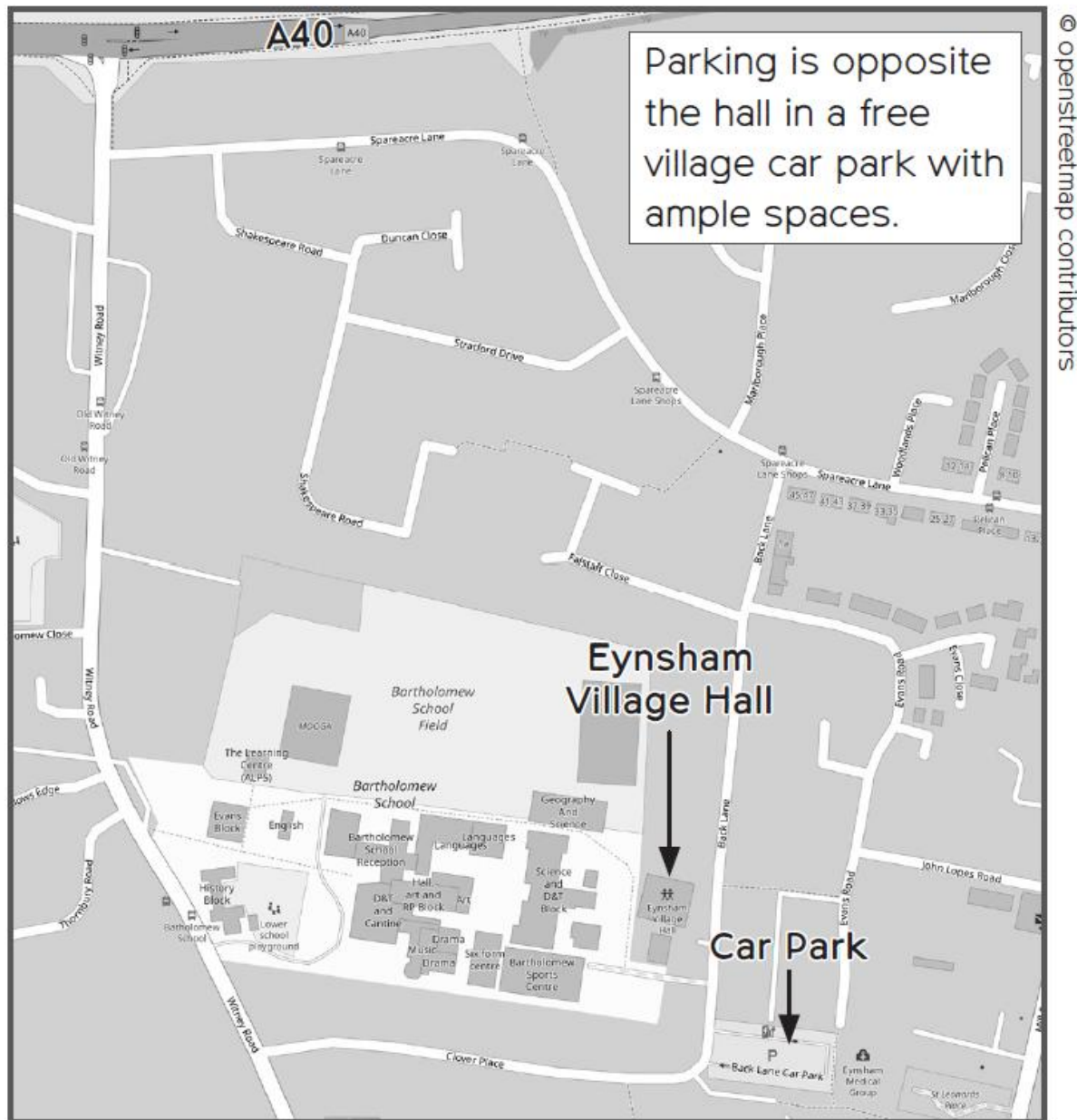
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Eynsham Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW



Google map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RVdDdW7KwUasv9aU7>

There is no car parking directly outside the Village Hall, except two disabled car parking places, but across the road there is a free car park (Back Lane Car Park) which can be used.

There are several bus services to Eynsham Village.

See: <https://eynsham.org.uk/org.aspx?n=Eynsham-Village&id=37>.

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)

Chair's Report for the year end 31 December 2024

Activities in 2024

The main event in 2024 was, of course, the General Election on July 4th – or rather, the announcements and policy definition that have followed as the new Labour Government's manifesto pledges began to take shape, including some notable changes to planning, which could have a significant effect on our countryside. We were pleased to host a 'Countryside & Environment Hustings' for local candidates just before the election, chaired by Roger Mortlock, the Chief Executive of CPRE.

CPRE nationally has welcomed some of the Government's proposals, such as the introduction of a land use framework. Collectively we have campaigned hard over the years for a more strategic and joined-up approach to land use that recognises the multiple demands on our precious and finite land. The new framework could prove positive, with community engagement – if it strikes the right balance between all of these demands.

In Oxfordshire, CPRE campaigns to protect the countryside against some significant and tangible threats – including the enormous proposed reservoir, several huge solar farms, and unrealistic housing targets. We acknowledge both the need for sustainable, affordable housing and for renewable energy sources, but believe these can be achieved using brownfield sites for homes and rooftops for solar - without sacrificing nature or land that we can all benefit from (and that we can never get back if lost).

These principles guided several campaign areas over the year, offering support and guidance to those who wish to feed in to consultations as well as providing our own responses:

- **Solar Farms:** we support solar power and other renewables, but believe rooftop solar is the best way to meet Oxfordshire's energy needs whilst protecting the countryside, for food, for nature and for people. The proposed Botley West industrial solar farm is enormous, covering over 1,000 hectares of land largely within the Oxford Green Belt and impacting several public rights of way. We submitted our consultation response in July 2024, continuing to object to this development.
- We also continued to object to other plans for large solar farms that would have severe impact on the Green Belt or crucial wildlife habitats, including sites at Noke and Stratton Audley, supported by strong public opinion. These objections to Cherwell District Council's Planning Committee were initially successful, with the inspector rejecting the proposals, but the decisions have now been appealed.

- **Rooftop solar:** Our campaign for ‘Rooftop Renewables’ continued. We contributed to the Government’s consultation on changes to building regulations, including proposals to make rooftop solar mandatory on most new buildings, and we supported the private ‘Sunshine Bill’ aiming to make solar panels standard in all new homes, which secured a commitment from the Government to ensure that solar energy will form part of amended building regulations to be rolled out later in 2025.
- **Campaign against the Abingdon Reservoir:** CPRE Oxfordshire and GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) continued to campaign against the proposed ‘mega-reservoir’, which was regrettably brought a step closer by the Government approving Thames Water’s ‘Water Resource Management Plan’ – just one week after the public consultation closed. Citing substantial flaws to Thames Water’s proposals including projections of future water demand, concerns around flood risks and significant environmental harm, CPRE and GARD’s sister organisation SAFERWaterS launched a claim for a Judicial Review into the Government’s decision to approve Thames Water’s plan without a public inquiry. CPRE and GARD had called for a full public inquiry into the process and technical aspects of the plan and also launched a petition. If successful the legal challenge will be heard in late June 2025.
- **Protect the Green Belt:** We reprised our 10-year-old research into the Oxford Green Belt with an updated survey. This showed a 10% increase in support for the Green Belt, up from 70% to over 80%, regardless of whether respondents lived in town or country – reflecting a growing awareness of the importance of keeping it open and undeveloped, as CPRE has maintained for many years. Prior to the survey, however, we found that 69% of respondents knew little to nothing about Green Belts, with 21% being unaware of the Oxford Green Belt – despite it being the ‘countryside next door’ for 165,000 residents of Oxford City.
- In 2025 we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Oxford Green Belt.
- **Sustainable, affordable housing in the right place:** CPRE Oxfordshire engaged in the consultation on the revised version of Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which is intended to guide what gets built where – and hence is vitally important. The re-introduction of mandatory housing targets, along with changes to the method for calculating them, would see targets for new homes in Oxfordshire increase by 60%, with numbers for South Oxfordshire doubling. The proposed changes would mean areas that have seen large housing growth (such as Oxfordshire) are further penalised by targets being set according to this existing high baseline. We applaud the Government’s ambitions to build more affordable homes, but believe there are better ways to do this, i.e. with a focus on genuinely affordable high-density housing that is well-designed, well-built and energy-efficient, in areas where there is already the infrastructure to support them.
- Another area of concern was the requirement for councils to review their Green Belt boundaries by identifying lower quality so-called ‘grey belt’ land – with the

implication that this could be built on. We will continue to assess the impact of the NPPF and what it means for our countryside.

Our responses to draft Local Plans took shape in a number of ways:

- **Oxford City Local Plan 2040:** In May and June 2024, CPRE Oxfordshire, along with Need not Greed Oxfordshire and the South, West and Vale District Councils, all put forward detailed evidence to challenge the draft Oxford City Local Plan 2040, for its aggressive growth agenda that would offload housing onto surrounding Districts and the Green Belt, while retaining city centre sites for employment. We were pleased that in October the draft plan was rejected by the Planning Inspector, and fully supported the Inspector's findings. In 2025 Oxford City Council is following up with an 'early engagement survey' in advance of a formal consultation (expected in June 2025). We will continue to monitor the development of this plan and expect to contribute positively to its refinement, with points relating to protecting Oxford's green spaces, restoring flood plains, ensuring new homes are built to match new jobs, and that they are at genuinely affordable social rents and are zero carbon in construction and operation.
- **Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Plan** consultation: CPRE Oxfordshire are largely supportive of this Plan and in November we provided detailed feedback. We commended the extensive consultation undertaken to produce it, and were pleased that 'protecting the countryside' came out as the top priority and that the value of dark skies is recognised. Areas of concern related to the lack of a standalone Green Belt policy and of a clearly defined 'rooftop first' approach to Renewable Energy.
- **Cherwell District Council Plan:** published just before the end of 2024, CPRE Oxfordshire responded in detail, and welcomed the fact that in many areas our views were taken onboard.

Of a more celebratory nature, perhaps:

- In January 2024 we promoted our **Green Defenders network** for planning volunteers, to help us make sure new development respects and supports our cherished local countryside – with training provided.
- In May, we marked the completion of the current stage of our **Oxford Green Belt Way** improvement project (which replaced nine stiles with accessible, self-closing gates) with a celebratory walk around Nuneham Courtenay and Marsh Baldon. The project was implemented by Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access Team, made possible through a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funding from Grundon.
- Also in May, we worked with Refugee Resource in Oxford to organise a trip to Harcourt Arboretum for local women and children – sharing the **benefit of open green spaces**.
- In July, we announced that our **Hedgerow Heroes** project had entered its fourth year, having secured another round of funding. Working in partnership with Wild Oxfordshire, over the year we surpassed our planting target by over 1km, collectively planting approximately 3.3 km of new hedgerow and rejuvenating over 600m of hedgerow, with the help of almost 400 volunteers – enriching habitat,

increasing biodiversity, and mitigating against some of the effects of climate change. Six of the communities involved were new additions to the Hedgerow Heroes project. 130 people were trained in hedge-laying over the course of four popular workshops. Our thanks to our volunteers and landowners who have supported this important initiative.

- In September, CPRE Oxfordshire and Berkshire celebrated **Countryside Day** on the county boundary in Goring and Streatley – the CPRE network’s new annual celebration of rural England, inspiring us to protect and promote it for future generations.

We still face challenges in attracting volunteers for our District Committees, which are integral to our operation and to supporting our campaigning locally. At the time of writing we are actively seeking new District Chairs in South, West and Oxford City, along with two new Trustees and a new Treasurer. We encourage all our supporters to consider whether they or someone they know could become more involved in this way and help all of our good work to protect your countryside – do get in touch if you feel you can help.

Midway through 2024 we bade a fond farewell to our former Director, Helen Marshall, after 13 years... and have been absolutely delighted to welcome Lisa Warne as our new Director. Lisa joined us in September after several years at Defra, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, so she has both a natural affinity for the issues that CPRE cares so deeply about and a wide knowledge of environmental policy – as well as pragmatic energy and fantastic all-round ability. We are indeed lucky to have her.

I would like to offer sincere thanks to Nick Dolden, who in June will be coming to the end of his term as Treasurer and Trustee, for his many years of service. We have benefited deeply from Nick’s sound advice and knowledge over the years, and will be sorry to see him go. Our advertisement for a new Treasurer is currently live, and we hope to be able to make an appointment for this crucial position before long. I would also like to thank Dorian Grier, our outgoing Trustee and Secretary, most warmly for all her hard work, involvement and dedication over the years, which have been highly valued. An equally warm welcome to Debby Hallett, who has now taken up the reins as our new Secretary.

The voice of CPRE, speaking up on behalf of achieving the right balance of countryside, renewable energy, agricultural land and sustainable housing, remains both relevant and important. I would like to thank the hard-working team at CPRE Oxfordshire, our volunteers and all our magnificent donors – all of whose contributions make a real difference to our county.

Financial Review

There was a net excess of expenditure over income before gains/losses on investments on unrestricted funds of £9,953 (net expenditure of £6,227 in 2023) and net expenditure of £17,134 on restricted funds (net expenditure of £6,881 in 2023). After adjustments for

transfers between funds and the unrealised increase in value of investments, there was a net loss in unrestricted funds of £3,830 (net gain of £14,975 in 2023) and a net loss of £17,134 in restricted funds (net loss of £5,220 in 2023). Total unrestricted funds as at 31 December were £385,231 (£389,061 in 2023) and restricted funds were £71,858 (£88,992 in 2023). Total funds were represented by investments and bank and building society accounts and other assets totalled £457,089 (£478,053 in 2023).

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.

Dr Susie Mather,
Chair, CPRE Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2024

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Fund 2024 £	Unrestricted Fund 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Restricted Fund 2023 £	Unrestricted Fund 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies							
National subscriptions - branch share		-	26,302	26,302	-	25,466	25,466
Donations grants and local support		289,620	36,316	325,936	108,789	22,643	131,432
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of books		-	556	556	-	1,319	1,319
Sundry		-	277	277	-	396	396
Investments							
Dividends COIFCharities Investment Funds - Income Units		-	18,207	18,207	-	15,824	15,824
Bank Deposit interest		-	35	35	-	13	13
Total income		289,620	81,693	371,313	108,789	65,661	174,450
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds							
Direct Costs of Fundraising		-	363	363	-	540	540
Indirect Costs		-	1,005	1,005	-	2,609	2,609
Charitable Activities	1	306,754	90,278	397,032	115,670	68,739	184,409
Total expenditure		306,754	91,646	398,400	115,670	71,888	187,558
Net gains(losses) on investments		-	6,123	6,123	-	22,863	22,863
Net Income/(expenditure)		(17,134)	(3,830)	(20,964)	(6,881)	16,636	9,755
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	1,661	(1,661)	-

Net Movement in Funds	(17,134)	(3,830)	(20,964)	(5,220)	14,975	9,755
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund Balances Previous Year	88,992	389,061	478,053	94,212	374,086	468,298
Fund balances at Year End	71,858	385,231	457,089	88,992	389,061	478,053

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments	458,254	458,254	463,925
Current assets			
Barclays Bank – Branch	14,896		44,397
Banks & Building Societies – Districts	-		-
Debtors	7,066		6,015
	21,962		50,412
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(1,429)		(1,605)
Deferred Grants	(21,698)		(34,679)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		(1,165)	14,128
Total net assets		<u>457,089</u>	<u>478,053</u>
Total Funds			
Unrestricted Fund	2	271,603	281,556
Revaluation Reserve	2	113,628	107,505
		385,231	389,061
Restricted Fund		71,858	88,992
		<u>457,089</u>	<u>478,053</u>

For the year ended 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

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 Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Directors/Trustees in May 2025 and signed on their behalf.

Dr Susie Mather – Chair and Director

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

1. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Restricted 2024 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Restricted 2023 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Campaign Costs						
Staff Salaries	17,746	55,861	73,607	24,989	49,653	74,642
Projects	6,994	11,997	18,992	4,189	2,191	6,380
Subscriptions and donations	240,500	737	241,237	50,000	830	50,830
Bank Charges	-	125	125	-	176	176
Travel/Expenses	168	848	1,016	153	1,161	1,314
Telephone/Internet	100	1,690	1,790	119	1,376	1,495
Stationery/Office Expenses	144	1,871	2,015	199	1,811	2,010
Web/Email Expenses	-	1,266	1,266	-	663	663
Rent Insurance	-	8,104	8,104	477	5,126	5,603
Sundry	-	1,378	1,378	-	806	806
Contractors Costs	41,102	-	41,102	35,406	-	35,406
Events/ Meeting Expenses	-	1,469	1,469	-	290	290
	306,754	85,346	392,100	115,532	64,083	179,615
Allocated to expenditure on raising funds	-	(1,005)	(1,005)	-	(2,609)	(2,609)

	306,754	84,341	391,095	115,532	61,474	177,006
Members newsletters	-	4,917	4,917	-	3,014	3,014
Governance						
AGM and Annual Report	-	-	-	138	3,351	3,489
Independent Examination Fees	-	1,020	1,020	-	900	900
	-	1,020	1,020	138	4,251	4,389
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	306,754	90,278	397,032	115,670	68,739	184,409

2. Unrestricted fund/revaluation reserve

The closing balances for the income reserve fund and the revaluation reserve for 2023 and carried forward in to 2024 have been restated. Net Accumulated gains/(losses) of £150,314 that had arisen prior to the transfer of 61,165.48 units and £170,000 from the COIF Ethical Investment Fund to the COIF Deposit Fund in 2023 should have been transferred from the revaluation reserve to the income reserve fund.

Statement on behalf of the Trustees

The above summary financial information has been produced specially for the Annual General Meeting. The summary financial information has been extracted from the full statutory accounts of The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England which provide much greater detail about the charity and its activities and which readers should refer to for a full understanding of the charity's financial position. The full statutory accounts were subject to an independent examiner's report, which was unqualified.

Copies of the full statutory accounts can be obtained from The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England's offices at First Floor, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5PY.

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch Annual General Meeting

2pm, Saturday 7th June
Eynsham Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW

Welcome by the Branch President, Felicity Dick DL

AGENDA

2:00pm – Start

2:00–2:35pm – Formal AGM business

2:35–3:00pm – Speaker Catriona Bass Long Mead Local Wildlife Site

3.00–3.30pm - Refreshments

From 3:30pm – Visit to Long Mead (for a group of 25)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM
3. Report by the Chair of the Branch Executive Committee
4. Finance:
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2024
5. Election of Honorary Officers and Trustees

President: Felicity Dick

Vice Presidents:

David Astor
Dr Peter Collins
Gordon Garraway
Gill Salway
Bruce Tremayne

Brian Wood

Trustees:

Chair: Susie Mather
Vice Chair: Olivia Field and Claudia Lusardi
Treasurer: Anthony Poole to be appointed following Nick Dolden's resignation
Secretary: Debby Hallet to be appointed following Dorian Greer's resignation
District Representatives: David Marsh, Vale of the White Horse

5b. Honorary Consultants

Angus Dart: Farming
Jim Fletcher: Transport
Richard Harding: Water
Gordon Garraway and Nick Moon: Footpaths
George Lambrick: Archaeology and Historic Buildings
Martin Harris: Oxford Green Belt
Michale Tyce: Renewables

5c. Branch employees

Lisa Warne : Director
Lynda Moore : Planning Coordinator
Nemone Caldwell: Communications and Events
Becky Crockett: Administrator

6. Any Other Business

Close of AGM, followed by:

Speaker: Catriona Bass of Long Mead

We are delighted that our speaker will be Catriona Bass from Long Mead Local Wildlife Site.

Catriona Bass is a conservationist and co-owner of Long Mead Local Wildlife Site, a 10-hectare historic floodplain meadow on the River Thames near Swinford, Oxfordshire. With her partner Kevan Martin, they have restored and connected ancient wildflower meadows through the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project. A passionate advocate for biodiversity and sustainable land management, Catriona also runs care farming initiatives at Long Mead, supporting adults with learning disabilities and mental health challenges through nature-based activities.

After the AGM you are invited to visit Long Mead for a visit and walk, we have places for 25 people. If you would like to attend please contact the Branch Office: T: 01491 612079 or E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Important Information

This year, we have decided to save both funds and carbon by providing only the AGM Agenda and candidates for election. Full information, including the full list of candidates being put forward for election, last year's AGM minutes, our Annual Report and Accounts and a Proxy Voting Form, will be available on our website from early May. A link to this will be sent by email to those members for whom we hold email addresses. However, if you would like hard copies sent to you by post, we will be very happy to provide these – please just contact the Branch Office:

T: 01491 612079 or E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Edmund Hall on Saturday 29 June 2024.

John Harwood (JH) welcomed all members to the 2024 Oxfordshire CPRE AGM. He expressed a big thank you to Dr Peter Collins (PC) and St Edmund Hall for hosting this event and laying on the excellent refreshments.

He continued by pointing out that somewhere in the country was a large red bus travelling around – which had, this time, huge letters on the side which said ‘CHANGE’. What was true for the country was true also for CPRE Oxfordshire. There was a real changing of the guard – himself as President, Richard Harding (RH) as the Chair and very sadly, Helen Marshall as the Director. He paid tribute to the hard work and significant contributions made by both Richard and Helen. He went on to welcome Felicity Dick (FD) as President elect, Susie Mather (SM) as Chair and Lisa Warne who will be taking over from Helen. Finally, he welcomed our guest speaker, Prof Rosie Halls, Nature and Science Director at the National Trust.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence: Malcolm Axtell, Mike Breakell, Debby Hallett, Colin Hives, Gareth Hammond, Chris Hone, Heneage Legge- Bourke, Julie Martin, and Brian Wood had all sent their apologies, which were noted.

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM, which was held at Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington, were accepted as a correct record, and signed.

3. Report by the Chair of the Branch Executive Committee. The Chair’s report was as read, in the Papers published for the 2024 AGM. RH thanked PC for offering this lovely venue. On a positive, the new proposed Local Development Plans had CPRE’s fingerprints all over them. Locally, both the Vale and SODC were contesting Oxford City’s huge Green Belt housing proposals. We along with rural groups and communities were making a difference. We had new hedgerows thanks to Hedgerow Heroes which has brought together many local groups. Also, Gates for Stiles had funded improvements in 10 stiles on the Oxford Green Belt Way. We also had now a student planning ambassadors’ program. There had been difficulties, especially with solar farms; including the huge proposed West Botley Solar Farm and we had continued to push for stronger policy in Local Plans, to get solar on roofs and off our fields.

Regarding resource use, we had managed a lot of fundraising mainly thanks to Helen and her team and we had almost broken even this year. He expressed thanks to those who had supported CPRE again. Our recent survey showed 80% support for the protection of the Oxfordshire Green Belt.

RH gave thanks to 4 departing trustees Lisa Buchan, Robin Oliver, Simon Warr and Geoff Botting. We had some new trustees, Claudia Lusardi and Elizabeth Gillespie. RH asked for more volunteers. We were saying goodbye to JH who was a constant and steady voice as we discussed issues throughout the year. We had secured an excellent replacement in Felicity Dick.

Helen was stepping down as Director after 13 years and RH remembered that it was HM who got him involved many years ago. He welcomed Lisa, and we had a good team to take us forward. RH promised to continue as the Water Honorary Consultant to continue to battle the reservoir and other water issues. He thanked everyone for their support.

4. Finance: Treasurer's Report Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2023.

Accounts are covering the year to 31 December 2023 with submissions required for Companies House and the Charity Commission.

The Treasurer's review was as read in the Papers for the 2024 AGM.

The members agreed to receive the Treasurer's Report and the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2023.

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

Richard Harding nominated the following:

President:

Felicity Dick DL was elected unanimously. FD spoke briefly and recognised JH as a hard act to follow. She noted that she was inspired by the many small acts at local level which do make a difference. All of these organisations working together are necessary and effective.

Vice Presidents:

David Astor

Dr Peter Collins

Gordon Garraway

Elizabeth Gillespie

Gill Salway

Bruce Tremayne and

Brian Wood were duly elected as the Vice Presidents.

Chair:

Susie Mather RH nominated SM and she was elected as the Chair unanimously. SM said that she was very honoured and wanted to thank RH for his many years of service and she is delighted that he will remain as an Honorary Consultant.

Vice-Chairs:

Olivia Field / Claudia Lusardi

Treasurer:

Nick Dolden

Secretary:

Dorian Grier

Ordinary Members:

Elizabeth Gillespie

Debby Hallett were duly elected as members of the BEC for the coming year.

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, to be followed by Lisa Warne

Administrator Becky Crockett

Planning Co-ordinator Lynda Moore

Communications & Events Manager Nemone Caldwell

6. Any Other Business. JH said that he had been President for over ten years and next year from the body of the hall he would be applauding vigorously the work of the BEC. As president it was very clear just how dedicated and committed the members of the committee were, how hard they worked and how much time they gave to CPRE. The pressures in Oxfordshire with the insidious urbanisation of our countryside grew every year. We didn't want to reverse progress or preserve anything in aspic, but the countryside needed to be living, thriving communities not some new found land waiting more suburbs, industry and commercial infrastructure. The threats continued to grow, some at least can be defeated but all need huge amounts of work and allies to commit and persevere in the fight. He thanked the BEC Chairs with whom he had worked – Brian Wood, Peter Collins and Richard Harding for their huge contributions and leadership. But above all he had to thank Helen Marshall to whom CPRE Oxfordshire owed a huge debt. He would especially miss her lucid, eminently readable reports and briefings often produced against impossible deadlines. He wished her well in her post-CPRE career. He looked forward to Lisa taking over and he wished the new team success.

Roger Mortlock was unable to join the meeting and sent his apologies, but he hoped to be coming on the following Monday for the hustings. Ruth Evans had been able to attend representing National CPRE and in her talk focussed on:

1. The Imminent election
2. Centenary 2026.
3. Growing our Activity.

RE then presented RH with the award for services to CPRE Oxfordshire and the Oxfordshire countryside.

RH presented JH with a liquid token of our thanks.

The CPRE Oxon trustees and employees presented HM with flowers and a gift as thanks for her service.

JH concluded the formal part of the meeting.

A talk by Prof Rosie Halls, Nature and Science Director at the National Trust followed and she kindly answered questions during the tea which followed.

CPRE Oxfordshire

Annual General Meeting 2025

7 June 2025 – 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 2 JUNE 2025.

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 Chair of the meeting

OR

the following person.....(name of your proxy)

Signed.....Date.....