

Papers for the 2026 Annual General Meeting

6pm, Wednesday 3rd June

Thame Barns Centre, Church Road, Thame, OX9 3AJ

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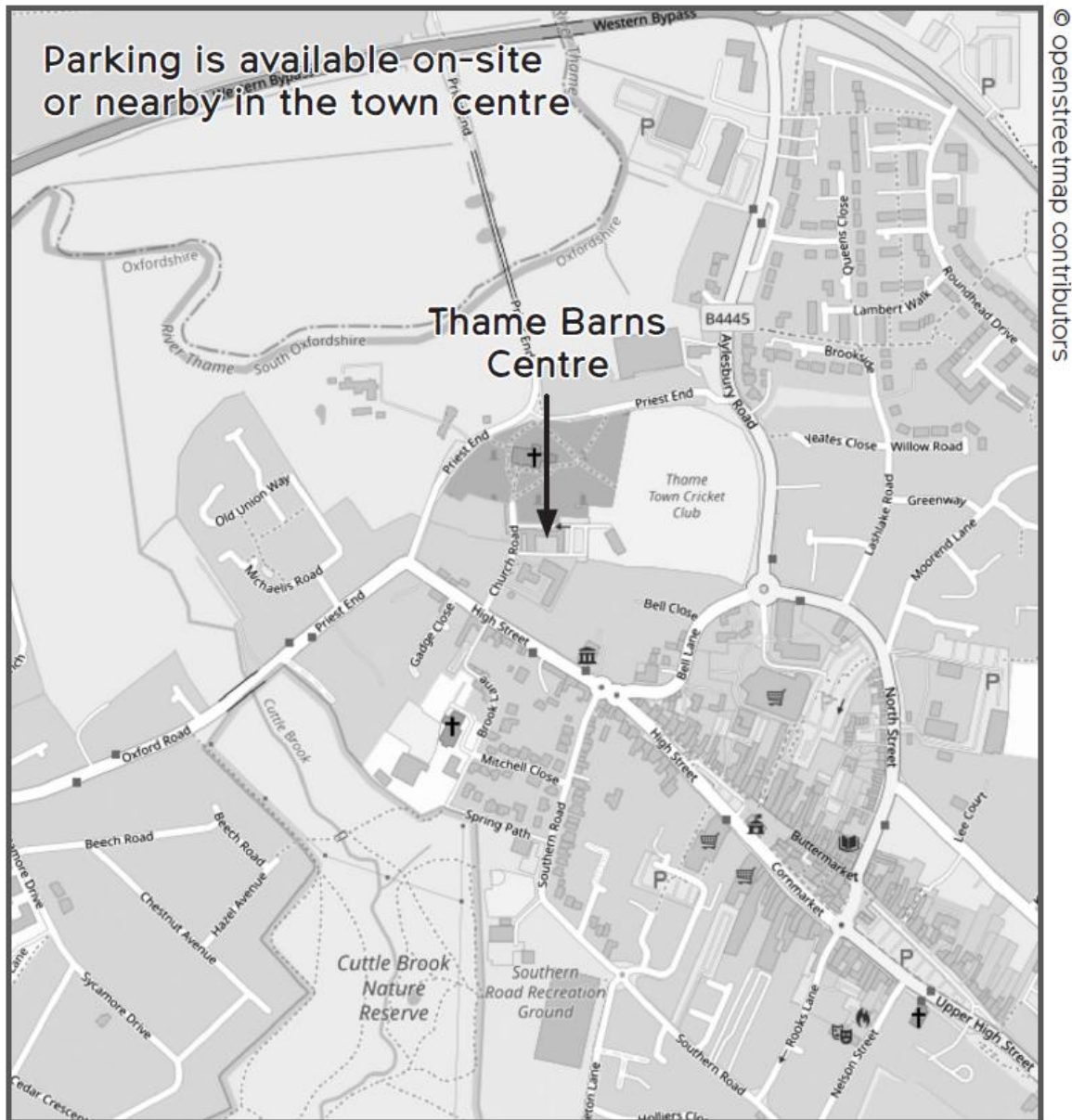
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Thames Barns Centre, Church Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3AJ



Google map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ioFHY8vvpq36g9fi7>

There is some parking at Thames Barns Centre, additionally there is town centre parking.

There are several bus services to Thame.

See: <https://bustimes.org/localities/thame>

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

Chair's Report for the year end 31 December 2025

Activities in 2025

2025 was another year of significant campaigning activity for CPRE Oxfordshire, set against a backdrop of rapid policy change. The Government's planning reforms continued to take shape, generating potentially some of the most consequential changes to land use and development policy in a generation. Our countryside faced — and continues to face — serious threats: from industrial-scale solar development, from the hugely controversial Abingdon reservoir proposal, from increasingly stretched housing targets, and from the uncertain consequences of local government reorganisation. In all of these areas, your support has enabled us to make our voice heard.

The thread running through our activity at CPRE Oxfordshire remains constant. We believe in the need for renewable energy and new homes, but delivered in the right way and in the right places. Rooftops before greenfield sites for solar, most certainly brownfield before Green Belt for housing. We demand strategic, joined-up thinking rather than development by default. These are not intended as simply defensive positions: where land is under multiple pressures, they represent a positive vision for a countryside that is thriving, accessible and rich in nature.

Ahead of the May local elections, we contacted candidates across Oxfordshire asking them to consider six key themes: affordable development, protecting the Green Belt, brownfield-first development, requiring solar panels on all new homes and commercial buildings, strengthening the Planning and Infrastructure Bill in favour of communities and climate, and ensuring that devolution proposals work for Oxfordshire's rural communities. We also responded to the Government's Land Use Consultation, calling for a more strategic, spatially coordinated approach that prioritises the re-use of brownfield land and moves away from siloed departmental thinking.

Botley West Solar Farm

The examination into the proposed Botley West Solar Farm, vast in scale, and with more than three-quarters of it falling within the Oxford Green Belt, was one of our most sustained and resource-intensive pieces of campaigning work this year. Between May and October 2025, we participated actively in the Planning Inspectorate's examination hearings in Oxford, presenting evidence in person and responding to detailed follow-up questions from the Inspectors. Our concerns focused on the short-sighted approach to land use, the threat to Oxfordshire's most productive farmland and the Green Belt, the impact on public rights of way, the consequences for local communities, and the risks of flooding in an already vulnerable area.

CPRE supports the country's transition to renewable energy but believes solar energy should not come at the cost of our precious countryside. The Climate Change Committee's own forecasts suggest that meeting national solar targets requires just 0.6% of England's land area — equivalent roughly to the land currently occupied by golf courses. There is ample opportunity to be discerning. We continue to believe that the focus must be on rooftops and brownfield sites first, and we will continue to follow and respond to this case as the Inspector's decision is awaited.

Abingdon Reservoir

The proposed reservoir near Abingdon — (renamed the White Horse Reservoir), which would cover an area the size of Gatwick Airport — has remained one of our most significant campaigns. In partnership with SAFERWaterS (formerly Group Against Reservoir Development, or GARD), in June 2025 we brought a Judicial Review, seeking a public inquiry into the Government's decision to approve Thames Water's Water Resource Management Plan. Disappointingly, while this achieved a good deal of media coverage, it was ultimately dismissed by the High Court.

However, the fight is not over. Revelations during the year that Thames Water's projected costs for the reservoir had trebled — from the original £2.2 billion to as much as £7.5 billion — alongside increased land requirements and continuing concerns about the lack of consideration of alternative options, raise serious questions about whether this project can or should proceed as proposed. We responded to Thames Water's statutory consultation on the reservoir proposals later in the year and will keep members updated as the Development Consent Order process progresses. We remain convinced that proper scrutiny through a public inquiry is what this project demands.

Rooftop Renewables

One of the most encouraging developments of the year has been the launch of our Rooftop Renewables initiative — a community-led project designed to inspire and enable local people to take practical action on solar energy, starting at home. We successfully raised £5,000 through the Big Give campaign to support the project's development, and during 2025 we have been building partnerships and developing the framework for delivery. The project launched in Sonning Common in early 2026, beginning with a community screening of 'Power Station' — a heartwarming documentary about communities taking control of their energy future — followed by workshops offering expert guidance on home solar installation.

This is exactly the model we believe in: community-owned, locally-led action that reduces energy bills, cuts emissions, and demonstrates that we do not have to sacrifice our countryside to meet clean energy goals. We will be extending the Rooftop Renewables approach to further communities in the Vale in 2026.

Planning, Local Plans and Local Elections

Planning remains the arena in which important decisions about Oxfordshire's countryside are made. Our engagement across all four Local Plans out for consultation during the year has been detailed and sustained. In Cherwell, we were pleased that several changes we had called for were reflected in the Reg 19 draft, including the withdrawal of the Green Belt site at Land Behind the Moors in Kidlington and improved wording on biodiversity and carbon standards. In South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, we supported a plan with no new Green Belt development and strong environmental policies — and were therefore disappointed to learn that the plan was recommended for withdrawal on duty-to-cooperate grounds. This was a significant setback, and we will continue to monitor carefully.

Across the county, we reviewed 65 planning applications, submitting many requests for conditions on biodiversity, light pollution, access and traffic. In around a third of applications we submitted formal objections. In addition to opposing the 340 proposed houses on Green Belt

land in Kidlington, we made representations on the proposed Oxford United FC stadium on the Green Belt at Stratfield Brake, and engaged with the Oxford City Local Plan as it returns to the drawing board following its 2024 rejection.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The Government's devolution plans have prompted significant debate in Oxfordshire, with three competing proposals on the table for how local government should be reorganised. We responded formally to the consultation and, while not endorsing any single proposal, we opposed Oxford City Council's 'Greater Oxford' option — which would place the entire Green Belt surrounding Oxford under the jurisdiction of Oxford City Council, significantly increasing the risk of inappropriate development on precious land that generations of Oxfordshire residents have valued and protected. We will continue to monitor this process closely as decisions are expected in 2026.

Hedgerow Heroes

Now in its fifth year, our Hedgerow Heroes project — delivered in partnership with Wild Oxfordshire — continues to be one of our most tangible and joyful contributions to Oxfordshire's natural environment. Phase 4, running through 2024/25, saw us work across 15 different locations, planting 3.3km of new hedgerow (over 1km above our target) and rejuvenating 600m of existing hedgerow, supported by nearly 400 volunteers – to whom we offer our sincere thanks for taking part. Six communities joined the project for the first time, our hedge laying workshops trained 30 people and proved enormously popular, and we forged new partnerships with organisations including FarmAbility, the International Tree Foundation, and the Nuneham Estate.

Phase 5 of the project is now underway, with 13 CPRE groups from across England participating — the highest number since the project began in 2021. Every stretch of hedgerow planted is a practical investment in biodiversity, flood resilience, and the character of our countryside. We are proud of what this project has achieved and remain grateful to everyone involved.

National CPRE Board Visit

In September, we were delighted to welcome the CPRE National Board to Oxfordshire for their annual away day. The visit gave us a valuable opportunity to showcase both the challenges and the possibilities we are navigating here in this important rural county. The Board visited FarmEd in Shipton-under-Wychwood — an inspiring regenerative farming centre championing productive soils and biodiversity — before seeing the proposed Botley West site for themselves, an experience that brought home the sheer scale of what is being proposed. The day concluded with a visit to Southill Solar near Charlbury: a community energy project that has generated enough green electricity to power most of Charlbury, Finstock and Fawler while simultaneously creating 25 acres of wildlife habitat. Southill is precisely the kind of model CPRE believes in, and we are delighted that it was able to make such a powerful impression on our national colleagues.

People

We said a warm farewell to Nick Dolden, whose term as Treasurer and Trustee came to an end in June 2025. Nick brought integrity, professionalism and meticulous financial judgement to the role over five years, improving our financial processes significantly and playing an active role on the Cherwell district committee. We were delighted to welcome Anthony Poole as our new

Treasurer and Trustee — Anthony combines financial rigour with IT expertise and has already begun streamlining our systems. We were also delighted to welcome Debby Hallett for stepping up as our new Secretary, following Dorian Grier's departure. We also welcomed Susan Ronald as Trustee, whose knowledge of heritage, conservation and fundraising will be incredibly valuable.

We said goodbye to Philippa Phelan, Trustee and Chair of West Oxfordshire District Committee, whose local knowledge and commitment were a real asset, and to Elizabeth Gillespie, who was instrumental in re-establishing the Oxford City committee before stepping down for family reasons. We were sad to note the passing of two long-serving supporters: Geoffrey Somerset, 6th Baron of Raglan, who served on the Vale of White Horse committee from 1997 and remained an active member until his death in September 2025 at the age of 93; and John Beech OBE, who joined CPRE in 1989 and served in numerous roles over 25 years. Both were dedicated to our county's countryside.

We continue to seek volunteers for a wide variety of roles. If you or someone you know could help, please do get in touch. Our district committees are the engine of our local campaigning and their work makes an enormous difference, while volunteers on the ground contribute to our hands-on countryside activities.

Looking Ahead

At the time of writing, we are in CPRE's centenary year of 2026, an impressive milestone. While there is no shortage of challenges and pressures on our countryside, there is also much to celebrate. Public awareness of what is at stake is growing. Our survey showing that 80% of respondents want the Oxford Green Belt to remain undeveloped — up 10% in ten years — is a reminder that the values CPRE has championed for nearly a century are more widely shared than ever.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our Director, Lisa Warne, who will be leaving us in May 2026, and the CPRE Oxfordshire team, to our volunteers across the county, and to every member and donor whose generosity makes this work possible. You are the reason CPRE Oxfordshire can do what it does — thank you.

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 2025

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

DRAFT - subject to independent examination

	Notes	Restricted Fund 2025 £	Unrestricted Fund 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies							
National subscriptions - branch share	4	-	25,811	25,811	-	26,302	26,302
Donations, grants and local support		781,632	81,717	863,349	289,620	36,316	325,936
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of books		-	772	772	-	556	556
Members' events		-	372	372	-	-	-
Sundry		-	108	108	-	277	277
Investments							
Investment income - COIF Investment Fund and Deposit Account	7	-	14,927	14,927	-	18,207	18,207
Bank Deposit interest		-	-	-	-	35	35
Total income		781,632	123,707	905,339	289,620	81,693	371,313
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds							
Direct Costs of Fundraising		-	-	-	-	363	363
Indirect Costs		-	-	-	-	1,005	1,005
Charitable Activities	5	796,950	143,673	940,624	306,754	90,278	397,032
Total expenditure		796,950	143,673	940,624	306,754	91,646	398,400
Net gains/(losses) on investments	7	-	(11,726)	(11,726)	-	6,123	6,123
Net Income/(expenditure)		(15,318)	(31,692)	(47,011)	(17,134)	(3,830)	(20,964)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(15,318)	(31,692)	(47,011)	(17,134)	(3,830)	(20,964)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund Balances Previous Year		71,858	385,231	457,089	88,992	389,061	478,053
Fund balances at Year End		56,540	353,539	410,078	71,858	385,231	457,089

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

DRAFT - subject to independent examination

	Notes	£	Total Funds 2025 £	£	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Investments	7	396,455		458,254	
			396,455		458,254
Current assets					
Barclays Bank - Branch		38,616		14,896	
Banks & Building Societies - Districts		-		-	
Debtors	9	7,537		7,066	
			46,153		21,962
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	10	(1,551)		(1,429)	
Deferred Grants	11	(30,979)		(21,698)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			13,623		(1,165)
Total net assets			410,079		457,089
Total Funds					
Unrestricted Fund - Income Reserve	8	251,637		271,603	
Revaluation Reserve		101,902		113,628	
			353,539		385,231
Restricted Fund			56,540		71,858
			410,078		457,089

For the year ended 31 December 2025 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.

These DRAFT financial statements are subject to approval by the Directors/Trustees at the AGM scheduled for 3 June 2026.

Dr Susie Mather - Chair and Director

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Notes to the Summary Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Restricted 2025 £	Unrestricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Restricted 2024 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Campaign Costs						
Staff Salaries	23,790	60,192	83,982	17,746	55,861	73,607
Projects	657	3,881	4,538	6,994	11,997	18,991
Legal fees	-	61,220	61,220	-	-	-
Subscriptions and donations	752,447	147	752,594	240,500	737	241,237
Bank Charges	-	122	122	-	125	125
Travel/Expenses	-	1,267	1,267	168	848	1,016
Telephone/Internet	-	1,797	1,797	100	1,690	1,790
Stationery/Office Expenses	57	1,380	1,437	144	1,871	2,015
Web/Email Expenses	-	813	813	-	1,266	1,266
Rent, Rates and Insurance	-	5,272	5,272	-	8,104	8,104
Sundry	-	735	735	-	1,378	1,378
Contractors Costs	20,000	-	20,000	41,102	-	41,102
Events/Meeting Expenses	-	570	570	-	1,469	1,469
Members' Events Expenses	-	441	441	-	-	-
Subtotal Campaign Costs	796,950	137,839	934,788	306,754	85,346	392,100
Less: Allocated to expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	(1,005)	(1,005)
Net Campaign Costs	796,950	137,839	934,788	306,754	84,341	391,095
Members' Newsletters	-	4,785	4,785	-	4,917	4,917
Governance						
AGM and Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination Fees	-	1,050	1,050	-	1,020	1,020
Subtotal Governance	-	1,050	1,050	-	1,020	1,020
Total expenditure on charitable activities	796,950	143,673	940,624	306,754	90,278	397,032

2. Unrestricted fund / Revaluation reserve

The unrestricted fund includes an Income Reserve Fund of £251,637 (2024: £271,603) and a Revaluation Reserve of £101,902 (2024: £113,628). The Revaluation Reserve represents accumulated unrealised gains and losses on the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund holding.

3. Restricted donations relating to the Abingdon Reservoir campaign

During 2025 CPRE Oxfordshire received donations totalling £745,006 restricted by the donor to onward transmission to SAFERWaterS Ltd in support of judicial review proceedings against the proposed

Abingdon Reservoir (including £76,250 of the related Gift Aid). Together with the opening restricted balance of £7,441, disbursements totalling £752,447 were made during the year in line with the donor restriction, comprising £560,812 directly to SAFERWaterS Ltd and £191,635 to CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP as SAFERWaterS' solicitors (the latter including funds placed in and subsequently released from a CMS-held escrow account). The donor's stipulation that one half (and from April 2025, one quarter) of the Gift Aid tax reclaim be retained by CPRE Oxfordshire indicates that this portion was intended to be applied at the charity's discretion, including covering the legal and administrative costs of acting as conduit. The corresponding £61,220 of unrestricted income (£58,750 Gift Aid retained by CPRE Oxfordshire plus £2,470 returned to CPRE Oxfordshire from the CMS escrow refund) was applied during the year against £61,220 of CPRE Oxfordshire's own legal and conduit costs.

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 are in draft and subject to independent examination by Howard Wilson, Chartered Accountants. The summary may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity.

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

6pm, Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Thames Barns Centre, Church Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3AJ

AGENDA

6:00pm – Welcome by the Branch President,
Felicity Dick DL

6:05–6:30pm – Formal AGM business

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM
3. Report by the Chair of Board of Trustees
4. Finance:
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2025
5. Election of Honorary Officers, Trustees and district committee members

President: Felicity Dick

Vice Presidents:

David Astor

Dr Peter Collins

Gill Salway

Gordon Garraway – resignation

Bruce Tremayne – resignation

Brian Wood – sadly passed away

Trustees:

Chair: Susie Mather

Vice Chair: Olivia Field

Treasurer: Anthony Poole

Secretary: Debby Hallet

David Marsh, Vale of the White Horse

Claudia Lusardi - Vice Chair – resignation

December 2025

Susan Ronald – New trustee appointment

Heneage Legge-Bourke – New trustee appointment

District Committees:

Cherwell

Julia Middleton – Secretary

Lisa Phipps

Cara Hedges

Chris Hone

Mike Murray

Dennis Price

Nick Dolden

West Oxfordshire

Gillian Salway – Secretary

David Condon

Jolyon Cox

Rich Weinhold

Oxford City

John Hill

Deborah Glass Woodin

Evelyn Sanderson

Kaddy Beck

Vale of White Horse

Heneage Legge-Bourke – Chair

David Marsh – Secretary

Lawrence Hollingsworth – Treasurer

Susan Ronald

South Oxfordshire – disbanded

Honorary Consultants:

Angus Dart: Farming

Jim Fletcher: Transport

Richard Harding: Water

Nick Moon: Rights of Way

George Lambrick: Archaeology and Historic Buildings

Martin Harris: Oxford Green Belt

Michael Tyce:

Gordon Garraway – resignation from Rights of Way

Branch employees:

Lisa Warne: Director – resignation May 2026

Becky Crockett: Administrator

Lynda Moore: Planning Coordinator

Nemone Caldwell: Communications and Events

6. Any Other Business

Close of AGM, followed by Speaker: Caroline Mills

6:30–7:00pm – Speaker Caroline Mills award winning author and travel writer

We are pleased to announce that our upcoming speaker will be Caroline Mills, an award-winning freelance travel writer, author, and CPRE member. With a wealth of experience in storytelling and a deep connection to the countryside, Caroline brings a unique and personal perspective to the challenges and rewards of rural life.

Caroline will be speaking about her new book, *This Is Not My Land* — a personal and powerful memoir that chronicles her experience of owning and managing a 65-acre farm on the edge of the North Cotswolds with her husband. The book also highlights the work of CPRE, making it especially relevant to our audience.

Close of AGM, followed by: 7:00 -8:00 pm – Celebratory Refreshments in the gardens of Thame Barns

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Eynsham Village Hall St on Saturday 7th June 2025.

~45 members in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence: Malcolm Axtell, Nemone Caldwell, Dr. Peter Collins, Becky Crockett, Nick Dolden, Debby Hallett, Ms E Du Lieu, Chris Hone, Kathrine Tollis, Bruce Tremayne, Alan Trinder. Brian Wood, Susan Ronald and Laurence Hollingworth had all sent their apologies, which were noted.
2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM, which was held at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, with one correction (the speaker was Prof Rosie Hails, not Halls), were accepted as a correct record, and signed.
3. Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee. The Chairman's report, in the papers published for the 2025 AGM was presented to the meeting by Dr. Susie Mather
4. Finance: Treasurer's Report Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2024.

The Director, Lisa Warne, introduced:

- Accounts covering the year to 31 December 2024 with submissions required for Companies House and the Charity Commission.
- The Treasurer's review was as read in the Papers for the 2025 AGM.

The members agreed to receive the Treasurer's Report and the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024.

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

Dr. Susie Mather nominated the following who were all elected unanimously by a show of hands:

President: Felicity Dick DL

Vice Presidents:

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

Trustees:

Chair: Susie Mather
Vice-Chairs: Olivia Field and Claudia Lusardi
Treasurer: Anthony Poole (following Nick Dolden's resignation)
Secretary: Debby Hallett (following Dorian Grier stepping down at the end of her 6-year term as a trustee).

District Representatives:

David Marsh, CPRE Vale of White Horse District Secretary

Honorary Consultants:

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: Renewables

Branch employees:

Director: Lisa Warne
Administrator: Becky Crockett
Planning Co-ordinator: Lynda Moore
Communications & Events Manager: Nemone Caldwell

6. Any Other Business.

Thanks were offered to those involved in the Stop Botley West campaign. There was feedback offered from the BOTW Inquiry and discussion about the value of agricultural land and the need for an independent evaluation of land grades.

There was discussion about the extent to which “Nature” should be covered in our campaigning.

Some of the planned activities for the CPRE Centenary year were outlined.

Thanks, were also offered for CPRE assistance with the campaign to protect land at Kidlington – “Land behind the Moors”

Susie Mather concluded the formal part of the meeting.

A talk by Catriona Bass of Long Mead Local Wildlife Site followed and she kindly answered questions during the tea and site walk, which followed.

CPRE Oxfordshire

Annual General Meeting 2026

3 June 2026 – 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 WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 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.....