



## **OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE GREEN PARTY BRANCH MEETING**

16 May 2022

### **Minutes**

**Attendees:** Kat Foxhall, Sarah James, Sarah Hart, James Brookes, Alan Barlow, Chris Henderson, Andrea Powell, Belinda Garner, Jane, Cathy Gaulter, Sarah Wood, Sam Casey, Robin Bennett, Peter Dragonetti

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Jo Robb, Kevin Middleton, Helena Richards
2. **Introductions**
3. Last meeting minutes were accepted, and no objections raised.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - Peter Dragonetti - explained that we now have a branch bank account. A Stripe account has now been set up so that donations and payments can be received. A big thank you to Peter for all his work on setting this up.
  - Kat - re inviting Green Party leaders to a meeting. Alice Spendly informed Kat that tours of an area are being organised by local parties and branches. Kat will discuss with Chris Henderson re local issues/projects/local community schemes that would benefit from showcasing to the leaders in order to raise profiles to a national level. For example: state of the rivers in Didcot; Andrea Powell suggested showcasing the Berinsfield Garden Village Project; Cathy Gaulter suggested the Haddenham-Thame walking/cycling Greenway path.
  - Please get in touch with Kat or Peter if you wish to make a donation.
  - Please get in touch with Kat if there is a particular issue/project or community scheme you feel would benefit from raising its profile to a national level.

### **5. Community Reports:**

**Kat** – brilliant results from the recent local elections in Oxfordshire:

**Oxford City Council** - 4 councillors were elected:

- Emily Kerr in St. Mary's
- Alistair Morris in Marston
- Lois Muddiman in Osney & St. Thomas
- Rosie Rawle in Donnington

**West Oxfordshire District Council** – Rosie Pearson joined Andrew Prosser in the West Oxfordshire Alliance that has taken over from the Conservatives.

**Cherwell District Council** - Fiona Mawson joined Ian Middleton as the second Green councillor for Kidlington East.

- Andrea Powell raised the question whether there is any way of supporting the new councillors in West Oxon in their new roles and that it would be good to offer support to them if needed.
- Politics students from Oxford Brookes – potential plan for them helping local councillors with admin. More support is definitely needed in the future with things such as fundraising.

#### **Peter –**

- £6,000 is now in the bank account from contributions from elected councillors and local authorities. So far have spent £71 for marked registers from SODC. Working on a project to incorporate these registers into the database.
- Stripe is on To Do List.

#### **Sarah J – Membership**

- Not much progress to report at the moment and hoping things will pick up after the recent local elections. However, have gained new volunteers for leafletting etc.
- Action Network being looked at re increasing and engaging membership.
- Cathy discussed a social event being organised in the Three Horseshoes pub in Towersey. Cathy will check the date with the landlord and will confirm with Sarah J.
- Jo Robb has dropped leaflets for Chinnor, and Cathy is compiling Rounds lists.
- 20mpg agreed in areas of Thame and Towersey.
- National '20 is Plenty' meeting in Oxford in October. Oxfordshire is leading the way on this initiative.

Kat - A big thank you to Cathy for all her work in Thame.

## **6. Councillor Updates:**

**Andrea Powell:** Consultation re new Joint Local Plan. New ground-breaking Consultation Website using innovative and interactive approaches and strategies just launched: See

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/local-plan-2041/>

The new plan includes targets for reducing CO2 emissions, maps, developing green spaces, community development and nature recovery. Really important to encourage and gain Residents' views so that it is not just eh developers

community's views. A Branch response would be really good to have. This new plan supersedes the current plan.

**Sam Casey:**

- Women's cycle race on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Working on press releases and publicity to focus on this as a sport as well as highlighting the importance for a safer infrastructure for local cycling/cyclists.
- Solar farms are a big issue in Sam's Ward. There is a new one being developed on Green Belt land and there is one already established in Nuneham Courtney. Need for a balance between protecting Green Belt land and renewable energy sites. Branch support for Sam would be helpful. Sarah J will look into the Sustainable Trust for ideas.

**Robin Bennett:**

- Currently, a council owned solar farm is planned.
  - Another big project is community infrastructure levy money – how best to use it? There is a bid from the Earth Trust for a financial fund – Earth Trust manage a lot of land. This is the first time that a levy has been used for green infrastructure before so it is good news.
- WOGP – tour to West Mill Solar farm on 4<sup>th</sup> June – get in touch if you are interested in going.

Andrea highlighted that a further £500,000 in funding is now available for recruiting support for local resources and climate action team for planning, housing and environment.

**7. Kat – What Should our campaigning priorities be in South and Vale?**

- Padlet tool used for discussion, ideas and comments – see separate Padlet pdf document with results of this discussion on Google Drive: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fPx7SWft3Xy88\\_XucJBpx6nbdWCqQai/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fPx7SWft3Xy88_XucJBpx6nbdWCqQai/view?usp=sharing)
- Padlet can also be added to the website.

**8. AOB**

Kat highlighted that a Summer Solstice trip to White Horse Hill on June 21st has been proposed by Barry Wheatley.

**Next Meeting – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7:30pm**