



The countryside charity  
Gloucestershire

## AGM 2024

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting held remotely by Zoom on  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### 1) Welcome

The Chair of CPRE Gloucestershire, Professor Patricia Broadfoot, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting. Professor Broadfoot made two introductory points:

- The AGM was being run remotely by Zoom. Any comments on this new format, for or against, would be very welcome.
- CPRE Gloucestershire was now a CIO (Charity No 1187143) but the Trustees had agreed to retain the former charity (Charity No 248577) on a care and maintenance basis in case legacies had been made specifically to it. The AGM covers both charities.

### 2) Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Richard Tyson, Steve Smith, Rod Harris and Bob Brown.

### 3) Minutes of the AGM (held on 23/05/23) and matters arising

The Minutes were approved without amendment, proposed David Crofts; seconded Julian Oxley. There were no matters arising.

### 4) A review of the year

Professor Broadfoot outlined the important achievements of CPRE Gloucestershire during the previous year. The Annual Review 2023 had been published earlier and all members had received a copy. Professor Broadfoot's main emphasis was on deserved 'thanks' to a range of people who had been fundamental to the progress made by the charity over the past year:

The Trustees, who had contributed their experience, wisdom and sheer hard work. With a small staff, CPRE Gloucestershire Trustees, unlike trustees in many similar charities, have always taken an executive role where needed, and this approach works well.

Louise Chandler-Mullins, our Business Manager, who had taken up her post during the year. Professor Broadfoot also paid tribute to our former Director, Tim Andrews, who had done much to push forward the work of the charity.

Matilda Jones, our Engagement and Events Executive, who had willingly taken more responsibility during the year and always rose to the frequent challenges of her job.

CPRE District Committees who, with their able Chairs, undertake a huge amount of ‘bread and butter’ activity, particularly using their expertise in dealing with planning applications, planning appeals and local plan matters.

Our Vice Presidents, who always give the charity their warmest support.

And, above all, Madeleine Bunting our President. Madeleine Bunting thanked colleagues for her warm welcome and pointed the range of challenges that will be crucial to the future state of the countryside.

Professor Broadfoot also pointed to notable current and recent activity, including the successful campaign to prevent a truckstop near Cirencester; our Hedgerow Heroes project, now complete but with funding from CPRE National for another phase of activity; planning for a General Election; CPRE Gloucestershire Awards Ceremony in November; a centenary history of CPRE Gloucestershire, now under way, and helping to plan celebrations for a national CPRE centenary in 2026. All these initiatives helped catch the public imagination and raise the charity’s presence locally.

## **5) Adoption of the Hon. Treasurer’s report and accounts**

Julian Oxley advised that the accounts showed a good surplus for the year largely because of a generous bequest of £64,000. Otherwise, the charity had been operating a policy of managed deficit in recent years as part of an ‘investing for growth’ approach. Effective though this approach might be, the Hon. Treasurer advised members that the charity’s reserves would not last for ever, and that generating income should be an important part of forthcoming business plans. A summary of the accounts had been included in the Annual Review, sent to all members beforehand. The Report and Accounts were approved, proposed Miranda Chalk; seconded Jean Stanton.

## **6) Appointment of reporting accountants**

Members approved the re-appointment of BK Plus (formerly known as Andorran Ltd), Chartered Accountants of Manor Park, Cheltenham, as the CPRE Gloucestershire Reporting Accountants. Proposed Julian Oxley; seconded Colin Evers.

## **7) Election of Officers**

The following officers were elected, proposed en bloc David Bayne; seconded David Brooke.

- President: Madeleine Bunting
- Vice Presidents: The Earl of Harrowby, Professor Adrian Phillips, Dame Fiona Reynolds, and the Earl of Wemyss and March
- Chair: Patricia Broadfoot
- Vice Chairs: Steve Smith and Richard Lloyd (Vice Chair but not a Trustee)
- Hon. Treasurer: Claire Feehily (to whom the AGM gave a warm welcome)

## **8) Election of Trustees**

The Chair, Vice Chair and Hon. Treasurer are all Trustees ex officio. In addition, the following were elected, proposed en bloc Jean Stanton; seconded Alastair Goldie.

|                   |              |               |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Bob Brown         | David Crofts | Colin Evers   |
| Heather Mackenzie | Steve Smith  | Richard Tyson |

## **9) Any other business**

There was none.

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## **CPRE at 100 years: what does the next 100 look like for our countryside?**

After the completion of the AGM, Simon Murray, National CPRE Chairman, treated members to a wide-ranging assessment of where the countryside (and CPRE) had come from and where it was (probably) going. The wide-ranging and incisive talk was a tour de force on the eve of CPRE's centenary, and it was received with the unanimous thanks of members.