

Cycling UK Oxfordshire Annual General Meeting 2021

to be held at online at 19:30 on Thursday 22nd April 2021
at the Zoom Inn, HTTP, Oxfordshire

Minutes (Approved by the 2022 AGM)

Minutes in Italic

1. Opening and Minutes of 2019 AGM

- Present: Peter Barnett, James Dawton, Andy Ellis, Christine Ellis, Paul Fletcher, Peter Hallowell, Ros Hallowell, Patrick Hardiman, Simon Hunt, John Longworth, Peter Miles, John Skevington, Robin Tucker, Neil Warner, Tom Bowtell (part of meeting)
- Election of Chair for the meeting – Peter Hallowell
- Election of a Minutes Taker – Robin Tucker
- Apologies for absence:
 - David Hibberd – Not riding in groups now, but keen for the B4044 path
 - Kevin Arnold – Witney Informal Group reducing in numbers and regularity, even before Covid
 - Paul Thompson – No Welfare issues to report and happy to remain in post
 - Steve Swanton – in Dorset with dodgy Wifi – but did make several attempts
- Approval of Minutes of the 2019 AGM – Approved nem con
- Matters arising from previous minutes
 - Last year's Motion: The Committee shall review during the year whether to hold a Special General Meeting with the intent of dissolving Cycling UK Oxfordshire Formal Member Group. – To be addressed with this year's Motion 1.

2. Annual Reports for the year-and-a-half to March 2021

- Chairman's report – Peter Hallowell.
 - Peter reported that not much had happened in the club's activities.
- Secretary's report – Robin Tucker
 - Short presentation, see Secretary's report below.
- Treasurer's report – Neil Warner
 - Short report given by Peter Hallowell. Not much change since last year. Finance Reporting form has not arrived with Peter or Neil – will chase up National Office.
- Welfare Officer's report – Paul Thompson.
 - No welfare issues to report.
- Campaigning report – James Dawton
 - James gave a report on some of the developments in infrastructure and highlights and lowlights in campaigning.
 - Peter asked if things were getting better or worse, and James answered that he thought they were generally getting better, but standards were getting higher.

3. Informal Member Group Annual Reports

- Wallingford – Patrick Hardiman
 - Last ride was 15 March 2020. 8 Rides since last AGM, avg. 6 riders each.
 - So Oxfordshire Group has put on rides in the last 18 months!
- Witney – Kevin Arnold
 - "Our little group has fallen apart and is likely to remain even more informal than it was before."

4. Annual Business: Informal Groups, Auditor and Volunteers

4a. Ratification of Informal Member Groups, and election of their Co-ordinators to the Committee

- Wallingford – *Approved nem con*
- (Witney – will be ratified after Motion 2, if Motion 2 is not passed and a Co-ordinator for Witney volunteers.)

4b. Appointment of Auditor

- *Stephen Lee to be confirmed.*

4c. Volunteers: Addition or Removal as Ride Leaders or Event Organisers

- *To be reviewed by the Committee to leave just active ride leaders and event organisers.*

5. Motions to the AGM

Motion 1: The Committee should consider a merger with the Midweek Group.

Proposed: Robin Tucker, Seconded: Peter Hallowell.

Full motion: The Committee should consider the advantages and disadvantages of a merger with CTC Midweek Oxfordshire, and if both Committees are in favour, they should each convene a Special General Meeting to allow Members to decide for or against a merger before the end of the year.

Explanatory wording:

Cycling UK Oxfordshire and CTC Midweek Oxfordshire cover the same geographic area, and have a similar interest in longer leisure/touring rides. Currently both are managed separately which results in two Committees, with two sets of accounts, two websites, two sets of communications. Also, each group may feel constrained to organising rides on either weekdays or weekends. There may be benefits in having two groups, but it is worth considering the advantages and disadvantages of merging.

Suggested timing

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Committees discuss the pro and cons | May-June |
| • Joint discussion between the two committees | July |
| • If decide to go ahead, call Special General Meetings in | September-October |

(Notice of the meeting must be published in the issue of 'Cycle' magazine published in one of the two months before the date of the meeting.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion 2: The CTC Witney Informal Member Group should be dissolved.

Proposed: Robin Tucker, Seconded: Peter Hallowell.

Explanatory wording:

The CTC Witney Informal Member Group has reduced in its ride attendance to the point that it is now more of 'a group of friends riding together' and no-one has posted on their forum since September 2019. The current coordinator is standing down and there appears not to be a replacement. We may at some point in the future make efforts to re-energise leisure rides from

Witney, but this does not require the current group. An Informal Member Group may be formed by any three Cycling UK members, and must always have a single point of contact through whom the Formal Member Group Secretary may communicate on relevant matters.

Peter Miles: Witney group has not been running effectively for two years. A small group of friends riding occasionally, so if anyone reads the website and shows up at the Buttercross on a Sunday morning, they are likely to be disappointed.

Andy Ellis: Not operated as a fully effective group for at least four years. Not marketed itself to expand or sustain the group.

Paul Fletcher: I am near Witney and would be keen to ride with a group.

(?) Need to change the web page as rides no longer run.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Election of Committee Members

- Chair*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Registrar†
- Welfare Officer†
- Publicity Officer†
- Campaigns Officer
- Webmaster (may be Committee role or not)
- Other Committee Members

Nominations for these positions may be notified to the Chair or the Secretary before or on the day. Each nominee requires a Proposer and a Secunder.

* Obligatory Position

† Obligatory Role (may be held by someone with another position or role)

Existing Committee noted they were prepared to stay in existing roles

Steve Swanton proposed self as Publicity Officer.

Tom Bowtell put himself forward as a Committee Member, but does not currently have time for a specific role

These positions agreed nem con – see table below.

7. Any Other Business

- Annual Century Ride – 4th July 2021
- Other Events and Rides?
 - *Discussed idea of a 'bridge ride' before the Century e.g. 100k or 75 miles, but not a huge demand for this.*

8. Close of Formal AGM

Meeting closed at 20:09

Secretary's Report – Robin Tucker

It's really been an unusual year, and not just because it was 18 months long.

The first six months, October 2019 to March 2020 passed fairly normally, but then the pandemic forced lockdown. I'll just focus on the impacts on cycling – we had to stop group rides of course. But in the first lockdown, traffic disappeared from our roads, and out came people walking and cycling for their daily exercise, people of all types.

Most stayed fairly close to home, but the impact on cycling overall was huge, up three-fold in the week and four-fold at weekends in May. Over the summer, this eased back and by September we were around 20% above pre-lockdown levels.

While not cycling, we were active in campaigning as the Oxfordshire Cycling Network, which is part of this group, but also a federation of about 30 cycling and supportive groups across the county.

During that time Oxfordshire had the Emergency Active Travel Fund. Its Tranche 1 bid was mostly for vegetation clearance and line repainting and we weren't surprised to see it only 50% funded by DfT. Disappointingly, the good ideas in it for modal filters were mostly dropped, and the best things to come out of it were the removal of cars from Witney High Street and various bike racks. By Tranche 2 the Council had improved and bid for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Oxford, and some cycle routes in Bicester and Witney. The LTNs are great, and went in with large amounts of support and a few loud voices against, many from people who don't live there but just want to rat-run through residential streets. The Witney scheme has been watered down to the point that many people will revert to cycling on the road or footway, which is disappointing. But the Bicester one is certainly good in parts and will make a real difference.

In Abingdon, we got tired of waiting for the County Council to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and decided to develop our own – the Abingdon Cycling and Walking Network Plan. This involved 40 people working to survey 25 routes and produce over 400 pages of documentation with a 30-page summary setting out the reasons, method and priorities.

We also helped campaign groups in Wantage & Grove, Banbury and Chipping Norton to get set up.

We also campaign with the Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel, and our current focus there is the local elections on 6th May. We have developed a 12-point manifesto and related survey, which over 200 (update 27 April: over 300) of the 571 candidates have completed – almost all in strong favour of active and public transport initiatives.

Now group rides in most of the Cycling UK groups across the county have restarted. Our own Wallingford informal group will be meeting shortly to plan how they restart. I'm sorry to see that Witney informal group has now dwindled to a point that I do not think we can consider it a viable group and we have a Motion to dissolve it later in the meeting. In practice, I hope this clears the way for a fresh start with new energy in Witney in the not-too-distant future.

Talking of energy, we have scheduled our Annual Century Ride to return after a year off on the 4th July 2021. This will mark our independence from the Covid virus by cycling 100 miles from Wallingford, south to Hermitage and the Berkshire downs, East to Kintbury, North to Lambourn and Wantage, and then hopefully catching a prevailing Westerly tail-wind for the final leg. Registrations are open via our website and Eventbrite.

Campaigning Report – James Dawton

Where we are at

Well, the government finally says we need to do more active travel (walking, cycling, public transport), for our health, for our environment and for the climate. Phew.

So we have £350 million (I think) for walking and cycling over a few years. We also have some new railway lines coming along.

But we have £25 billion for roads over a few years, a 3rd runway at Heathrow (Paris has just cancelled its new big airport terminal by the way).

Bicester has its new Eco Town being built, and will have a new cycle pedestrian tunnel under the railway to link the two halves each side of the railway, but will also have 2km of new A road also going under the railway to reduce congestion.

Bicester and Didcot still get the odd large/busy roundabout planned which present a big barrier to active travel (walking and cycling). These basically go against the County Council's Local Transport Plan aims, but planning objections to these fall on deaf ears, because the County Council (the Highway Authority) approve of the plans.

That said, while the County Council is by no means perfect, I think there are far worse authorities in the country.

So we are getting there, hopefully the steps forwards exceed the steps backwards!

What is good this year

Sustrans route through Kennington rebuilt to a higher standard (just in time for lock down!).

Peep O Day Lane (Abingdon – Sutton Courtney) rebuilt/surfaced.

Re opening a disused tunnel under the railway between Didcot and Milton Park for cycle/pedestrian use.

An off road cycle/pedestrian path across a field from Sutton Courtney to Milton Park.

East Hendred – Wantage Sustrans route rebuilt/upgraded for Wantage – Harwell commuting - but allows our Sunday rides to go to Milton Hill then to Wantage avoiding the main road and home via Charney Bassett or so.

You will notice a lot of the above is in the south of the County. This is part of the "Science Vale" plan, to enable people to cycle to the numerous large employment sites in the south of the county.

Oxfordshire now have 2 staff working on active travel (Cambridgeshire have 12).

Lock down. Yes, good, really, it allowed time for people to work on the ridiculous number of transport related consultations that have taken place in the last year or so.

Consultations responded to

As always, it's not just me, there is an ever growing band of volunteers, Bicester BUG (Bike User Group) is now well organised (which might improve our visitor experience when cycling through Bicester on Sundays!), Harwell BUG is still doing great things, Oxfordshire Cycling Network get to places we don't, Cyclox has a new volunteer concentrating on Oxford City related developments/planning applications.

Also CoHSAT (Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel) has been formed from like minded voluntary groups, to coordinate consultation responses across like minded groups, and to submit joint responses to consultations.

Oxfordshire won a £250 million pot of government money to help with the 100,000 new houses by 2032, and transport issues related to Oxford – Cambridge knowledge arc. As the resultant consultations flowed in thick and fast, I did write ones, "Bloody government giving away too much money making a lot of work for us!"

Consultations worked on by many over the last year or so.

Developments

Thornhill Park (Nielsens A40), Eynsham Garden Village (now Salt Cross), Jericho Wharf Bridge, Hill View Farm, St Frideswide Farm (Marston), More Barton Park, Diamond Place, Great Western Park (Didcot), Oxford Brookes Clive Booth redevelopment (student accommodation). Blackbird Leys centre redevelopment.

DfT

Rural transport,
Parking on pavements,
Highway Code revision.

Road schemes

A44 Corridor Study (Pear Tree to Yarnton), Bicester active travel measures, Witney active travel measures, 2 bad roundabout plans (Didcot, Bicester), A 40 (Duke's cut – Eynsham) again, closure of Chilton Hill (Upton – top of Hagbourne Hill) to through traffic except cycles and pedestrians (for Didcot – Harwell commuting)
Oxford City centre cycle parking, East Oxford residential cycle parking, Morrel Avenue zebra crossing, East Oxford controlled parking zone, Cowley LTN (Low Traffic Neighbourhood), Access to Headington (incl those incorrect slippery slabs), School Streets, Parks Rd/South Parks Rd junction, Walton Street traffic control point (closure), Pedestrianisation of North Parade, Oxford Traffic Control Points (TCP's) aka "Bus Gates", Osney Mead/Ferry Hinksey Road, Botley Rd (again), Covid 19 measures, Oxford City Centre Zero Emission Zone, Oxford City Air Quality Action Plan,

Policies

Oxfordshire Residential Street Design Guide (for the layout of housing developments). LTCP5 (Local Transport and Connectivity Plan) Vision.

In addition, a few longer term ideas, projects and follow up to previous consultations.
So thanks to all who help with this work, those who have signed petitions and sent e mails when requested.

New Committee and their roles

Position	Current Member	Role description
Chair	Peter Hallowell	Presides over and facilitates committee meetings and General Meetings.
Secretary	Robin Tucker	Organises committee meetings, General Meetings and the Annual Report and Returns to Cycling UK National Office. The official point of contact for the Group.
Treasurer	Neil Warner	Holds and accounts for the Group's funds.
Registrar	Peter Hallowell	Receives information about Cycling UK Members who live in the Group's area of operation, sends out welcome letters/emails. Oversees the Group's email distribution list.
Welfare Officer	Paul Thompson	Helps members to address issues and complaints.
Publicity Officer	Steve Swanton	Promotes Cycling UK and the activities of the Group. Prepares emails that are distributed to members.
Campaigns Officer	James Dawton	Campaigns for cycling and represents the Group and cyclists to bodies making planning decisions concerning transport and the built environment that affect cyclists.
Other Committee Members	Tom Bowtell (no specific role)	Can range from informal input to organising specific activities for the Group. (e.g. Training, Social Media)
Member Group Co-ordinator		
Wallingford	Patrick Hardiman	Point of contact and representatives for the Informal Member Group that operates within Cycling UK Oxfordshire

The position of Webmaster is co-opted by the Committee, and is currently Chris Thompson.
The position of Auditor is appointed at the AGM, and is currently Stephen Lee.

Purpose and Strategy of Cycling UK Oxfordshire

Purpose

Our overall purpose is to encourage more people to go cycling more of the time, both Cycling UK Members and the general public.

Our scope is centred on Oxfordshire, and we will work with other groups and coordinate action across the county. We also encourage riders and rides beyond Oxfordshire's borders.

Measures of success

1. The number of participants in rides and events organised by us, or groups we have founded. (Measured as per our Annual Return)
2. The overall rate of cycling in Oxfordshire (Measured by the Sport England Active People Survey, fraction of adults cycling at least once a month)

Strategy

We will do this by:

1. Creating and supporting Groups

- We recognise that most people's riding community is focused around their local group, so the groups are our main point of action.
- We have a defined role in supporting our Informal Groups (including funding and a conduit to National Office) and also wish to gain better national support for them. We support these Groups growing over time into Formal Groups.
- In addition to existing Groups, we have identified the potential for Cycling UK Groups in Banbury and Witney.

2. Helping our members to organise and participate in rides and events with a county-wide appeal

- We help Cycling UK Members in the county or visiting to find appropriate rides or routes.
- We will ask and support the local Informal Groups to organise rides and events with appeal to riders across the county.
- We will ask and encourage local members to develop their own ideas for rides and events with county-wide appeal, and support these where helpful with publicity, Committee support or funding.
- As a Committee, we will organise a few events that fill clear 'gaps' in the plans of other groups in the county. (e.g. An Annual Century ride)

3. Campaigning for better facilities and more cycling across the county

- Covering all forms of cycling: encouraging new people into cycling including minority and disadvantaged groups, making it easier and safer for existing cyclists, on-road and off-road.
- Supporting the Oxfordshire Cycling Network, for example with publicity for the campaign
- Inputting and responding to issues under our own name
- Linking with other groups where useful, both cycling and others (for example Local Authorities, walking and horse-riding groups)

4. Supporting other cycling-related activities

- We may support other cycling groups and initiatives where they are local, non-commercial and non-competitive, and when the Committee believes Cycling UK Oxfordshire has the resources and support of its local members.
- Any such support is most likely to include connecting people and groups across the county, and help to plan and publicise rides and events that appeal to members in the county.