Cycling UK Oxfordshire Midweek – Annual General Meeting 2025

held in person at 10:00 on Wednesday 30th April 2025
Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire

Minutes (approved at the 2026 AGM)

1. Opening and Minutes of 2024 AGM

- Election of Chair for the meeting – Roger Postbeschild elected *nem con*
- Election of a Minutes Taker – Robin Tucker elected *nem con*
- There were 27 Members present and the meeting was declared quorate.
- Apologies for absence: James Dawton, Nick Dunton, Andy Pope
- Approval of Minutes of the 2024 AGM – Approved *nem con*
- Matters arising from previous minutes
    - 2024 was the 100th Anniversary of CTC / Cycling UK in Oxford and Oxfordshire. We marked that milestone.
    - For this AGM no-one requested the option of Zoom
    - There was a request to try rides further north in the county, a ride from Chipping Norton, but this had lower attendance. We will continue to hold occasional 'northern' rides and publicise them including through the wider Cycling UK Oxfordshire list.

2. Annual Reports for the year to 31 March 2025

- Chairman's report – Roger Postbeschild
- Secretary's report – Robin Tucker
- Treasurer's report – Peter Hallowell
- Rides report – Andy Ratnage
- Safeguarding report – Gemma Ratnage
- Campaigning report – James Dawton / Robin Tucker

The reports were summarised to the AGM by the officers. They are included in full below.

The Accounts were Proposed by Jane Carton-Smith, Seconded by Jackie Duvall and approved *nem con*

The idea of a Ride Leader Workshop was proposed by Steve Swanton, discussed by the group and generally supported.

There was also some concern about riding standards, and it was agreed to review the Riding Guidelines on the website (looking at the recently updated Oxford City Cycling UK guidelines).

3. Informal Member Group Annual Reports

- Wallingford – Steve Thornton

4. Annual Business: Informal Groups and Auditor

a) Ratification of Informal Member Groups, and election of Co-ordinator - Wallingford – Agreed, and Steve Thornton agreed to continue in this post.
b) Appointment of Auditor – Stephen Lee Proposed by Peter Hallowell and Seconded by Jackie Duvall. Approved *nem con*

5. Election of Committee Members

The existing role holder stood without competition for each role.

- Chair* - Roger Postbeschild
- Secretary* - Robin Tucker
- Treasurer* - Peter Hallowell
- Registration Officer† - Roger Postbeschild
- Safeguarding Officer† - Gemma Ratnage
- Publicity Officer(s)† - Robin Tucker
- Rides Secretary – Andy Ratnage
- Campaigns Officer – James Dawton
- Campaigns Officer and Chair of Oxfordshire Cycling Network – Robin Tucker
- Other Committee Members – Jackie Duvall and Steve Swanton

* Required separate roles, †Required roles (can be fulfilled by other committee members)

The Committee was Proposed by Jane Carlton-Smith, Seconded by David Bridge and elected *nem con*

6. Motions

1. ***Simplify the Group's name to Cycling UK Oxfordshire***
   (Proposer: Robin Tucker, Seconder: Peter Hallowell)
   This would simplify the name and highlight that we organise some events that are not 'Midweek', such as the Annual Century and rides leading up to it. It might encourage organisation of other weekend events. It would increase our gravitas when responding to consultations and align with our website domain (cyclingukoxfordshire.org). The Midweek rides would be emphasised and highly visible on our website and other communications.

There was a discussion and points were made that the groups activities also included campaigning and occasional weekend events, but it was important to keep emphasis on the main activity – the Midweek rides.

Votes For 13, Against 4, Abstentions 2

2. ***Adopt the following policy on e-bikes***
   (Proposer: Andy Ratnage, Seconder: Robin Tucker)
   The following must be adhered to by all E-bike riders at all Club rides:-
   1. Riders are responsible for checking and disclosing to the club whether their E-bike is legal to EAPC regulations.
   2. When attending a Club ride all e-bike riders must tell the Ride Leader if they are using an E-bike and confirm that it complies with the current E-Bike rules and laws (currently the EAPC regulations, see below).
   3. E-bike riders are responsible for ensuring they have sufficient range and physical ability to complete the ride at the pace of the group. They must be sufficiently independent to look after themselves if leaving the group during a ride.
   4. E-bike riders should not overtake other riders at speed going up hills.

Background to the proposed e-bike policy

The Oxfordshire Midweek group welcome e-bike riders to their rides, however their use is strictly based on the following policy statement being adhered to all times.
The Club operate as part of Cycling UK and, as such, benefit from the following insurances for club rides:-

1. Riders are insured for third party losses (but not for any damage/loss to their own bike, or themselves)
2. The Ride Leader is insured against any claim against them whilst leading the ride

However, any rider using an e-bike that does not totally conform to the current UK e-bike regulations is NOT insured in any way by Cycling UK's policy, and if a Ride Leader is aware that an illegal e-bike is being used on the ride, they may be deemed negligent and therefore is also not insured. Therefore, the club's policy is strictly that only fully legal E-bikes may be used on club rides, and the ride leader has the absolute and final right to refuse a rider if they believe their bike may not be UK road legal.
Details of the current (January 2025) UK e-bike (EAPC) regulations are appended to these Minutes – it is the rider's responsibility to ensure their bike is FULLY COMPLIANT.

A discussion followed which supported this change but noted that point 4 was distinct to the rest in that it did not address the legal issue, was more of a riding guideline and could be better worded. Many preferred to tackle this through general ride guidelines.

Steve Swanton Proposed an Amendment to drop paragraph 4 from Motion 2. This was carried. Votes For 20, Against 4, Abstentions 2.

The Amended Motion was put forward by its original Proposer and Seconder and agreed. Votes For 22, Against 0, Abstentions 3.

7. Presentation from Jenny Jackson and Kelly Cannings, Cycling UK

- Jenny and Kelly joined us from Cycling UK Head Office. They presented on:
- Cycling UK's new brand
- New Trustees and the new Chair, Ashley Wheaton
- Political campaigning and influence
- New member benefits, including discounts on: Bikmo insurance, Saddle Skedaddle holidays, Cuckoo broadband and Kalas cycling clothing
- The Big Bike Brunch 7-15 June – can we participate?
- Coming in 2025/26…
    - Membership Development – future audiences and members
    - Routes – a new routes appeal
    - Campaigns – Women's safety – My Ride, Our Right; A second later in the year

8. Any Other Business

- Blowingstone Audax 103km – 11th May 0930 start from Uffington
  Organised by Niick Stokell, see the Audax UK website
- 75 mile ride – 8th June (Abingdon), Century ride – 29th June (Islip)

9. Close AGM

The AGM was closed at 11:37 and the group went for a ride!

Cycling UK Oxfordshire Midweek – AGM Reports 2025

30th April 2025

Chair's Report – Roger Postbeschild

Another good and active year with Midweek rides well supported with a great variety of routes.

We held another touring trip in France in 2024, spending a few days in Amiens - another trip is planned for 2025, this time, based in two centres in south and north Brittany.

We held our centenary event in the summer, with a Century Ride (my first) and a get together at Eynsham Village Hall, where the star appearance was Eileen Johnson, who cut the cake. Eileen was a long time Oxfordshire stalwart and DA Secretary. Sadly, we lost Eileen later in the year.

I must also mention the sad loss of Ros Hallowell. Whilst I never rode with Eileen, I did with Ros. The news of her sudden death whilst out in Spain with Peter was indeed a shock. That Peter was then struck down with a nasty dose of pneumonia seemed particularly cruel. It is good to see Peter back on his bike.

Thanks

As ever, a big thank you to all our ride leaders, without whom, we would be unable to put on the wide variety of Midweek rides.

Thanks, also to the committee. It seems churlish, perhaps, to single out any one committee member but my biggest thank you goes to Andy Ratnage. His regular active involvement as Rides Secretary ensures that the programme runs smoothly.

Challenges

Most of our challenges have been weather based. Our climate appears to be moving into a wet and windy one……I'm not sure who to blame, but Trump would appear to be a good candidate.

We also had some chilly spells where ice on minor roads caused the odd cancellation.

Potholes just get worse in Oxfordshire, causing ever more need for caution. Forays into adjoining counties (with the exception of Buckinghamshire) underline the parlous state of our roads by comparison.

Secretary's report – Robin Tucker

The formal Secretary's role has been small this in the last year. It has mostly concerned organisation and follow up of the AGMs and the few Committee meetings that we have had to organise the AGMs, last years Centenary celebrations and the Century and other special rides.

The role includes registering new Ride Leaders, particularly for the Wallingford Group, and helped them to register for the online ride leader training programme. I note that I can do this for any existing or would be ride leader, just send me a message.

I have another role as Communications Officer, in which I maintain the website and send emails. The website has not been much trouble this year. The main new thing I have attempted is a mobile phone compatible menu, and using it on my own phone this seems to have mixed results so I would be interested in feedback. I have included links to key pages as a backup. Andy Ratnage and I are looking at moving the Midweek ride listings across to it.

The emails go to Cycling UK in an area roughly equalling Oxfordshire. Currently just over 1500 people receive those emails, and I hope they are useful – any feedback on what to include and their frequency is useful. I also write the quarterly 'Chit Chat' column for Oxfordshire Cyclist. Again, any comments on the content of this are welcome.

Most of you will know that I am also a Trustee of the national Cycling UK charity, and have been for 4 years, having been re-elected to the Board in 2024. I find this an enjoyable and challenging role. Most recently, because of my marketing experience, I was the Trustee assigned to work alongside the brand redesign team, and it is exciting to see the results. I am not quite sure how to change the website to match the new look, so if anyone knows how to work Wordpress more than the basics, please let me know.

Treasurer's report – Peter Hallowell

I have not yet had time to complete the consolidated accounts for the Wantage and Oxfordshire Mid-week groups so the consolidate accounts have not yet been audited. This will be done soon.

Please see the accompanying sheet for the details of this year's financial dealings for the Midweek group. You will see that very little has happened.

The only income was the Cycling UK Group Grant and a small amount of interest.

In addition to the usual expenditure on maintaining the website and the Xmas lunch subsidy there was extra expenditure celebrating the centenary of the formation of the original Oxfordshire District Association. This has resulted in a small but significant overspend this year.

(Accounts on next page)

Ride Secretary's report – Andy Ratnage

In the year to 31 March 2025 we had 47 Wednesday weekly rides (The first two in January 2025 were cancelled due to poor weather).

We have 52 active riders, compared to 48 last year, although the average number of riders per ride was a little reduced from the past two years.

Recruiting ride leaders has been a little more difficult in the last year (and many thanks to everyone who led a ride), but a few extra leaders from the regular riders list would be very welcome!

The statistics for the last three years (April to March) are:-

	2022-3		**2023-24**	**2024-5**
Active Riders *	N/A	48	52	
Total Rides **	46	47	50	
Average number of people at coffee	17.9	16.8	15.4	
Average number of riders	15.9	14.8	11.4	
Average Female riders	4.3	4.4	3.2	

* Based on current ride sign on sheet which lists riders who attend on a regular basis
** Total Rides exclude the Century ride, Audax and those either cancelled or badly affected by weather where numbers are very significantly reduced.

We also arranged a foreign cycling trip in June to France for just over a week. We started at Calais and cycled via Boulogne and the river Somme to Abbeville and Amiens. Twelve of us went and a good time was had by all (a not too strenuous 200+ miles of cycling, and plenty of coffee, lunches and dinners) – apart from some serious rain on a few days.

Accounts of CyclingUKOxfordshire Mid-Week				
Period 1/4/2024 to 31/3/2025				
	2023/24		**2024/25**	
Income				
NO Grant	£200.00		£250.00	
Interest	£22.75		£39.62	
		£222.75		**£289.62**
Expenditure				
Web site	£109.80		£115.20	
AGM Hall hire 2024			£41.00	
100th Birthday			£354.27	
AGM Hall hire 2025			£41.00	
Xmas Lunch	£95.00		£70.00	
		£204.80		**£621.47**
Surplus		**£17.95**		**-£331.85**
Assets:				
CTC Oxfordshire:				
Cash	-£179.68		-£179.68	
Current Account	£88.52		£47.52	
Deposit Account	£3,757.44		£3,466.59	
Outstanding Liabilities				
None				
Total		**£3,666.28**		**£3,334.43**
Stock	£195.35		£195.35	
Total		**£195.35**		**£195.35**
Grand Total		**£3,861.63**		**£3,529.78**

Safeguarding report – Gemma Ratnage

There were no safeguarding concerns raised or potential issues observed.

Campaigning report – James Dawton and Robin Tucker

More general things

The Highway Authority (Oxfordshire County Council) – where the action now is
With a more amenable administration who enacts their predecessor's policies better than those what wrote it, there have been a lot more meetings with higher levels of the County Council and Cyclox and Oxfordshire Cycling Network. Some of this is to speed up the rate of change in how the Highways Department deals with active travel. It is in many ways still disfunctional, but gradually improving.

The County Council election is the day after our AGM. Some parties will continue this path. Others will reverse it. If cycling is important for your vote, use it wisely!

Co-production
This has continued to be disappointing. Involving active travel groups in the early stages of design is good. Often active travel suggestions get trumped by the bus companies, or by Council officers not following the County's own policies.
A new officer in the 'Place making' team is now working on a 'Co-production process and handbook' and Robin is involved. Hope to have more news on this in the coming weeks (months?)

Vision Zero
Vision Zero funding has been used to make a safer junction (banning right turns by drivers joining the A40 at Barnard Gate). Not quite what we envisaged!
Over this year, there will be a meeting in each of the five Districts of Oxfordshire (one is Oxford City) to consider local safety issues. We'll aim to be involved with each and contact the relevant local cycling campaign groups for each.

Planning Developments.
These still come in at some pace.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)
These are plans that set out desired improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure over a ten-year view, and prioritise them. They are key tool for seeking funding from DfT (moslty Active Travel England) or developers (housing or commercial).
LCWIPs for Chipping Norton and Woodstock and area were recently approved, and the county-wide 'Strategic Active Travel Network' was approved last year.
LCWIPs for Carterton, Thame, Wallingford, Wantage & Grove and Charlbury are being worked on – which is a high work rate.
These are useful because they result in…

Funding gains
- Active Travel Fund 4 Extension – included funding for the Market Place junction in Abingdon, a walking/cycling route in Witney, 5 more School Streets and cycle parking at hospitals across the county.
- Active Travel Funding for ATF5 24/5 (£868k) and Consolidated Active Travel Fund 25/6 (£2650k) – for which the projects are yet to be announced.
- In addition, the County Council has allocated £1.8 million to rural active travel projects, in addition to Greenways and neighbourhood improvements in East Oxford.

Consultations
We (and this is a big we – James, Robin and lots of people in Cyclox and other groups across the county) are regularly responding to consultations and planning applications, and turning up to the Council decision meetings to make a 3 minute address in support or against a proposal – or more often supporting most of it, but proposing some changes as a 'critical friend'. It's a time-consuming process, but when you get a Kidlington roundabout, or a Broad Street, it's a result that feels worthwhile. We're creating things that will benefit thousands of people for many years.

20mph speed limits
Not strictly cycling, but they do make the roads safer for cycling. Oxfordshire set up an innovative process that asked town and parish councils if they wanted to request a 20mph speed limit. As a result, about 300 have and about 10 have not. Almost all of those have now been designed, consulted on, approved and implemented. The evidence from other places is that it takes a while for drivers to get used to them, but they settle down to a slower speed, not always 20mph, but one that reduces the chances of a severe injury by 20 to 30%. Oxfordshire is now looking to follow some of the speed limits up with traffic calming, where that is most useful.

Local Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)
Some of these are now policed by ANPR cameras, some still by bollard(s). An unexpected community benefit, the bollard in Bullingdon Rd has been used as a (rather sturdy) cricket stump. Various anti letters still keep appearing in the Oxford Times from time to time, which I try to respond to.

School Streets
Quite a few ANPR cameras have now been installed. There are now 7 School Streets in Oxford, one in Abingdon and one in Didcot. There are funds for more, and if you know a school that might like one, contact the scheme via the Council website or ask the head to.

There has been a notable increase in walking and cycling to primary schools in the LTN areas since the introduction of the LTNs.

More specific things

Botley Rd rail bridge.
Opening now deferred until August 2026, what can you say?…..
In August 2025 the walking/cycling passage on the north side will open. This will be 4 metres wide instead of the current 2 metres – a substantial improvement at least!

Greenways (County Council)
Outline routes beyond the ring road, either pre-existing, or lines on a map for future funding. The sort of longer term planning we need. The routes looked a bit disjointed, but do link into other routes not shown on the Greenways blurb. A sign of the disfunctional nature (a different project/funding) of how it is all run, rather than all being the same project team.

Another thing called a Greenway, but a separate project is the Thame to Haddenham Greenway. There has been a campaign to get this link built for years, with Oxon and Bucks seeming to blame each other for delays. Now, it seems to be moving forward. A Family Bike Ride in Haddenham in June 2024 had 400 people, mostly children, riding to support the link.

Oxpens Bridge (by the ice rink)
Approved by the planning committee, appealed against in court, but the appeal was lost. So it will appear at some point, requiring a notable loss of trees.

Woodstock Road changes.
Cycle tracks along the full length of the Woodstock Road has been whittled down to removing a section of existing cycle track and improving the side road entry treatments ("SRET"). Some of these are quite good, but not all of the same design, and one quiet side street gets an entry

improvement, a busy side road does not. When they eventually put in cycle tracks along the full length, most/a lot of these entry treatments will probably need to be dismantled…..

Other schemes delivered in the year include

- Kidlington Roundabout – much improved for walking and cycling from the original designs by campaigning and co-production led by Cyclox (which also saved £2m)
- Improvements on the A40 by the Norh Oxford development and A44 from Wolvercote to Peartree (although the roundabout is still poor)
- Cycling permitted on Sheep Street in Bicester (although not now on Market days)

Siding out.
This is where vegetation/debris that accumulate at the edges of footways and cycle tracks id removed, so restoring the foot way or cycle track to its original width. The County allocated £1M for this last year. The (A40 Oxford – Eynsham, near Kidlington and others received this treatment. This has continued into this year which is a good sign (they were doing foot ways in Kennington recently, and cleared about 2 miles of footway on the A40 near Postcombe which had not been cleared for a few decades.

A lot of siding out also happened in Abingdon around the ring road – maybe you've seen it in other places.

There are a lot more people involved with active travel, and much more happening, it gets harder to keep track of everything going on! Though with more willing hands available, the work per person is a bit reduced. As well as County Council matters, I have also had a few letters in the Oxford Times countering some anti LTN letters.
So thanks to all those working on all that is going on.

Wallingford Informal Member Group Report – Steve Thornton

Rides and Riders

Last year we organized 66 rides. Our usual starting point is Wallingford Town Centre, but we do begin elsewhere on occasion.

We organize the following:-

- 1st Sunday of Month – Slower Sunday. Slower, Shorter, and an ideal entry point for newer riders.
- 3rd Sunday of Month – Mid-paced Sunday. Faster and longer.
- Each Thursday we run the 'Wallingford Fun' ride. An afternoon ride, shorter in winter and longer in summer. This is our most popular event.

39 different people rode with us at least once last year. Gender split 28% female 72% male

Our average attendance for the year is 6.7. Our biggest ride had 16 people.

Although based in Wallingford, we have had a few excursions, most notably to the Ride London 100, Wiltshire Cycleway and the CTC Wessex GridIron.

In May we are planning to expand our ride calendar by trialling a Friday evening Social Ride. We will be running these twice a month over the summer. They will start at 6.30 on a Friday, and be short (<20 miles) and slow. We are hoping to promote these locally as a fun way to start cycling with a group.

Campaigning

We have actively engaged in the Wallingford Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This has included sharing specific cycling points of concern with the Steering Committee, as well as participating in the 'walkabouts' in Wallingford, Cholsey, and Crowmarsh.

We are also engaged with Wallingford and Area Living Streets. Our input on cycling routes and concerns seems useful for them as they build cases for improving infrastructure.

Jerseys

2024 saw the launch of the CTC Wallingford Cycle Jersey. Much credit is due to Pauline Casey for the design and organization - including negotiating with local artist Anna Dillon, to allow us to use her original artwork.

UK E-Bike Regulations as of January 2025 (EAPC)

For the latest regulations see https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules The Group policy requires that the club applies the latest regulations.

You can ride an electric bike if you're 14 or over, as long as it is an 'electrically assisted pedal cycle' (EAPC).

You do not need a licence to ride an EAPC and it does not need to be registered, taxed or insured.

When your bike is an EAPC

An EAPC:

- must have pedals that can be used to propel it
- can have more than 2 wheels, for example a tricycle

It can be propelled up to 15.5mph without pedalling but only if it's been approved.

Its electric motor:

- must have a 'continuous rated power' output of no more than 250 watts
- must not be able to propel the bike when it's travelling at more than 15.5 miles per hour (mph)

What your EAPC must show

Markings on the bike must show both:

- the continuous rated power output
- the bike manufacturer

It must also show either:

- the battery's voltage
- the maximum speed the motor can propel the bike

Where you can ride an EAPC

If your bike is an EAPC then you can ride it on cycle paths and anywhere else pedal bikes are allowed.

You cannot ride it on pavements.

When your bike is not an EAPC

If your electric bike does not meet the EAPC rules then it's classed as a motorcycle or moped.

Your bike is not an EAPC if it:

- can be propelled at more than 15.5 miles per hour (mph) by the motor
- has a continuous rated power output higher than 250 watts
- does not have pedals that can propel it

If your bike is not an EAPC

If your electric bike is not an EAPC it must be registered and taxed.

You need to:

- get a valid driving licence to ride one
- wear a motorcycle helmet that meets British safety standards
- insure your vehicle

If your bike is classed as a motorcycle or moped but has not been insured, you may get a fine or your bike may be seized by the police.

Where you can ride if your bike is not an EAPC

If your electric bike is not an EAPC then you:

- can only ride it on the road
- cannot ride it on cycle tracks or cycle lanes