

Low Carbon Oxford North 2025 AGM- Minutes

25 March 2025

6.30 to 7pm

North Oxford Association, Diamond Place, Oxford

1. Welcome and introductions, attendance, apologies

10 members and 9 supporters were present, with two apologies sent.

LCON Chair Kim Polgreen invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Trustees introduced themselves as follows:

Kim Polgreen – Sustainability Educator with background in business and interest in nature.

Alun Evans – Treasurer of LCON. Background in business/ chartered accountant.

Jane Grindey – runs Housewarming Programme with Philippa.

Fiona Crosse – runs North Parade Market stall, also running campaign to get a new bus service West of Woodstock Road. And also involved in Energy Saving Houses.

Tim Weiss – Mainly focused on development of Oxford Travel Options website. Also interested in green investments.

Carey Newson – Worked particularly on Oxford Travel Options website.

Brenda Boardman – Member since LCON inception. Particularly responsible for Oxon4Buses and gradually getting involved in new initiative to have ground source heatpump network in South Summertown.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24 September 2024

The draft minutes had been made available in advance. There were no corrections or omissions raised. *Members voted to approve the minutes.*

3. Trustees' report

Chair Kim Polgreen presented highlights from the [2024 Annual report and Accounts](#), which had been made available in advance, including:

- the ongoing roll-out of the [Housewarming Programme](#), with the web page now visited more than 2000 times, and Housewarming guides downloaded over 900 times;
- [Energy Saving Homes](#) at Oxford Open Doors: nearly 300 people visited 21 open homes;
- the growing influence of [Oxon4Buses](#);
- the [Oxford Car Free Challenge](#);
- the development of the new Oxford Travel Options website;
- LCON's monthly [North Parade Market stall](#);
- continued support for [Climate Cafes](#) and the Cherwell School with various sustainability initiatives.

Members voted to accept receipt of the report.

4. Financial report

Treasurer Alun Evans gave an overview of the financial report, explaining that during 2023 quite a lot of funds were raised for projects; and much of those funds were then spent in 2024 to deliver the relevant projects according to plans.

Headline figures (approx.):

Income £15,000,

Expenditure £36,000.

Funds at the end of the year: £28,000. Of that £17,000 are unrestricted funds, £11,000 restricted funds allocated to projects, to be used in 2025.

In summary, LCON has sufficient funds to deliver existing projects but will need to raise further funds to fund any future projects.

In response to a question about reserves, Alun confirmed that our core funding comes from investment in solar, giving LCON a core income of around £9000-10000 a year, which is sufficient to cover its overheads.

Members voted to accept receipt of the accounts for 2024.

5. Election of trustees

Kim explained that LCON's Articles provide that a third of the elected Trustees must retire at each AGM in rotation, with those longest in office retiring first. Accordingly, two current trustees were standing for re-election: Carey Newson and Jane Grindey.

Carey Newson has been a resident in North Oxford for [15] years. She has a background in journalism and charity management, environmental consultancy and active travel. Last year she was involved in the Oxford Car Free Challenge and the development of the new website, Oxford Travel Options. She added that LCON now has funding for the management of the new website. She is keen to take the role of supporting the website manager and ensure that the website has traction. She feels very passionate about sustainable travel and believes it can be transformational, particularly of children's lives.

Jane Grindey has lived in Oxford for 10 years. She started in marketing, strategy, business development, consultancy and international business, before joining the Cabinet Office. She then had a formative experience, moving into new house which was very cold and finding out that within 6 weeks the heating oil had run out. This experience made her realise that energy is fundamentally critical, and that houses need to be fixed. She also started working in the cooperative development world and joined the boards of two community energy organisations. At LCON she has developed the Housewarming Guides with local expert Tony Duffin, and she hopes to continue to contribute on Housewarming.

Members agreed to re-elect Carey and Jane as trustees.

6. Chair's round-up

Kim concluded we need to do more, highlighting that across the world more people are getting involved in climate action. In Oxford the tenor of the conversation is changing, and many more people have a better understanding of climate change. We can take this

opportunity in time to mobilise many more people in our community and build a movement to increase engagement in our community.

Kim invited ideas to help make LCON a much stronger community project.

7. Any other business

There were some questions about the new membership structure, asking how it differs from LCON's previous structure.

Kim explained that LCON has a large number of subscribers, and many long-standing members. The Board have decided to make some changes now to ensure 'belt and braces' compliance LCON's articles, in particular to ask people to 're-affirm' membership through an application to the board.

Kim added that the hope was that these changes would also allow LCON to be more pro-active in involving members, and we hope this is an opportunity to bring people closer in.

8. Close of formal business

Following the formal AGM, LCON hosted a Community Meeting, which gave everyone a chance to ask questions and share experiences across different topics – home energy, transport, nature and sustainable finance.