

OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE GREEN PARTY

CONSTITUTION

Constitution of the Oxfordshire South and Vale Green Party as agreed at its inaugural branch meeting 21 September 2021.

1 TITLE AND STATUS

- 1.1 The name of the local party shall be Oxfordshire South and Vale Green Party (hereafter referred to as OSVGP).
- 1.2 OSVGP is a constituent part of The Green Party of England & Wales (hereafter referred to as GPEW) and is subject to its rules and constitution.
- 1.3 OSVGP is a local branch of Oxfordshire Green Party (hereafter OGP), and is subject to its constitution.
- 1.4 The geographical area of OSVGP is that covered by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils (excluding Abingdon wards).

2 AIMS

- 2.1 The object of OSVGP is to promote the aims of GPEW as stated in its Constitution:
 - a) to develop and implement policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Green Party of England and Wales;
 - b) to that end, to win seats at all levels of government;
 - c) to co-operate as appropriate with other Green Parties and others in the achievement of the aims and objectives.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The membership consists of all GPEW members resident within the geographical area of OSVGP.
- 3.2 Members may not be a member of another political party in England and Wales at the same time. Should a member join another political party then they immediately cease to be a member of OSVGP.

4 OFFICERS

- 4.1 OSVGP shall elect a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary annually at an AGM.
- 4.2 All candidates must agree to nomination and be nominated and seconded by OSVGP members.
- 4.3 The AGM has the discretion not to fill posts if no suitable nominations are forthcoming or to propose the merging of posts or the creation of other posts with the agreement of a simple majority.
- 4.4 Should any Officer fail to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason or apology, OSVGP may co-opt another person to act in their place.
- 4.5 In the event of a vacancy an Officer may be co-opted at the next ordinary Branch Meeting.

5 MEETINGS AND DECISION - MAKING

- 5.1 The business of OSVGP shall be decided at periodic meetings, referred to hereafter as Branch Meetings. Branch Meetings shall be open to all OSVGP members. Potential new members and supporters may attend as observers by invitation of an Officer.
- 5.2 Members should be notified of any motions relating to policy at least one week before a Branch Meeting.
- 5.3 Only members of OSVGP will be entitled to vote at Branch Meetings. A member who is unable to attend may appoint a proxy by writing to the Chair. No person may act as proxy for more than one person.
- 5.4 The Branch Meeting will be deemed to be in quorum if there are three or more members in attendance.

5.5 Attendance, business conducted, and decisions made at Branch Meetings shall be recorded in minutes to be approved by the next meeting.

5.6 A draft agenda will be circulated in advance of each Branch Meeting, together with the minutes of the previous meeting. Any member can suggest additional agenda items in advance of or at the start of the meeting.

5.7 In the event of a decision needing to be made before a Branch Meeting, an emergency decision may be made by agreement of a simple majority of Officers of OSVGP. This decision must be ratified by the next Branch Meeting.

5.8 Working groups may be set up to discuss specific issues. Any decision shall be ratified by a Branch Meeting. All members can attend these groups.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

6.1 OSVGP will hold an AGM no later than fourteen months after the previous AGM to conduct the following:

- a) Presentation of Officer reports for the year;
- b) Presentation of a financial statement for the year;
- c) Election of the Officers;
- d) Reviewing strategy and setting goals for the following year and beyond;
- g) Any other business on the agenda.

6.2 The Chair shall be taken by a nominated person as agreed by members attending the Branch Meeting prior to the AGM.

6.3 All members of OSVGP who are present at an AGM have one vote each, and resolutions must have the support of a simple majority.

6.4 Notice of the AGM shall be given at least three weeks prior to the meeting and any motions for consideration shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

6.5 The Agenda will be circulated in advance at least one week prior to the AGM.

6.6 The Chair has the right to rule on the admissibility of any emergency motions put forward.

6.7 The quorum of an AGM shall be three members of OSVGP.

6.8 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on a particular agenda may be called on the request of a Branch Meeting or at least five members of OSVGP. The same general rules apply to EGMs as to AGMs.

7 FINANCE

7.1 The Treasurer shall collect or arrange the collection of all money due to OSVGP and shall receive all donations to OSVGP and shall be the custodian thereof.

7.2 The Treasurer will arrange payment of any bills incurred by OSVGP, and will notify the group if it is in danger of becoming overdrawn.

7.3 All monies drawn from OSVGP's bank account shall be signed by two authorised persons from a list of at least four, to be agreed at the AGM or an EGM (normally this will include the Constitutional Officers).

7.4 Wherever possible, funds will be held by a banking organisation with a policy of ethical investment acceptable to the membership (such as Triodos, Cooperative Bank, Ecological Building Society, Cumberland Building Society).

7.5 Members, Ward Parties and Working Groups may incur expenditure on behalf of OSVGP provided prior approval is obtained from an Officer, Branch Meeting, EGM or AGM.

7.6 OSVGP will not normally make donations to other groups or organisations outside of GPEW.

8 SELECTION OF ELECTION CANDIDATES

8.1 For selection of parliamentary candidates national rules must be followed.

8.2 For selection of local authority candidates, arrangements will be agreed at a Branch Meeting of the OSVGP.

9 AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

9.1. This constitution can only be altered by an AGM or EGM of OSVGP. Amendments to this constitution require advance notice and a two-thirds majority.

10 WINDING UP

10.1 OSVGP may cease to exist or join with other local green parties, by agreement of an EGM or AGM. In the event of OSVGP being wound up, the balance of funds shall be transferred to Oxfordshire Green Party.

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