

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies	
2.	Introductions	
3.	<p>Why Now?</p> <p>Cllr Jo Robb opened the meeting emphasising the importance of the Green message, the impact that elected Greens can have, the urgency of the climate crisis, and the recent momentum that Greens have gained across Vale and South.</p>	
4.	<p>Agreement of Constitution (via in-meeting poll)</p> <p>A draft of the constitution had been pre-circulated with the opportunity to make suggestions and raise queries. The amended version had been pre-circulated, with changes clearly identified, and a link provided in the meeting.</p> <p>HB and KF explained that the relationship between OSVGP and the existing Abingdon branch was being actively considered, particularly with respect to bank accounts, group identity. KF suggested that once the new branch had been set up, the two branches would be in a position to come together as equal partners to consider the best way forward. An EGM could be called if appropriate to formalise a merger.</p> <p><i>Clause 3.2.</i> DN suggested alternative wording to clarify rules about membership of different parties. “Members may not be a member of another political party <i>in England and Wales at the same time</i>”, replacing “Members may not be a member of another political party (other than Green Parties abroad).” The amendment was included and agreed.</p> <p><i>Clause 7.4.</i> Amended text requiring two signatories to withdrawals</p>	<p>KF to lodge constitution with OGP and GPEW</p> <p>OSVGP and Abingdon committees to keep in touch.</p>

	<p>brings the clause into line with standard practice OGP constitution.</p> <p><i>Clause 8.2.</i> RB and DN noted that while the items specifying procedures for selection of election candidates are very brief, there are more substantial requirements within the OGP constitution, to which OSVGP is subordinate.</p> <p>Constitution was accepted unanimously by online poll.</p>	
5.	<p>Appointment of Committee (via in-meeting poll)</p> <p>5.1 Chair – Nominated Kat Foxhall. Proposed by Robin Bennett; Seconded by Andrew Powell</p> <p>5.2 Secretary – Nominated Sarah Hart. Proposed by Kevin Middleton; Seconded Sarah James</p> <p>5.3 Treasurer – Nominated Peter Dragonetti. Proposed by Kat Foxhall; seconded by Sue Roberts.</p> <p>5.4 Members Co-ordinator – Nominated by Sarah James.</p> <p>Election of constitutional committee by online poll, and unanimously accepted. Sarah James was also welcomed to the committee, with thanks to all for agreeing to stand.</p>	KF to notify OGP and SEGP of elected committee members.
6	<p>Branch Finance</p> <p>PD outlined the basic steps needed to open a bank account for a new organisation (constitution and officers as signatories), and that Co-operative was his hoped for option.</p> <p>SR noted that it had taken Bioabundance 8 months to open an account with Co-operative.</p> <p>DR advised that North Oxon also had issues with Co-op, Oxford East now use Santander, noting that ability to do the job also needed to be taken into account alongside ethical credentials.</p> <p>Until the new bank account is opened, South and Vale will continue as a named account within OGP.</p>	PD to begin process of opening a branch bank account.
7.	<p>Branch Priorities</p> <p>7.1 Engaging Members</p> <p>SJ outlined her own experience of getting involved with KF's campaign leading up to the May 2021 elections, and why engaging members and volunteers in the political party is so crucial to winning elections, so that Greens are the decision makers, and at the heart of how things are run. All contributions are welcome, however much time someone has is valuable.</p> <p>SJ invited attendees to make contact if they would like to be involved, and in particular to let the committee know of any events, initiatives that they would like to see.</p> <p>7.2 Winning Elections</p> <p>RB explained how RB emphasised that GPEW know how to win elections using the Target to Win strategy. Getting involved in a</p>	

	<p>campaign with a small task, an election count, attending meetings, all help demystify what politics is about. Local involvement at school, parish or local action group is also a great start. Green councillors are very credible across South and Vale, and momentum is building to get more people elected into decision-making positions. Councillors also need support behind the scenes with social media, press releases, drafting motion. The message to the electorate is to show that we can represent their concerns.</p>	
8.	<p>Campaigns and Initiatives</p> <p>8.1 Branch website KF: website development had begun. Priority now to develop the site to attract members, publicise the work of councillors and communicate with public.</p> <p>8.2 Councillor Newsletters KF: a priority for the autumn is to develop, print and deliver a newsletter across South Oxon councillor wards to communicate the work being done and continue to raise profile. We can expect support from Alice Spendley and Claudia Fisher, our regional Field Organisers.</p> <p>8.3 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 KF explained that a current OGP priority is responding in detail to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation, thanked everyone who had contributed, and invited attendees to look at the proposals online.</p>	<p>KF & VP to work with Joe Talbot to develop website. KF to contact councillors and committee to supply bio details.</p> <p>KF to co-ordinate with SODC councillors to develop items for newsletter.</p>
9.	<p>Events</p> <p>9.1 Winter Book Club This will be run from October to March, with details online through OGP events webpage. Many suggestions were collected in the chat, and will be added to a crowdsourced document.</p>	<p>KF to publicise via email and to request the main readings through Oxfordshire county libraries.</p>
10.	<p>Members' Open Forum and AOB Attendees were invited to ask any questions about the branch, or the work of councillors. A lively and interesting discussion followed.</p> <p>KFJ asked where people thought we should be putting the division between pressure group and being a political party.</p> <p>KF suggested that revived plans for the reservoir south of Abingdon would need us to take a very strong position.</p> <p>SR emphasised the importance of speaking to normal people, honesty and, once elected, of continuing to campaign on issues of personal importance, rather than speaking like a bureaucrat.</p> <p>LS talked about her success in getting Faringdon to declare climate emergency, and the importance of good working relationships, but also the challenges of community engagement. Frome and Henley provide good example of successful engagement, and Faringdon are looking at using CIL money to introduce EVs for hire, co-opting young people, and empowering</p>	<p>Committee to incorporate suggestions into initiatives.</p>

	<p>local people who feel powerless.</p> <p>AS emphasised the importance of networks. Members can play a valuable support role for councillors as a “shadow council” by reading documents, making observations on planning documents to help relieve the burden of work that councillors do.</p> <p>VP said that pressure and politics go hand in hand. To bring people along, we need to remember what matters to the community. Also emphasis on community / campaigning / politics needs to be cyclical, so that e.g. we can focus at election time.</p> <p>JB emphasised the importance of member recruitment to get beyond a handful of people who do all the work, making new members feel welcome, and enabling local members to contribute ideas, campaign and engage with policy development.</p> <p>AP noted that for councillors, the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) was a perfect way to engage community to decide together what priorities are at parish and town level.</p> <p>HR asked more about talking to conservative voters in order to raise Green issues on councils. SJ highlighted the work and resources of Oxford-based organisation Climate Outreach. LS suggested a series of local Green talks might be a good idea.</p> <p>CGC suggested that 20mph proposals provided a really good opportunity for local work especially at parish level. Schemes encourage active travel, get community engagement, improve safety and air quality. KF noted Pete Sudbury’s role leading this work on OCC.</p> <p>KFJ commented in closing the importance of driving your own agenda and you’ll be surprised how far we can go.</p> <p>Overall, the discussion highlighted the value of giving councillors at all levels the opportunity to share experience and ideas, and the importance of translating concern for global climate into strategies and initiatives that get tangible, local action.</p>	<p>KF to ask Pete Sudbury to introduce OCC work to next meeting</p>
11.	<p>Next Meeting Date and Time</p> <p>TBC. Branch meetings will be every two months, allowing for training events, social events and other meetings to happen in between.</p>	<p>KF to check dates with committee and councillors.</p>