

## Minutes of the Wokingham Borough Liberal Democrats Annual General Meeting 18th November 2023 4.00pm

In person at the Acorn Community centre and via Zoom

Present: David Bann, Adrian Betteridge (Chair), Roz Betteridge (Secretary, Prue Bray, Rob Comber, Stephen Conway, Rosemary Cook, David Cornish, Susan Cornish, Peter Dennis, Alexandra Domingue, Christine Evans, Paul Fishwick, Matteo Fumagalli, Maria Gee, Jill Hardie, David Hare, Carol Jewell, Clive Jones, Sheila Jordan, Bradeepan Kanagarajah, Ian MacKenzie, Tahir Maher, Keith Malvern, Morag Malvern, Andrew Mickleburgh, Al Neal, Stephen Newton, Mike Noak, Judith Ost, Pat Ost, Heather Richards, Beth Rowland, John Russell, Paul Sayers, Imogen Shepherd-DuBey, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey, Caroline Smith, Mike Smith, Will Szczerba, Lou Timlin, Bob Wharton.

In attendance: Lord Addington

### 1 Welcome and apologies

The chair welcomed everyone. Apologies had been received from Trevor Bottomley, Nicola Brock, Ralph Cutting, Lesley Doyle, Catherine Glover and Richard Hoyle.

### 2 Guest speaker - Lord Addington

Lord Addington gave an excellent talk on parliament, being the sports spokesman and the requirement for a flexible approach with regards to dyslexia and special educational needs in the education system. The chair thanked Lord Addington for his contribution.

### 3 Minutes of last meeting

Andrew Mickleburgh proposed acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM and Rob Comber seconded. The minutes were accepted with no votes against and 5 abstentions.

### 4 Chair's report on 2023

The Chair's report can be found here. [Chair.pdf](#) .

### 5 Questions on Branch Reports

There were no questions on any of the reports for the following branches. The branch reports can be found by clicking on the links below.

- a) Earley and Shinfield [Earley and Shinfield Branch Report.pdf](#)
- b) South East Wokingham  
[South East Wokingham Branch Report to Wokingham Borough Liberal Democrats Ann...](#)
- c) Twyford and Wargrave [Twyford Report 11-23.pdf](#)
- d) Woodley and Whitegates [Woodley and Whitegates Branch report Nov 2023.pdf](#)

### 6 Wokingham Borough Council Report

Stephen Conway extended his thanks to Adrian Betteridge, the exec, Paul Sayers, Will Szczerba and everyone who gives their time to help with the campaign. Stephen's report can be found here:

[Wokingham Borough Council Report to the Wokingham Borough Liberal Democrats Annual Ge...](#)

. In addition to the report Stephen spoke about the financial challenges that the Council faces, given that Wokingham receives the least out of all unitary authorities.

## 7 Finance Report

Rob Comber had provided a finance report which can be found here:

[Treasurer's report - AGM 2023.pdf](#) . Rob asked the meeting to a) note our acceptance of the accounts of 2022, approved by the Executive and submitted in Q1 2023 as required by PPERA and b) appoint an independent examiner. Rob had received agreement from Mike Forster, chairman of Bracknell Lib Dems to act as the independent examiner for this year's accounts.

Rob said we ended 2022 in a very good position largely as a result of a legacy received. However, our operation now bears no resemblance to 18 months ago which has been achieved by significant fundraising beyond the legacy. Rob thanked Clive Jones and Simon Curtis amongst others for their fundraising efforts and hoped this would continue along with urging all members to make some level of regular contribution.

## 8 Questions on Executive reports

There were no questions on the following reports which can be found below.

a) Membership [Membership Report 2023 AGM.pdf](#)

b) Diversity Champion [Diversity Report 2023.pdf](#)

c) Campaign Office [Campaign Office report.pdf](#)

## 9 Getting our message out

Lou Timlin gave another excellent on how we get our message out. We know what we want to do and we know how we want to do it, but we also need to get our message out about why we are doing it. Our 'why' is to make Wokingham Borough a great place to live. Our vision is to create a thriving and greener future. We need to move from being reactive and defensive and be more proactive. Heather Richards is doing a great job with our website and we have done a lot of work on social media as well as face to face and Focus leaflets. We're also using video too. We'll be building up our email communications. Lou encouraged everyone to be active on Facebook and Instagram.

## 10 Election of Executive and Officers for 2024

**Chair.** One valid nomination received for Adrian Betteridge. Elected.

**Vice-chair.** One valid nomination received for David Cornish. Elected.

**Treasurer.** One valid nomination received for Rob Comber. Elected.

**Secretary.** One valid nomination received for Roz Betteridge. Elected.

**Elections Officer.** One valid nomination received for Adrian Betteridge. Elected.

**Membership Development Officer.** One valid nomination received for Bob Wharton. Elected.

**Diversity Champion.** One valid nomination received for Lou Timlin. Elected.

**Ordinary members** (up to 3). Valid nominations received for Andrew Mickleburgh, Jill Hardie and Heather Richards. All 3 elected.

**Honorary President.** Stephen Newton was proposed and elected.

## 9 The Wokingham Parliamentary Campaign

Clive Jones gave an excellent talk on his campaign and the positive responses he was experiencing when canvassing and out and about. Clive said he is committed to being a full time MP and campaigning on the NHS, cost of living crisis and environment, especially the dumping of raw sewage in our rivers. Clive, if elected, will also be campaigning to restore public services; not just the NHS but the police, the courts and the probation services, education and the finance of local government. Clive will also be campaigning strongly for electoral reform.

Meeting closed 18.05