

Present: Craig Simmons, Matt Ledbury (chairing), Catherine Gundry, Kaddy Beck, Sue Tibbles, David Newman, Alison Williams, Chris Jarvis, Rowan Munson, Lucy Matheson, Colin Aldridge, Michelle Stewart, Elise Benjamin, Kate Robinson

Apologies: Hazel Dawe, Steve Dawe, Bob Waugh, Ruthi Brandt, Barrie Finch, Keno Junchems, and a message from Tim Foster living in Switzerland and just elected as a Green Councillor there; he says he finds inspiration in our online events and discussions.

1. Minutes of last meeting - AGREED with amendments

(i) Apologies from Alison to Steve Dawe who has volunteered to be a candidate in the Churchill & Lye Valley division, not David Newman as originally stated.

(ii) Amended the minutes in the item on elections, removing reference to most wards not being winnable.

2. Matters Arising

The Special Extraordinary Meeting will probably be on 17th September.

ACTION - Bob & Kaddy to finalise

3. Progress on Branch Structure and posts

Matt Ledbury explained that the 'ad hoc' group on the future of the branch agreed on at the last meeting had met twice online, and a variety of members who may be interested in holding posts had been approached. It had been agreed that the role of Chair would be better called 'Convenor' and other positions will be created related to what roles volunteers may be interested in. More volunteers are needed but Kaddy Beck & Bob Waugh had agreed in principle to be Co-Convenors. Key points for consideration are: -

- Can the Secretary role be rotated, and Kaddy agreed to post items on the web site if necessary?
- We should have an annual calendar of meetings/events planned – Ideas please to Kaddy.
- Subgroups could take on tasks related to branch issues & campaigns
- Business meetings kept shorter with no reports. Need to find other ways of increasing accountability e.g. meet the Councillors in which there were break out groups to chat and discuss issues.
- We must have a Treasurer and Convenor/Chair as is stated in the Constitution.

All suggestions will have to be approved at the Extraordinary Meeting in September.

Various questions & comments from Colin and Michelle about linking information from 60 Second Surveys across wards where top 3 issues/concerns for residents may be similar, and accountability of councillors' contact.

ACTION – Members to contact Kaddy or Bob with ideas about branch structure, or to volunteer for roles.

4. Identifying County Council target seats in Oxford East

David Newman gave a presentation, explaining that he and Matt had completed the Green Party Ward Selection Tool using information available to them.

A detailed discussion with comments from Rowan, Colin, Chris and Michelle about the number of target wards and funding of the elections. The assumptions made by the Tool may be less reliable due to Covid conditions. We need really enthusiastic candidates, discussion of who could 'qualify' to be a candidate ensued. Craig reminded the meeting that there would be a review of Councils across the county which could change to become a Unitary authority, so our plans may have to be revised.

AGREED that the Iffley Fields & St Mary's division so far should be a target and possibility of others if more data comes in that supports this. We would then add to that recommendation to Viral Patel (campaign coordinator for the county elections).

ACTION - Anyone in wards who can give David additional information to help in the selection please contact him.

ACTION - Alison will inform OGP & Viral.

At this point in the meeting, 5 MINUTE BREAKOUT GROUPS were held to allow attendees to have discussions, including on what the Branch should do in the future.

ACTION - Any ideas etc as a result of these discussions please tell Kaddy.

5. Quiz Night

Sue Tibbles said she and Barrie Finch were working on questions as had been previously agreed, but no one else was doing work on the organisation of this. **AGREED** that after the September meeting the new officers should decide if and how to take this fundraiser and social event forward. Thanks were expressed to Sue and Barrie.

6. Target Ward reports

COWLEY – a link to the report from Hazel & Steve is on the website. Alison highlighted the work they were doing with a variety of community & action groups plus online Facebook and campaigning events in the media e.g. Cowley Area Transport Strategy, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, and the City Farm. The next Cowley Green View is now ready for distribution.

ACTION – Please can more people offer to help in Cowley with leafleting, social media and data entry.

ST MARY'S and DONNINGTON– Chris Jarvis highlighted the large turnout at online meetings which they are organising. Regarding the Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposals, a survey of attendees showed 84% were in favour. There are more events planned; the next one is Larry Sanders on 14th August. Videos of past events will eventually be available on the OGP website.

ACTION - More volunteers needed for distribution of the next ward newsletter please.

7. Reports

(i) Treasurer – Bob had sent a report in, Thanks to Nuala for getting the chocolates for Kate Rowarth. The account currently stands at £552.68.

(ii) Development Work with Volunteers – Kaddy Beck's report is linked online, there are 15 people now on the phone bank (including Catherine Gundry & Rowan Munson) who have been contacting members; 5 new volunteers & 1 donor have resulted so far. All agreed this is excellent work which is essential to building the strength of the Branch. Thanks were expressed to all who have been doing this work.

(iii) Councillors Report – Craig Simmons the full Council meeting was online this week. He and Dick Wolff presented 14 questions and 3 motions. One asking the Council to adopt the principles for a Green recovery was agreed and hoped to take it to the County Growth Board too. They are also pushing for the Council to adopt the 'Donut Economics' approach. Some good presentations from green members of the public including Colin Aldridge also helped bring issues to the notice of other political parties. They called the Council to account for banning food street traders whilst allowing outdoor markets; the Council said they hadn't banned these just not issued licences!

(iv) Trade Union issues – Sue Tibbles had sent a report (put online after the meeting as Alison did not forward it - apologies). BMW Covid cases are of concern. The TU at the plant isn't contacting the Trades Council. The Fiscal Studies Report shows that Oxford Brookes University is starting to struggle with funding; this may lead to redundancies and needs to be monitored by anyone with links to the university. Alison mentioned the importance of retaining free TV licences for the elderly and asked us to support this where possible. Sue announced there will be a Green Party Trade Union meeting on Sunday 9th August please contact her for the password etc.

8. AOB

- The South East Greens Summer Regional Gathering will take place online on 1st August. Caroline Lucas is speaking and there will be sessions on various themes. All members should have received an email about it, and are encouraged to attend.
- Michelle asked about the funding for Liveable Streets and was it the Government money; Craig replied it was to County Walking & Cycling Plan funding (LCWIP).
- Kate gave details of OGP events coming up, including the monthly online social on Friday 31 July and OGP online Film Club on 7 August based on the film 20/40.

NEXT MEETING: Matt asked if we should have a meeting in August or a social event. **ALL AGREED that we should have a Social Event distanced at a local pub or other venue - please make suggestions to Bob or Kaddy asap.**