

## **Bromley Borough Liberal Democrats**

### **Motion to AGM to Approve Changes to the Constitution November 2017**

**The AGM is asked to approve:-**

- 1. Change the Local Party constitution as set out in points 1 and 2 below.**
- 2. Change the Local Party constitution as set out in point 3 below.**
- 3. Change the Local Party constitution as set out in point 4 below.**

#### Background

The current constitution of the Bromley Borough Liberal Democrat Local Party is shown in Appendix A. The current constitution was created in 2013 when the three Constituency Local Parties of Orpington, Bromley & Chislehurst, and Beckenham, were merged, largely due to the then lack of viability of separate organisations.

In the last two years, increased membership and campaigning activity have resulted in significant changes in the way the Local Party operates.

These proposals fall into two sections.

Firstly, those made by the current Executive to:

- Regularise and democratise the structure of the Executive and its sub-committees
- Clarify the appointment of Trustees to manage the Local Party premises at 7 Station Road, Orpington.
- Remove reference to 'Conference Representatives' as the national Party has now moved to 'One member One Vote' at Conference and all members are entitled to attend.
- Banking – acknowledging the move to online transactions amend the signatory requirements
- Make other minor drafting and typographical corrections

A copy of Constitution showing the proposed changes is shown in Appendix B

The proposed changes are:

- 1. Adding and electing Chairs of the principal Executive Sub Committees as Officers of the Local Party and thereby as members of the Executive.**

Replace existing clause 5.1 defining the officers of the Local Party with:

5.1 The Officers of the Local Party shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair (Campaigns), Secretary, Treasurer, Data Officer, Membership Development Officer, Chair of Campaign Committee, Chair of Policy Forum, Publicity and Social Media Officer and Chair of the Fundraising and Social Committee. Their duties shall include:

:

Remove the paragraph about the duties of the vice-chair as this is now covered in (h) below.

Add to the role of the Treasurer:

*(d) ...to convene a Finance and General Purposes Committee to include the Trustees, the Chair of the Campaign Committee and the Chair of the Fundraising Committee.*

Insert the following:

(f) The Publicity and Social Media Officer - to: convene a subcommittee and working groups of social media and publicity experts and enthusiasts; advise, develop and deploy an effective social media and publicity operation in support of Local Party activities and campaigning; be a member of the Campaign Committee on communication matters.

(g) The Chair of the Campaigns Committee - to: act as Vice Chair to the Local Party Executive, deputising for the Chair as required; in accordance with a Terms of Reference agreed and reviewed periodically by the Executive to convene a Campaign Committee to include the Local Party's Agent/Organiser PLUS the Local Council candidates for target wards OR, during a general election campaign, the candidates and their organisers and agents; prepare and agree with the Executive a campaign strategy.

(h) The Chair of the Policy Forum - to: propose and manage a programme of regular meetings of the membership to consider and develop local and national policies including input to national Party Conference resolution; convene a subcommittee and working groups of subject specialists to advise and develop effective policy and provide input to campaigns; be a member of the Campaign Committee on policy matters.

(i) The Chair of the Fundraising and Social Committee - to: propose and manage a programme of fund raising activities including but not limited to social activities of the membership; convene a subcommittee of activists to support and engage in both fundraising and social activities.

Increase the representation of the parts of the borough without a branch – amend para 5.3 (b) as follows:

(b) 2 representatives from each Branch within the Borough, and 2 representatives of members in parts of the Borough without Branches;

## **2. Appointment of Trustees for 7 Station Road Orpington**

The changes make the appointment of trustees by the Executive more specific and clarifies that they are not members of the Executive unless otherwise appointed. It updates the clause to accommodate that the 'existing' trustees are not the 'initial' trustees. Replace existing clause 5.11 defining the Trustees of the Local Party with:

*5.11 There shall be four Trustees of the Local Party, who shall be members of the Party but not necessarily of the Executive. The Executive has the power at its discretion from time to time to appoint and remove Trustees, and shall remove any Trustee who has ceased to be a member of the Party, or become incapable of acting or unwilling to act. The Trustees shall hold the Lease of 7 Station Road Orpington on trust for the Local Party or, in the circumstances described in clause 11.7, on trust for the Regional Party, or as the Regional Party may direct. In the event that an Orpington Local Party shall be reconstituted, the Trustees shall hold such Lease on trust for such Local Party. The Trustees, following the instructions of the Executive of the Local or Regional Party, shall be indemnified by them against any personal liability.*

### **3. Removing Conference Representatives from the Constitution.**

In Paragraphs 2.1, 5.5, 6.0, 6.1, 6.3, 6.6. 7.2.(d) and (g) remove all reference to Conference Representatives and renumber accordingly.

### **4. Amend requirement for signatories on bank accounts.**

Taking into account that most transactions are now done online and the existence of a Paypal account, amend para 10.7 to read:

“The Local Party shall maintain one or more bank or other appropriate accounts in the name of the Local. The Local Party may maintain further accounts for the deposit of money not required for the time being. The Local Party may also hold an account with Paypal. The signatories to these accounts must be approved by the Executive”.