**The Croydon Liberal Democrats**

**Annual General Meeting 2019**

**Minutes**

**Meeting**

Date: Thursday 23 January 2020

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Location: Bedford Hall, Wellesley Road, Croydon

**Attended**

Christopher Babbs

Gillian Babbs

Andrew Barrett

Claire Bonham *(Chair)*

Luke Bonham

Michael Burrows

Mark Chalmers

James Clark

Jean Cook

Janet Dixon

Valerie Evans

Ken George

Adrian Glendinning

Martin Hammond

Gill Hickson

John Jefkins

Anna Jones

Chris Jordan

Pat Knight

Peter Ladanyi

Ian Leonard

Drew Lindon

Helen Lishmund

Keith Miller

John Preston

Alan Reynolds

Simon Sprague

Andrew Thynne

Dug Tremellen *(minutes)*

**Apologies**

Samantha Barber

Michael Bishopp

Tomas Howard-Jones

Anna Ruse

Anne Viney

Steve Viney

Susan Watson

**Proceedings**

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| **Item** | **Description** |
| **1** | **Welcome and introductions** |
| 1.1 | **Claire Bonham** welcomed all present to the meeting. |
| **2** | **Apologies for absence** |
| 2.1 | Apologies for absence were received from those named at the head of this document. |
| **3** | **Minutes of the previous meeting** |
| 3.1 | The [minutes of the 2018 AGM](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ldcroydon/pages/498/attachments/original/1572213833/2018_AGM_final_draft_minutes_Croydon_LIberal_Democrats.pdf?1572213833) were agreed to be an accurate record of that meeting, and were approved. |
| **4** | **Reports** |
| **A** | **Chair’s report** |
| 4.1 | **Claire Bonham**, Chair, relayed highlights from the [Chair’s report](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ldcroydon/pages/498/attachments/original/1572211093/Croydon_Liberal_Democrats_Chair's_Report_2019.pdf?1572211093) on the year’s activities circulated to all member’s ahead of the meeting.  This report had been prepared ahead of the General Election in December 2019 (for which the date of the AGM was changed from November 2019 to January 2020). Adding to her report, Claire thanked members and supporters for their hard work during the campaign, and noted that whilst the national result was disappointing, locally we secured an improved result across Croydon’s three constituencies. |
| 4.2 | Immediately prior to the General Election in December, the party had also fought a council by-election in Fairfield Ward, and several persons present expressed their gratitude to **Andrew Rendle** for fronting the campaign and noted that, in this campaign too, we had increased our vote share. |
| 4.3 | Reflecting on the General Election campaign, **Pat Knight**, **Anna Jones**, **John Preston** and **John Jefkins** noted that national factors made for a challenging campaign in Croydon, including the party’s Brexit message, the lack of support from tactical voting website’s and difficulty ‘squeezing’ pro-European voters who were fearful of a Corbyn government.  **Claire Bonham** encouraged those present to contribute to the party’s review of the election with any comments they had regarding the national campaign. |
| 4.4 | Reflecting on campaigning for the General Election in Croydon itself, **Martin Hammond** commended the launch event and **James Clark** observed that there had been continued success in growing the activist base.  **Helen Lishmund** suggested that the party could usefully strengthen its doorstep and telephone canvassing in future campaigning, given the great value of making contact with voters over and above leaflets alone. |
| 4.5 | Those present expressed their thanks to the candidates, agents and activists who had contributed to the election campaigns. |
| 4.6 | Looking to the year ahead, **Claire Bonham** noted that the London elections in May 2020 offered opportunities as our liberal values still resonate well here, and the EU elections of 2019 showed that we can win pan-London elections. Claire also expressed a hope that our local party would be able to make more of the party’s recently launched supporter’s scheme in the coming year. |
| 4.7 | **Martin Hammond** suggested that Siobhan Benita’s messages on school exclusions and knife crime were particularly relevant for Croydon. **Gill Hickson** suggested that ‘inclusion’ units and mental health work were particularly important for tackling the issue. |
| **B** | **Treasurer’s report** |
| 4.8 | **Adrian Glendinning**, Treasurer, [reported on the local party’s accounts](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ldcroydon/pages/498/attachments/original/1572213738/accounts-2018.pdf?1572213738) for the calendar year 2018. (Note not the calendar year 2019, on which the Chair reported).  Expenditure for the year (£6,784) was £2,117 less than the year prior, however the year prior had included a General Election.  Income for the year (£4,964) was down £1,983 from the year before.  As a result the local party finances finished 2018 calendar year £1,820 down, with £1,696 in the bank.  **Alan Reynolds**, **Anna Jones** and **Claire Bonham** noted their concern, and that fundraising and expenditure would need to become a key focus for the party in future years, as these accounts showed the party made a substantial loss in 2017 and 2018. |
| 4.9 | **Adrian Glendinning** noted that the local party was no longer receiving a meaningful proportion of membership subscriptions under a new funding formula introduced by the national party, and asked that all present considered making a standing order payment to the local party – reducing their membership subscription accordingly if necessary – in order to help secure the local party’s finances.  **Anna Jones** asked what proportion of members were making a standing order contribution, and suggested that the party look to increase this. Adrian reported that he would need to calculate the proportion, but agreed before also noting that standing order contributions had increased substantially in recent times, showing that it can be done. |
| 4.10 | **Drew Lindon** asked how much the party needed in income in the coming calendar year (2020), and suggested that the party set a fundraising target accordingly which the party then reported on to members through the year so that progress against this target was transparent. **Adrian Glendinning** suggested the party should be aiming for a minimum income of around £5,000 for the year. **Claire Bonham** noted that the executive should decide on what we wanted to achieve during the year and what it would cost to fund that, and set our fundraising targets accordingly.  **Pat Knight** noted that events for members were a tried-and-tested means by which to raise funds. |
| 4.11 | **Peter Ladanyi** noted that campaign expenditure in 2019 (note not the same period covered by Treasurer’s report) had been closer to £9,000, and suggested that fundraising targets for next year should bear this in mind. This expenditure had been covered through donations raised specifically for the campaign. **Keith Miller** noted that the party had retained its deposits in the General Election, which was a help to campaign finances too. |
| **5** | **Election of Honorary President** |
| 5.1 | **Michael Bishopp**, Honorary President, has expressed a wish to step down. **Claire Bonham** paid tribute to Michael, and asked for the Executive to be allowed some time to identify a new president. Claire will report back to members when this has happened. |
| **6** | **Election of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2020** |
| 6.1 | **Dug Tremellen**, Secretary, reported on nominations received. |
| 6.2 | The 2020 Executive Committee will be:  Officers:   * **Claire Bonham** – Chair * **Simon Sprague** – Secretary * **Mark Chalmers** – Treasurer * **Chris Jordan** – Data Officer * **Tomas Howard**-**Jones –** Membership Development Officer   Members and representatives:   * **Adrian Glendinning** – Ordinary Member * **Gill Hickson** – Ordinary Member * **Anna Jones** – Ordinary Member * **John Preston** – Ordinary Member * **Pat Knight** – Constituency Representative, Croydon South * **Jean Cook** – Constituency Representative, Croydon South * **Peter Ladanyi** – Constituency Representative, Croydon Central * **James Clark** – Constituency Representative, Croydon North * **Dug Tremellen** – Constituency Representative, Croydon North   Additionally, **John Jefkins** and **Keith Miller** expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Executive Committee.  As a result, no contested elections are to be held. |
| 6.3 | **Claire Bonham** thanked **Adrian Glendinning** and **Dug Tremellen** for their contribution as local party officers, and noted that she was glad that both would remain on the Executive as members/representatives for the year ahead. |
| **7** | **Appointment of an Independent Examiner for 2019 accounts** |
| 7.1 | The meeting agreed to the appointment of Andrew Forrester as Independent Examiner for 2019 accounts. |
| **8** | **Close and reception** |
| 8.1 | **Claire Bonham** thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting. The meeting was followed by an informal reception. |

**Document control**

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| **Issue** | **Version description** |
| 15/02/20 11:43 – this document | Final draft for circulation to attendees. For approval at 2020 AGM. |