

**GREENWICH BOROUGH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Minutes
19:30, Wednesday, 16 November 2016
Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE**

Present: David Abrahams, Kieran Bradley, Emma Brindley, Stewart Christie (chair), Dylan Christie, Anthony Durham, Nick Edelshain, Sheila Field, Paul Gentry, Morten Hagen, Mark Harris, Matthew Huntbach, Sam Macaulay, Suzanne Miller, Rhian O'Connor, Mark Pattenden, Richard Penn, Mark Smith, Bonnie Soanes, Franklin Steves, Barbara Woodcraft, Brian Woodcraft

The Chair opened the meeting at 1943

1. **Apologies for absence:** David Bufton, Ian Gerrard
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday, 21 October 2015**

These were accepted as corrected.

3. **Reports from:**

- 3.1. **Chair** – Stewart Christie

The party has had a very hard year, with regard to the GLA elections, where we won 1 seat across London, and the EU referendum. Julia Fletcher stood for Greenwich & Lewisham and campaigned very well. In the past 18 months the local party membership has increased from just over 100 to more than 3 times that. Many have joined since the referendum result, including from other parties. In two council by-elections this year we improved our position, going from last in Glyndon ward to 3rd place (Stewart Christie; 8% of the vote) and from 5th place in Eltham North to 3rd (Sam Macaulay). Labour and the Tories both thanked us for taking votes off the other side. The situation looks hopeful for Blackheath Westcombe and Greenwich West. Stewart will work to build up local branches. He stressed the importance of standing in wards where we can't win as well as wards where we can win.

- 3.2. **Treasurer** – Mark Pattenden

Our bank balance has increased from a little over £5000 at the end of December 2015 to almost £6000 (Appendix 1). He explained that our sources of funds include membership rebates from the national party (plus a bonus when our membership goes up, and a double bonus if it goes up by more than 10 in one quarter) and standing orders from members. Regular small standing orders are useful, providing predictability. We should plan for the 2018 borough elections, to help give us credibility for later ones.

- 3.3. **Acting Membership Development Officer** – Paul Gentry

We've had a very successful year for membership. Last October we had 226 members and as of this evening, 373. Just as there had been a spike in new members after the general election last year, we had a spike post referendum, mainly consisting of people joining unsolicited. We have a huge opportunity to go out and recruit.

Morten asked about statistics on ethnic breakdown. Stewart says new members are getting surveys to find about diversity, and this information will be fed to local parties. Stewart says we are far more diverse than before the coalition. David asked if we are planning events to welcome new members as other parties do. Paul replied that we had one in July and although a by-election has intervened we have more in mind.

As the party grows, it becomes unwieldy to manage from the Borough level. The Exec hopes to set up branches defined by local areas rather than using the present ward names, because boundaries will probably change before 2018. Organization into local branches should let us devolve responsibility.

We've had only a handful of resignations, in response to our stance on Brexit.

Anthony reminded the meeting that ordinary members are welcome at Exec meetings.

3.4. Conference attendees

We are the only party that lets ordinary members set policy. The Spring conference will be in York, the autumn one, in Brighton.

Rhian, summarizing for various people who went, said she had been a little intimidated last year (her first) and had prepared more this year. She concentrated on campaigning and time management training and policy on sex work and refugees. Rhian's message is that you need to look at the agenda in advance and use the conference app to make the most of it.

Bonnie pointed to problems that disabled people can encounter at Conference. This year he went to training sessions on election law and on data protection.

Emma focused this year on the exhibition centre and worked on the expert desk. She valued the chance to share ideas.

4. Guest speaker/discussion

Stewart reported that we had hoped to have Chris Adams (Parliamentary Spokesperson for Greenwich & Woolwich) speak, but he couldn't be here because of the concentration of effort at the Richmond Park by-election. After the referendum, the party decided that we were under emergency procedures, and we spent time this summer trying to choose Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in case there's an election in May.

In the absence of a guest speaker, we went on to a discussion of our party's stance on the referendum: we respect the vote and respect that a majority of those voting wish to leave, but believe that unless people have a choice about the terms of exit we will vote against triggering Article 50. This is not the same as wanting to re-run the referendum, but we want to see the plan and to have a chance to vote on it:

5. Motions to AGM – no motions were submitted

6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

The following were elected:

Chair: Kieran Bradley

Vice-Chair: David Abrahams

Secretary: Suzanne Miller

Treasurer: Mark Pattenden

Membership Development Officer: Rhian O'Connor

Data Officer: Paul Gentry

Youth & Student Officer: None

Executive Committee Members: Brian Woodcraft, Bonnie Soanes, Anthony Durham, Mark Smith, Nick Edelshain, Franklin Steves, 2 vacancies

7. To note the Accounts for 2015 (Appendix 2)

Stewart proposed, Sam seconded, and the accounts were noted.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2016 Local Party Accounts

Haysmaclntyre were approved.

9. 100 Club draw

Mark Pattenden drew the following winners:

September: (1st) Harry Potter (2nd) Bonnie Soanes (3rd) Ian Gerrard

October: (1st) Paul Gentry (2nd) David Beaumont (3rd) Sylvia Derrick-Reeve

10. Any other business

Sam Macaulay thanked all those who had worked on his campaign in Eltham North, which was a major success. He thinks that a branch structure would be helpful in formulating policies for local campaigning. In order to have candidates from each local ward, we need to engage more members from across the ward.

Liberal Democrat conferences no longer require that local party representatives be chosen; members may simply register and attend.

Anthony and Rhian urged us to go to Richmond Park.

Mark Pattenden thanked Stewart for his work as chair.

David Abrahams appealed to new members to feed suggestions to the Exec, especially to Kieran.

The meeting closed at 2127.

Appendix 1

Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats
Report on financial position
Current position as at 15 November 2016



	£	£
Opening balance		
Current account		256.05
Deposit account		3,513.11
Christmas Draw profit due		140.20
GBLD 100 Club profit due		493.80
Administration due to Suzanne		(59.40)
Service payment due		786.00
		<u>5,129.76</u>
Income		
Standing order income	743.00	
Membership service fee rebate	1,913.91	
Donations	290.41	
GBLD 100 Club profit	3.40	
Christmas Draw	-	
Bank interest	11.04	
		<u>2,961.76</u>
Fundraising		
Pizza & Politics events		20.00
Quiz night proceeds	385.00	
Raffle proceeds	56.50	
Room hire costs	(172.00)	
Food	(172.00)	
		<u>97.50</u>
Expenses		
Administration costs		
Post-Election campaigning costs	(448.50)	
Website expenses	(131.07)	
Room hire	(88.80)	
Royal Mail Freepost licence	(112.80)	
Association subscriptions	(97.00)	
Online donation transaction costs	-	
		<u>(878.17)</u>
Campaigning expenditure		
Printing expenses etc	(636.00)	
Newspapers provided by London Region	(125.00)	
Glyndon by-election	(332.50)	
Eltham North by-election	(276.00)	
		<u>(1,369.50)</u>
Current financial position		<u><u>5,961.35</u></u>
Closing balance		
Current account		2,482.20
Deposit account		3,524.15
Paypal account		231.00
By-election expenses		(276.00)
		<u>5,961.35</u>
Forthcoming estimated membership rebates		
Q3 payable in January 2017	1,319.11	

Appendix 2

**Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats
Report on financial position
Final position as at 31 December 2015**



	£	£
Opening balance		
Current account		3,031.25
Deposit account		2,013.11
Debtors - amounts due to the party		607.80
Creditors - amounts to be paid		(621.13)
		<u>5,031.03</u>
Income		
Standing order income	858.00	
Membership service fee rebate	1,816.86	
Q3 membership service fee rebate due	786.00	
Donations	476.20	
GBLD 100 Club profit	493.80	
Contribution from Bexley Lib Dems	500.00	
Christmas Draw	140.20	
Bank interest	4.81	
		5,075.87
Fundraising		
General Election appeal	<u>1,005.00</u>	1,005.00
Expenses		
Administration costs	(660.18)	
Pre-Election campaigning costs	(277.00)	
Website expenses	(122.40)	
Room hire & refreshments	(218.40)	
Royal Mail Freepost licence	(114.11)	
Association subscriptions	(97.00)	
Online donation transaction costs	(4.55)	
		(1,493.64)
2015 General Election costs		
Printing expenses etc	(2,029.00)	
Paid to Greenwich & Woolwich campaign	(259.50)	
Lost deposits at general election	<u>(1,000.00)</u>	(3,288.50)
2016 London Assembly costs		
Printing expenses etc	(1,200.00)	
		(1,200.00)
Current financial position		<u>5,129.76</u>
Closing balance		
Current account		256.05
Deposit account		3,513.11
Christmas Draw profit due		140.20
GBLD 100 Club profit due		493.80
Administration due to Suzanne		(59.40)
Service payment due		786.00
		<u>5,129.76</u>