

Minutes of AGM of Lewisham Liberal Democrats 25 October 2018

23 members were present. Apologies were received from Marie Belsey, Rick Hebditch, Rosalind Huish and Mark Rochell.

Minutes of the AGM in November 2017 were accepted and signed. There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report.

Sarah Morris reported on an eventful year, which included Council by-elections and a Parliamentary by-election in Lewisham East. We finished in a clear second place in two target wards in the former, as well as in the Parliamentary by-election, where we increased our vote by nearly 20% after a well-organised campaign. Since then we have been continuing our campaign for an Exit from Brexit.

Treasurer's Report

The circulated statement relates to 2017, at the end of which we had a balance of £6,322. Our funds now stand at £12,000, thanks to some very generous donations which effectively paid the costs of this year's elections. We can no longer rely on income from the membership rebate, which has boosted our funds over the last couple of years, as it is being discontinued in its current form. In answer to a question about the expected cost of forthcoming elections, Mark Bennett said the last GLA elections cost approx £6,000 and we could expect to spend around £3,000 on EU elections if they are held next year.

Membership Secretary's report

We currently have around 700 members, a drop of 10% from this time last year. Eight wards (including those we targeted in the local elections) have in excess of 50 members, with the largest increase being in Telegraph Hill and Brockley. Retention of members continues to be a priority.

Conference Report

Chris Maines explained that all members can now attend Conference with full voting rights. There is a wide range of fringe events, social gatherings and training as well as the main debates. This year the new Registered Supporters scheme was approved and questions were submitted on Land Value Tax and rogue landlords. Issues with private renting, including HMOs, remain an important campaigning topic in Lewisham.

Election of Officers and other Exec members. The following were duly nominated and elected unopposed:

Chair– Peter George, Vice Chairs – Rosalind Huish and Ian Kearns, Treasurer – Mark Bennett, Secretary – Janet Hurst, Data Officer – Vijay Naidu, Membership Development Officers – Mark Morris and Chris Maines, Social Events Organiser – Maggie Clarke, Press Officer – Rick Hebditch, Youth & Student Officer – Ed Hateley, Diversity Champion – Bunmi Wajero, other Exec members – Margot Wilson, Lucy Salek (with responsibility for campaigns)..

AOB

The London Region Conference is due to take place soon, and our Mayoral candidate and GLA List candidates will be announced. This will give them 18 months in which to campaign for election in 2020.