

Liverpool and Halewood Liberal Democrats AGM minutes Saturday 9th November 2019

Present: Stephen Fitzsimmons, Stephen Atkinson, Graham Hulme, Alan Tormey, Pat Cunningham, Kevin Manley, Abila Pointing, Fiona McBride, Kris Brown, Chris Collins, Lee Rowlands, Barbara Collinge, Harry Collinge, Anthony Lee, Susan Evans, Pat Maloney, Liz Makinson, Andrew Makinson, Wiebke Rueterjans, Joe Slupsky, Raphael Levy, Erica Kemp, Richard Kemp, Noah Sorensen, Gary Wilson, Jennifer Turner, Rebecca Turner, Katie Turner-Wilson, Caroline Horsman, Steve Gavin, Ellie Gavin, Dr. Shiv Pande, Richard Bentall, Alex Cottrell, Rob McAllister-Bell, Norman Darbyshire.

Apologies: Martin Hudson, Pete Murray, Pat Cunningham, Karen Afford, Peter Rainford, Tracey Best.

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. Nominations and election of executive officers:-

EK raised a change in the constitution to support additional roles on the executive, this was approved.

- a. Chair – Erica Kemp
- b. Vice Chair – Paul Clark and Wiebke Rueterjans
- c. Secretary – Fiona McBride
- d. Treasurer – Pat Maloney
- e. membership development officers – Alan Tormey and Gary Wilson
- f. data officer – Chris Collins
- g. equality and diversity officer – Tracey Best

3. Election of further members of the executive:

Graham Hulme asked for executive meetings (times/dates/locations) to be widely advertised to the membership.

- a. social media officer – Alex Cottrell
- b. city agent and organiser – Kris Brown and Lee Rowlands
- c. four officers without portfolio (2 of these positions must be held by women*) – Norman Mills, Dr Shiv Pande, Abila Pointing, Steve Atkinson. *We did not get 2 women standing for these positions. It was agreed to allow 3 males to 1 female.
- d. youth officer – Rebecca Turner

4. Treasurer's report

The full report will be circulated in early February. Joe Slupsky audited the accounts and all was found to be in order. Currently we are proceeding well financially (not in debit) only spending what are able to afford. However, we are short ~ £2000 in order to get through the current general election and have a reserve and extras for the Christmas cards. If you would like to see the full accounts contact Richard Kemp.

Joe Slupsky agreed to audit the accounts again this year.

5. Policy motions and changes to the constitution

No policy motions were received ahead of the AGM.

Small change to the constitution was agreed, regarding allowing additional executive officers roles and supporting roles.

6. A.O.B

Erica Kemp thanked all outgoing and incoming members of the executive and all who have contributed. Also mentioned aspirations for the coming year including re-invigorating the youth group (hopefully via the youth officer) and establishing a north Liverpool Lib. dem. group.

Alan Tormey gave a summary of the local membership and supporters, we now have ~ 486 across the whole city, with members now in every single ward. We recruited a number of members (30) during Liverpool pride 2019. We have had ~143 new members join since January 2019. We have been growing in terms of membership since 2015.

Erica Kemp thanked Alan Tormey for his work on membership and keeping people engaged and in the party.

7. Introduction of our Parliamentary Candidates

The candidates for West Derby and Walton couldn't attend.

Erica Kemp introduced Kris Brown (candidate for Garston and Halewood), Kris spoke about the campaign, building a legacy and stopping Brexit. Encouraged members to get involved in the campaign. Also encouraged members to help in the Southport, Cheadle and Hazel Grove campaigns.

Erica Kemp introduced Richard Kemp (candidate for Wavertree), Richard spoke about his campaign with main areas of focus being stopping Brexit, climate change, education and health. This campaign is also building the bricks for 2020 when there is an election for a police and crime commissioner, city mayor, region mayor and local councillors all on one day! Richard also spoke about campaigning both in the 'old' way (door knocking, delivering leaflets etc.) and 'new' way (recording videos for social media). Encouraged members to get involved as there is lots to do in the campaign, including encouraging financial donations.

Erica Kemp introduced Rob McAllister-Bell (candidate for Riverside), he spoke about his campaign. Also spoke more widely about his ambitions for the Liverpool Lib. dems again controlling the council. Encouraged the members to donate – highlighting that without money we are unable to campaign fully.

Raphael Levy raised a question regarding that he feels the campaign needs more urgency, as from a France-Jewish background he is very concerned about the culture in the local Labour party/views of the Labour party candidates standing in Liverpool both as regards Brexit and anti-Semitism. Also queried why we haven't brokered a deal with the Greens (unite to remain). Richard Kemp answered that we are campaigning, we have also been in contact with the Merseyside Jewish representation council. Richard has had not response from the leader of the Greens in Liverpool regarding brokering a deal/election pact. We need the Jewish community to challenge Labour candidates. We also need people to organise hustings to hold all candidates to account, we are not afraid to defend our position. Andrew Makinson also added that on all messaging (social media and physical leaflets etc.) we will highlight the pro-Brexit views expressed by some of the Labour candidates so that the voters are fully aware of this.

