

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Liberal Democrats, at the Mercure Rougemont Hotel Exeter Saturday, 25th November 2017

1. Welcome

Adam Killeya, from the Chair, welcomed attendees, and Dave Browne read the apologies he'd received.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 2016 AGM, previously circulated, were approved nem-con as a correct record.

3. Chair's Report

Adam Killeya started with a one minute's silence for members who had passed away in the year. He then touched upon the key points in his previously circulated report, and read out his thanks from the report. Adam then gave special thanks to Sheila Hobden on her retirement, saying that we all knew that the first rule of elections is that if you don't stand you can't win, but it was not always clear how much effort goes into ensuring that we actually have candidates in General Elections. This includes ensuring that we get people approved and that we have Returning Officers; but also this year it meant that when the Prime Minister had a special moment and called a snap election, conjuring up a full slate of eighteen candidates at very short notice. What makes this herculean task all the more admirable is that our outgoing Regional Candidates' Chair had actually intended to take a well-deserved retirement at the end of last year, but allowed him, perhaps unwisely, to persuade her to stay on for one more year to see out the snap election 'scare', and to help the transition to her successor. Adam took the opportunity to publicly acknowledge Sheila Hobden's contribution to the party over several years, to congratulate her on getting out before the next election, and he made a small presentation to her in token of our appreciation.

Vanessa Newcombe then thanked Adam, who was standing down as Chair, on behalf of the members.

4. Report from the Parliamentary Parties in Westminster

There was none.

5. Presentation & Approval of Accounts from the previous financial year

Chris Cooke said he had circulated these around the meeting. Adam Killeya moved acceptance of the Accounts for 2016. This was carried nem con.

6. Treasurers Report and Outline Budget For 2018

Chris Cooke circulated around the meeting a report for 2017, noting that since they were printed there had been a £4,000 payment into the accounts. His report was accepted.

7. The appointment of a person to produce an independent report on the accounts

An independent person to report on the Accounts for the year had not been approached, and after discussion, Derris Watson suggested Ian Tunbridge; the meeting gave power to the Treasurer and Chair to choose an independent assessor.

8. Motion A

“That the subscription income remitted to the Regional Party by the Party in England (as determined under Article 6 of the Articles of the Party in England) shall for 2018 be divided between the Regional Party and the Local Parties as to 100% to the Regional Party.” After an explanation of what this applied to, it was carried nem-con.

9. Elections the year 2018

The Returning Officer, Richard Pinnock, conducted this part of the meeting.

a. Officers

For **Chair** he had the nominations from Gail Bones and Vanessa Newcombe, and explained as the position of Chair was contested, it would be decided by 'One Member One Vote', by the entire membership voting after a mailing from HQ, to close on 7th December and counted on the 8th December.

For **Vice-Chair** he read the nomination of Simon Taylor and said as unopposed he would be elected.

For **Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee** he read the nomination of **Iain MacDonald** and said as unopposed he would be elected.

For **Chair of the Regional Conference Committee** there were no nominations.

For **Secretary** he read the nomination of **Dave Browne** and said as unopposed he would be elected.

For **Treasurer** he read the nomination of **Christopher Cook** and said as unopposed he would be elected.

b. For **Digital IT Officer** he had received no nominations.

For **Diversity Champion** he read the nomination of **David Chalmers** and said as unopposed he was elected.

For **Fundraising Lead** he read the nomination of **Adam Atkins** and said as unopposed he would be elected.

c. For the post of **Honorary President** he had no nominations.

d. For the 4 members of the **Regional Candidates Committee** he had two valid nominations: for **Dave Browne and Sheila Hobden**, leaving two vacancies.

e. For the 5 members of the **Regional Conference Committee** he had one valid nomination: **Dave Browne** who would be elected, leaving four vacancies.

f. For the 6 representatives on the **English Council**, Richard said he had valid nominations for **Vanessa Newcombe and Dave Browne**: they would be elected. This left four vacancies,

g,,h,,i. For the **Training Coordinator, Traditional Media Co-ordinator and Social Media Co-ordinator** there were no nominations.

Richard Pinnock declared all the above elected, and then re-opened nominations for the vacancies:

a. For **Chair of the Regional Conference Committee Eleanor Rylance** volunteered, and was declared elected.

b. For **Digital IT Officer, Martin Rigby** was volunteered and declared elected.

For **Fundraising Lead, Adam Atkins** was nominated and declared elected.

c. For the post of **Honorary President** the meeting nominated **Baroness Judith Jolly** and she was declared re-elected.

d. For the two remaining places on the **Regional Candidates Committee** there were nominations for **Gill Beswick and Keith Baldry**. They were elected.

e. For the four remaining places on the **Regional Conference Committee** there was only one nomination; **Judith Fletcher**.

f. For the four remaining places on the **English Council** the following were put forward: **Sheila Hobden, Chris Bones, Tom Deakin, Simon Taylor and David Chalmers**; and they were elected.

g. For the **Training Coordinator**, there were no volunteers.

h. For the **Traditional Media Co-ordinator Simon Taylor** volunteered and was elected.

i. For the **Social Media Co-ordinator Tom Deakin** said he was happy to be consulted but did not wish to be the Co-ordinator.

Ian MacDonald then was introduced to the meeting, and David Chalmers, the Diversity Officer, appealed for each Local Party Executive to appoint a 'Diversity Liaison Person'.

The meeting then closed at 18:20 hrs.