

# Minutes:

## Young Liberals Federal Executive Meeting

### 23/05/2020 (Virtual)

#### Apologies

Finn Conway, Finance Officer  
Sophie Thornton, Campaigns Officer  
Guy Benson, Non-Portfolio Officer

#### In Attendance

TC Tara Copeland, Chair  
DS Dan Schmeising, Communications Officer  
JB James Bliss, Policy Officer  
KM Katharine Macy, Diversity and Accessibility Officer  
CMcD Catriona McDougall, International Officer  
AH Alex Howarth, Membership Development Officer  
AR Andrew Reynolds, Chair, Scottish Young Liberals  
CH Chloe Hutchinson, Chair, Welsh Young Liberals  
JW Jack Worrall, Chair, English Young Liberals  
CF Chessie Flack, Liberal Democrat Youth and Student Development Officer

#### Late Attendance

FC Finn Conway, Finance Officer

#### No Apologies

Chris Annous, BAME Officer

#### Drafted and taken by:

Charlie Murphy, Vice Chair

#### Speaker Point

##### Approval of Previous Minutes

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>TC</b> | Proposes that this goes ahead in every meeting following to check up on progress.   |
| <b>JW</b> | Asks for minutes to be completed sooner for exec members to be made aware of action points and not need to rely on own notes.                               |
| <b>CH</b> | Notes that the Welsh Young Liberals Discord discussed in the last meeting has been created.   |
| <b>TC</b> | Suggests that none of the federal party advertising for Freshers, which was proposed in the last meeting by <b>DS</b> , can go ahead until we know what the |

campaigns will be.

***No further points to review, nor changes to the last meeting minutes.  
Minutes approved.***

### **Journal**

**TC** Informs the executive that we have been approached by individuals wishing to start a journal with an ideologically liberal perspective. They seek YL members as writers due to the ideology of the membership, but organisationally will not be affiliated to the party or YL.

**CH** Suggests using Facebook groups to promote, Young Liberals Forum or Lib Dem Friends of Careers for example.

**Others** *Voice support for CH's position. None to the contrary.*

### **Leadership Election**

**TC** Suggests questions to leadership candidates to inform members but YL not backing anyone in particular.

**DS** Proposes online hustings as the party has been planning.

**CH** Seeks clarification on officers using positions to promote candidates.

**JW** Believes officers should not be using positions to promote any candidate.

**TC** Officers should not use positions for endorsements, but may privately back any candidate. Will draft some questions which YL can then publish ourselves to allow members to get informed without YL endorsing a candidate.

**CM** Proposes a grid graphic with yes/no responses comparing the candidates on various issues which may be binary such as support for policy.

**JB** Suggests written answers should be internal issues, while checklist grid best reserved for more policy orientated issues.

**TC** Sets June as the aim to have these items finalised

*TC actioned to deal with written answers on internal matters, JB actioned to deal with policy checklist.*

### **General Election Review**

*Note: Discussion intended to be had with Ed Davey, however he could not make it to the meeting due to media commitments around the Dominic Cummings issue*

**JW** Raises the issue of skills and training, specifically the lack of availability. Believes YL should offer training specifically for younger people and that they have stronger skills in technology already.

**DS** Party already is offering lots more training at the moment. In Communications co-option manifesto, mentioned doing more comms webinars. Urges caution against generalising older members as being less skilled.

- AS** Hopes to have training out by next meeting depending on responses he receives. Investigating working with the federal party to fix the issue of a lack of centralisation around training, which currently fragments efforts.
- CF** Says it's no longer worth training people on NationBuilder due to Lighthouse being imminent. Has spoken with the party's Connect data officer, who's happy to do training for YL.
- CH** Wales will be aiming to support and develop more YL members in particular wards locally rather than broad General Election strategy.
- DS** Apologises for stepping on **ST's** portfolio. Says we have a tendency to be too scattergun and not focus our efforts enough, would prefer a couple of priority issues.
- JW** Says third iteration of the party's target seat list erased input which was previously taken into account. Believes that regional chairs should feature more in considerations about targets in their region.
- CF** Encourages the social side of the organisation so that people will have friends at events and thus be more likely to go. Suggests that she personally would be more likely to attend an event knowing that at least one friend would be attending.
- TC** Suggests zoom access for accredited societies.
- JB** Warns about being too university centric.
- CM** Suggests that discussion about action days be ultimately left to **ST** and Campaigns Committee to make a proposal to the exec.
- TC** Proposes the next round of elections trialling the idea of a nationwide day of action. Agrees with leaving this in the court of **ST** and Campaigns Committee

### **Ratification of the Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women and Girls**

- TC** Idea which **KM** asked to be put on the agenda
- KM** Says the campaign is a good idea and currently more relevant than ERASMUC+ which was the planned campaign. Highlights risk that it is exclusionary towards men and non-binary due to nature as a convention on violence against women and girls specifically.
- TC** Mentions that it not including men or non-binary shouldn't stand in the way of the issue.
- JB** This is in the party's manifesto, so an issue we can heartily campaign on.
- CH** Must be focused and have an aim
- TC** Suggests contacting spokespeople and have them raising questions on the issue.
- JB** The SNP have had a bill on this issue thrown out before, so proposes that there is scope for cross-party support.

- DS** Says this shouldn't go ahead now due to coronavirus. Believes this should be brought back after pandemic subsides.
- TC** Disagrees, cites marked increase in domestic violence and victims being trapped at home far more than usual.
- DS** Agrees, withdraws point.
- CH** Highlights Wales has signed this already, and likely Scotland has also.
- TC** Says **ST** and **Amy** to take the lead.
- JB** Raises that the ratification is a UK-wide issue for Westminster due to being an international convention.

### **Online Conference**

- CMcD** Raises that leadership election timeline may be an issue for conference since it is been changing and difficult to secure speakers as a result if they are candidates.
- TC** Suggests holding hustings during conference, solves speakers issue
- DS** Asks exec for input on how signup process should work.
- JW** Says we'll likely have little control over timing of hustings, so difficult to line up with conference.
- JB** Supports hustings rather than speeches.
- CF** Asks that if signup done through NB than assign tags, much easier than NationBuilder
- AH** Conference will be open to Young Liberals members, and hopes many under 30s too. If members put their society on signup and we don't recognise them , we can offer them accreditation.
- CMcD** Suggests evening event after conference for leadership.
- JW** Says we can trial things for the federal party conference which will also be virtual.
- JB** Encourages a backup plan for U30s.
- CH** Asks if conference will be open to non-members
- TC** Registered supporters should be allowed to attend, but there should be restrictions on their voting.
- CMcD** Technically could be difficult to exclude people from voting if they aren't members but in attendance.
- CF** Suggests waiting until we can see if we can differentiate between members and non-members.

### **BAME Officer Update**

**CF** Says we never heard back from LDCRE about lawyers. **CF** and Amy Westcott consulted and got that it is legal and probably winnable. Suggests changing the language because there is a potential to cause issues even if we'd win. 4 people's advice says change it, but the lawyer said it is legal.

**JB** Asks for consultation on views among the wider membership.

**KM** Has spoken to BME Representative who agrees with consultation and personally supports an elected BME Officer.

**JB** Believes BME Officer should be elected but reiterates consultation.

**JW** Expresses disappointment that we are bogged down in constitutional issues after initial energy last year.

**TC** Moves vote to confirm Pushkin Defyer as BME Officer. **Vote passes.**

### **Amendments**

**JB** Briefs exec on constitutional amendments which are in a supporting document for exec members to view.

**KM** Suggests Diversity Officer to be represented on committees

**CMcD** Makes exec aware of plans to amend around IFLRY

***CM and KM agree to take on amendments in their name so not all are moved by JB.***

### **AOB**

**CH** Suggests a process for dealing with welfare concerns that may have been processed outside of the organisation so that YL may still act in cases where another body such as an SU has already made a decision.

**CF** Says she is considering guides on how exec and members can respond if welfare concerns are raised with them.

Highlights with the exec the timeline for co-option of Events Officer.

To propose Zoom budget to **FC**. **FC** to approve as a monthly payment.

**AOB Ends. Meeting closed 13:47.**