

Camden Liberal Democrats

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14th November 2024 | 20:00 - 21:30 | Zoom

Minutes

<p>Welcome/Introduction/ Apologies (Derek/Jim)</p>	<p>Present: Derek, Jim, Sue Garden, Craig O'Donnell, David Elkin, Tom Simon, Erich, Flick, James King, Prannay, Keith, John, Linda, Tracey Shackle.</p> <p>Apologies: Janet, Scott.</p>
<p>Minutes Of Last Meeting (November 2023) Jim</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>Chairs Report Derek</p>	<p>The Chair thanked everyone who committed time this year to supporting the Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>It's good that we have 72 MPs nationally, even if our local results were a little disappointing.</p> <p>The Chair noted the success of the General Election candidate we focused on. Victoria Collins was elected.</p> <p>He also thanked the hard and conscientious work done by our councillors. It is pleasing that we continue to be the official opposition in the borough. Having more councillors means that we will get more local coverage.</p> <p>We had a number of by-elections this year. The Frognal By-election was fought hard, and there was a pleasing swing to us. There were three by-elections after the General Election. These were worked less, because of the unrealistic chance of success.</p> <p>We had a successful "Development Day" on the 5th Oct. Richard Cole (ALDC) was thanked for leading the session.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report. Erich</p>	<p>As per our requirements, the annual accounts were submitted in April, with the current position submitted after being signed-off by the Chair.</p> <p>In election years, especially General Election years, we tend to spend more than we receive in income.</p> <p>This explains the £11670 current balance, and the £10218 YTD loss.</p>

	<p>It was argued that outgoings were unlikely to be better in 2026 (the year we have the next local elections).</p> <p>It was agreed that the election was (financially) disappointing compared to 2019.</p> <p>It was agreed we need more fundraising events, but we need to get more/regular donations. Given we have 72 MPs, it was suggested that we could use them to speak at events.</p> <p>It was noted that the e-mails we send out aren't perhaps well read, and restructuring them might make people more aware of events that we are running.</p> <p>Valdir was appointed auditor for the next year.</p>
Membership. Charlie Clinton	<p>Membership has fallen from 456 (at the last AGM), to 416, as of the AGM.</p>
Parliamentary Report Sue Garden	<p>The Conservatives seem somewhat subdued in the Lords at the moment and their former ministers don't seem particularly effective.</p> <p>Labour, in comparison, are felt to have some "odd ideas" with VAT on private schools - an odd place to start. Sue argued that large majorities aren't always a good thing.</p> <p>The Lib Dem Leader, Ed Davey, is doing well at Prime Minister's Question Time, now that he is guaranteed a regular question.</p> <p>James Timpson seems to be a good Prison's Minister, and an effective advocate for prisoners.</p> <p>Sue hasn't managed to get to know the Parliamentary Party well yet, but the consensus is that they'll keep "plugging away."</p>
Council Report (Tom et al.)	<p>The councillors are working hard to hold Labour to account.</p> <p>One of the things the team has found is that the "Route off the Streets" teams need extra support. Labour, however, are unwilling to raise their funding/support levels. The result has been that there has been "churn" within the "unhoused families", and more rough sleepers appearing.</p> <p>In addition to this, it was felt that while the police try, there's more evidence of drug dealing/taking, and anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that this was because the police haven't enough officers, and aren't adequately resourced.</p> <p>100 Avenue Road, and the O2 Centre have ongoing planning issues.</p>

	<p>All local parties have typically argued that High Speed 2 was a bad idea. Labour has started flip-flopping on the issue. We have advocated for the land to be returned to us, and allow us to use it imaginatively. We also think that HS2 should stop at Old Oak Common. This station might not be well known by people, but it is well linked to the rail network. On the subject of Old Oak Common, it was noted that they have a "Development Group", but the Euston area does not.</p> <p>Tom outlined that the Council Group's view was that HS2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damages the area. • Not good value for money. • The North of England would have benefited with it starting there. • The rationale behind HS2 keeps shifting. <p>There was some discussion of the merits of the local policy.</p> <p>Linda is the RCP Chair. She expressed her concern about Post Offices, and Local Banking Hubs.</p> <p>Judy has won the Lord Cotter Prize, and has become a champion for the blind, and partially sighted. She has spent a considerable amount of time working on the Health and Adult Social Care Committee. She noted that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be in shortly to assess the services that the council provide in this area.</p> <p>Judy argued that rubbish collection is still disappointing. She had gone out with a collection team and was writing about it for the Ham and High.</p> <p>Tom was thanked for his work as Opposition Leader.</p>
Constitutional changes (Derek)	The Constitutional Changes proposed (by Erich), and seconded (by Keith) were approved.
Election Of Party Officers (Sur Garden)	<p>The following officers were elected:</p> <p>President- Sue Garden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Pres- Jill Fraser, Jill Newbrook, Flick Rea, Elizabeth Stanton-Jones • Chair- Derek McAuley (acting). • Vice Chair- Derek McAuley (Holborn and St. Pancras) and Keith Moffitt (Hampstead & Highgate). • Treasurer- Erich Wagner. • Secretary- Jim Bowen. • Members- No Nomination.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Fundraising- No Nomination. · Campaigns- Sarah Hoyle. · Diversity- Tara Copeland. · Ordinary- Janet Grauberg, Flick Rea, Tracey Shackle, Pranay Hariharan and Will Coles.
AOB	<p>No AoB raised.</p> <p>14th Dec Flick's Christmas Party.</p> <p>17th Dec NLC get together.</p> <p>23rd Jan Exec Meeting.</p> <p>24th Jan Burns Night at Jill's (tbc)</p>