

MINUTES

Lambeth Liberal Democrats Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2024

The Florence
131 Dulwich Road
London SE24 0NG

Present	Alex Haylett	Colin Penning	Malcolm Baines	Robert Rice
	Alistair Ward	Craig O'Donnell	Marietta Crichton Stuart	Roger Hayes
	Andrew Hadley	David Whitaker	Matthew Bryant	Sarah Lewis
	Andrew Horsler	Donal Kane	Merlin South	Simon Bucknall
	Barney Potts	Fareed Alderechi	Monica Whyte	Simon Drage
	Ben Austin	Haboon Adan	Nicholas Davidson	Stevan Cirkovic
	Ben Curtis	Heather Glass	Nicholas Sanders	Tamara Langley
	Ben Russell	Jackie Harper-Wray	Oliver Moule	Terry Curtis
	Bobby Dean	John Medway	Peter Truesdale	Tim Garner
	Charlie Murphy	Joseph Wright	Rob Blackie	
	Christine Hinton	Julian Heather	Robert Doyle	
	Claire Bonham	Karen Sainsbury	Robert Huber	

Apologies	Alex Davies	Christopher French	Claire Mathys	Richard Malins
	Doug Buist	Jeremy Baker	Richard Malins	Tim Clement-Jones

Topic	Summary
Apologies & Quorum	The Secretary Robert Huber read out the received apologies; declares the AGM quorate in accordance with the constitution; and read out the non-voting guests: Bobby Dean, Claire Bonham, Craig O'Donnell, and Roger Hayes
Chair's Report	The Chair Sarah Lewis delivered the 2024 Chair's Report & Development Plan. Q&A: - What is the reason for declining membership numbers? Chair explained this is due to an increase in members lapsing; notably we are losing female members faster than male members (other local LD parties have experienced the same, and so have other political parties). - What are we doing about BAME representation? Chair stated that we have some positive development on Muslim membership and on members whose

	first language is not English. Measures include 25 % of our non-ward budget allocated to diversity development, but there is still a lot of work to do. Plus, the small number of wards that we have prioritised this year do not have the most diverse demographic in the borough. • How are we going from 3 councillors to the 18 we're planning and how are we identifying target wards? Chair explained that we are working with data from the counts, plus other data available, plus analysing coming demographic changes in wards. As a result we came up with three ward categories, 11 target wards in total. We also consulted with HQ & had an ExCo strategy day on the topic in September.
Treasurer's report	The AGM received a report from the Treasurer Jackie Harper-Wray on the local party's finances, including an outline report for 2025. Members were provided access to the prior year accounts (2023) via a link ahead of the meeting, and for the AGM to note. The AGM approved the appointment of Andrew Thurburn as external examiner for the accounts with no objections raised. Q&A: • How was the £6k per target ward arrived at? Treasurer explained that it is a high level estimate based on regular literature/activity. Chair mentioned that a target seat constituency (usually 8 wards) is expected to spend £100k a year and that a more detailed budget would be approved by the 2025 Executive Committee in the new year. • Why is Southwark in a better financial position and are there any lessons we can learn? Treasurer explained that Southwark LD have been benefiting for a longer from a larger number of councillor tithes. Chair noted that a number of major donors in Southwark are contacts of former MP Simon Hughes. • Is the £75k fundraising target realistic? Treasurer and Chair explained that this is what we need to run a full suite campaign in all the places we are targeting, but that we will need to be responsive to resource realities as the year progresses.
Closing of nominations for the 2025 Executive Committee	The Returning Officer Peter Trusdale closed nominations for the 2025 Executive Committee. No nominations were made at the time of the AGM. One nomination each for all Officers positions was received. A total of 12 nominations for the positions of Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee were received. The Returning Officer read out all nominations and explained the online ballot process which will now follow in accordance with the local party constitution.
Report from the LD council group	Councillor Ben Curtis delivered a report from the Lib Dem group on Lambeth Council Q&A: • What is our strategy around participation in scrutiny and area committees? Councillors Ben Curtis and Matthew Bryant highlighted the Group's participation in scrutiny committees but that our limited number of councillors requires prioritisation and they can't be on all such committees.. Matthew explains the council group is pushing for greater devolution to local areas, including devolution of budgets to wards.
Consideration of Motions	The Secretary Robert Huber stated that no motions were received.

Close of formal AGM and move to panel discussion	The Secretary Robert Huber closed the formal AGM proceedings and moved to an informal panel discussion with our guests and member Q&A (unminuted).
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