Redbridge Liberal Democrats

NOTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on Thursday 21st November 2025, in Wanstead Library

<ATTENDANCE AAND APOLS OMMITTED FROM ONLINE NOTES>

1. Introduction

Minutes of the 2024 AGM were noted.

Chair's Report

The Chair's report had been placed online before the meeting.

One party rule in Redbridge was not good for democracy and there was now a clear loss of confidence in Labour. There is an opportunity here in Wanstead Village and a chance to win council seats in May 2026.

Treasurer's Report

The report had been placed online before the meeting. A statement of accounts dated 31 December 2024, approved earlier in the year, had been placed online and was reported to the meeting.

The Chair commented in Ian Morley's absence. In 2024 we had a tiny surplus, this being the first year without the Penstone legacy benefiting us. Martin thanked Gary Staight for funding most literature in our target ward.

Membership Development Officer's Report

The report had been placed online before the meeting. Commenting, Heather added that we need more young members. Problems of insecure renting and the need for better regulation and provision were briefly discussed.

2. Guest Speaker

In introducing Paul Kohler, MP for Wimbledon, Martin noted that Paul Kohler had fought the Wimbledon seat in 2019 and won it in 2024. He is our party's spokesperson for Northern Ireland and the owner of a speakeasy bar.

Paul Kohler gave some impressions of his first year in Parliament. Initially, he was our party's transport spokesperson before taking on Northern Ireland. Transport was more closely related to his constituents' interests. Northern Ireland was harder to explain, but it was linked to some of our core interests such as the ECHR and the Windsor Framework was tied to our interests in the EU.

He had found Parliament less tribal than Merton Council. In Commons debates on provision of prisons, he obtained some cross-party support when questioning the building of more prisons. It is possible to get things done, sometimes behind the scenes. For example, on floating bus stops, which the Tories tried to ban. He believes they can be made to work and had agreed a compromise for better design with the Minister. On the Assisted Dying Bill, Diane Abbott had spoken and changed his mind to vote against the 2nd Reading. MPs generally know little about palliative care and hospices. Cross-party work in Select Committees had great value, for example now in the Northern Ireland Committee.

In response to questions about the need to be bolder on the damage caused by Brexit, Paul said that our spokespeople do draw attention to this. We are pushing for entry to the Customs Union, with the Single Market and EU membership as end goals. We need to push on matter such as the Dublin accord for return of cross-Channel migrants. We need to be better on social media, we are good at nuance, less so on sound bites. We need to explain better how we are helping voters, empowering and making life better for them.

3. Elections to the Executive Committee

The following were elected for the year from 1st January 2026:

Honorary President: Felicity Banks
Chair: Martin Rosner
Vice-chair: Neil Hepworth
Treasurer: Ian Morley
Secretary: Crispin Acton
Data officer: Neil Hepworth [informally]
Membership Development Officer: Heather Liddle
Diversity Officer: Cathy Davies
Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee: Mark Ashfield, Mark Gitsham, Humza Sair, Gary Staight, Mohammed Uddin

4. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

It was agreed to appoint Geoff Seeff.

Crispin Acton
Secretary
10 November 2026