SUTTON BOROUGH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Annual General Meeting ("AGM")

Minutes of the Meeting

Held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 20th November 2025 at the Salvation Army Hall, Sutton

PRESENT

Local Party Officers: Jason Stone (Chair), Edward Parsley (Vice-Chair), Noor Sumun (Vice-Chair), Pauline Penneck (Treasurer), Christopher Woolmer (Secretary), Martin Broad (Membership Development Officer), Trish Fivey (Diversity Champion), Sam Martin (Elections Officer).

Management Committee Ordinary Members: Louise Phelan, Roger Thistle, Ruth Dombey.

MPs: Bobby Dean.

Honorary President: Lord Graham Tope

Councillors: Christopher Woolmer (Sutton West & East Cheam), Qasim Esak (Sutton West & East Cheam), Trish Fivey (Sutton South), Sunita Gordon (Wallington North), Marian James (Wallington North), Edward Joyce (South Beddington and Roundshaw), Barry Lewis (Wallington North), Sam Martin (Wallington South), Cryss Mennaceur (Sutton Central), Muttucumaru Sahathevan (Stonecot), Jake Short (Carshalton Central), Lisa Webster (Carshalton South and Blockhouse), Louise Phelan (Sutton South).

Other Members: Yusuf Abd El-Razzak, Rabab Al-Chalabi, James Appleby, Rukhsar Askari, Michael Baldwin, Janice Baldwin, Joseph Barkham, Adrian Bonner, Juliet Chaplin, Richard Clifton, Joan Crowhurst, Sam Cumber, Chi Hei Dai, Alison Dines, John Drewery, Helen Drewery, Nick Evans, Xiangui Fang, Thomas Foster, Isobel Harris, Asif Hirani, Peter Honour, Brendan Hudson, Peter Hutton, Stephen Kingdom, Wendy Mathys, Vanessa McCain, Iain Michell, Roger Mills, Valerie Moeri, Stephen Penneck, Daran Pullman, Patrick Radford, Anne Singleton, Margaret Tope, Alexander Vicente-Machado, Myfanwy Wallace, Anthony Wallace, Peter Walsh, Jill Whitehead, Grzegorz Zimnicki.

1. Welcome from Graham Tope.

1.1. Lord Graham Tope welcomed all members attending.

2. Apologies:

2.1. The Secretary reported apologies from: Nicole Jones, Rob Leah, Frances Wilson, Judy Walsh, Annie MacMillan, Derek Yeo, Colin Stears, Trevor Campbell Smith, Luke Taylor, Jayne McCoy, Naveen Jalagadugu, Dean Juster, Heather Honour.

3. **Minutes of previous AGM**

3.1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st November 2024 (copies of which had been circulated) were approved.

4. **Chair's Report**

4.1. Jason referred to his written report and explained that he needed to step down as he had been in post for three years. He paid respects to Graham Tope who is himself stepping down as Honorary President. Tribute was also paid to our previous Chair, Sally Ericsson, who worked so hard for the Party, and Ian Munro, and also Sally, who sadly passed away recently.

4.2. He offered thanks to all his Liberal Democrat colleagues, and welcomed Sarah Hoyle (as a new member of staff) and Tally Bute (as the Young Liberal Rep) and referred to all our recent political successes, and successful events. He said that we have at least 45 candidates ready for the Council Elections.

4.3. Graham Tope paid tribute to Jason for all that he has done.

5. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 (Attached for Approval)**

5.1. Members were asked to note the accounts for 2024, which have already been sent to Headquarters.

5.2. After a vote Lisa Webster was reapproved as the independent Inspector of Accounts for this coming year.

5.3. There have been a number of additions to the Treasurer's workload since the General Election, and the cooperation of the MPs and the support staff has been very helpful.

5.4. The renewal of the lease for Kennedy House has proved very challenging, and Roger Thistle has been a great help in this matter.

5.5. Unfortunately TSB have decided to close the account for the 400 Club without a reasonable explanation. This Club raises about £3,500 per year for the Party. Changing accounts risks losing subscribers.

5.6. A number of one-off factors have helped the local Party's finances, but the regular demands are increasing and there are only 6 months until the Council Elections, with a campaign to fund. Much of our income comes from Councillors' contributions. Pauline informed members of all the multiple ways one can help to fund the Party, such as the 400 Club, social events, easy fundraising etc.

6. **Membership Development Officer's Report**

6.1. After Martin Broad's introduction, where he paid tribute to Jason's tenure as Chair and welcomed 49 new members, he invited those present to pay their respects to the two members, Ian and Sally who died recently.

6.2. After noting that all had received his report (where membership numbers are detailed) Martin painted a picture of the troubles we face as a society, but stressed the values we have as Liberal Democrats which can heal society, and embed fair, just and open life-affirming policies.

6.3. He stressed how we all have different roles but all work together for the good of all.

6.4. He suggested that as we approach the local election they represent a banner for all our activities, creating healthy and happy communities.

6.5. Martin thanked all those in the Management Committee, the hard-working teams in the offices, the two wonderful MPs, and all the ward teams and elected councillors.

6.6. Only a short snippet of a song was offered - "LibDemmery for Aye"!

7. Election of Honorary President

7.1. Ruth Dombey was voted *nem con* as the new Honorary President.

8. Election of Officers and Members of Management Committee for 2025

Jason Stone presented the names and the following were elected *nem con* as Local Party Officers and Ordinary Members of Management Committee for 2026:

Chair	Stephen Penneck
Vice-Chair (Sutton & Cheam)	Edward Parsley
Vice-Chair (Carshalton & Wallington)	Rukhsar Askari
Treasurer	Pauline Penneck
Secretary	Christopher Woolmer
Membership Development Officer	Martin Broad
Diversity Champion	Trish Fivey
Elections Officer	Sam Martin
Ordinary Members:	Ruth Dombey
	Louise Phelan
	Roger Thistle

Marian James expressed her concern over how having a Chair and Treasurer who are married, and the independent Inspector of Accounts being a sitting Councillor, might be perceived. Jason answered that it had been taken into account and discussed. The future Chair was also very aware and confident that he could keep matters separate and mentioned how Elaine and John Drage who managed the separation of duties successfully. The Management Committee will consider whether further measures need to be put in place. Bobby Dean responded that with regard to money matters, when managing the accounts there are multiple signatories required and there are lots checks

and balances in place. (It has subsequently been agreed that Stephen Penneck will not be a signatory to the party account.)

9. Council Group and Campaign Report

These were received at the meeting.

10. AOB

Trish Fivey announced the Christmas Party in December which will be at Rangers, next to the old Morrisons. The date is yet to be finalised.

The formal business of the AGM concluded at 19.38.

After the meeting there was a speech by Barry Lewis, leader of the Council, and Hina Bokhari followed by an interview of Ruth Dombey by Bobby Dean MP.

The overall proceedings concluded at 20.53