

GEDLING LIBERAL DEMOCRATS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 9th November 2020

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 11th November 2019.
3. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on 11th November 2019.
4. Chairman's Report for 2020
5. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet for 2019.
6. Election of Officers, Committee Members & Conference Reps for 2020
(Please see overleaf for a summary of these roles)
 - a: Chair
 - b: Vice-Chair
 - c: Secretary
 - d: Treasurer
 - e: Membership Development Officer
 - f: Data & Computer Officer
 - g: Organiser
 - h: Publicity Officer
 - i: Ordinary members of the Executive Committee (4)
 - j: County Group Reps (2)
 - k: Fundraising Officer
 - l; Diversity Officer
 - m: Auditor
7. Date of first meeting of Local Party Executive (to be held in January of the forthcoming year)
- 8: Any Other Business

Brief 'job descriptions' for Officer Posts:

1. Chair – Chairs meetings of the Local Party Executive and Annual General Meeting. Public face of Local Party to other levels of the Party and outside bodies.
2. Vice- Chair- Deputises in the absence of the Chair
3. Secretary- Drafts Agenda for Local Party Executive Meetings. Responsible for distributing Calling Notice for AGM. Writes minutes of Executive Meetings and AGM
4. Treasurer – Prepares Annual Budget (subject to Local Party Approval.) Drafts Annual Accounts. Makes authorised payments from Local Party accounts. Sends records of donations to the national party- according to Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act.
5. Membership Development Officer – Oversees membership recruitment, retention & new member engagement. Co-ordinate social events for members. Responsible for maintenance of Membership Database.
6. Data & Computer Officer- Ensures Local Party complies with Data Protection Act/GDPR. Responsible for maintenance of Connect Election Database.

The following roles are in addition to the above constitutionally required Officers:

7. Organiser – to develop the election and campaign strategy, and develop the network of local active members to support the strategy.
8. Publicity Officer - to produce and distribute Members' and Supporters' Bulletin
9. Fundraising Officer- this a new post with a brief to encourage fund raising for the Local Party
10. Diversity Officer – this is a new post to encourage greater participation within the Local Party of all sections of the community

GEDLING LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Gedling Liberal Democrats held on Monday, 11th November 2019 at Age Concern, 352-356 Carlton Hill, Nottingham.

Present: John Flynn, Andrew Swift, Paul Hughes, Andrew Ellwood, Andrew Dunkin, Maggie Dunkin, Margaret Swift, John Sutherland, Venetia King, Philip Netherwood, Tom Ferguson, Perry Shaw.

1. Apologies for Absence: Alan Dawson, Robert Swift Seb Soar, Dinah Dudley, Richard Fife, Ann Sutherland, Tom Sutherland, Kimberley Phipps-Davies, Felicity Armitage, Clive Towsley, Anita Prabhakar, Harish Vyas, Sarah Murjan, Simon Godber.

2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 13th November 2018: Andrew Ellwood proposed that the minutes presented at the meeting were correct. This was seconded by Andrew Swift and the motion was passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on 13th November 2018: There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report: John Flynn presented his report for the year (a written report was distributed). In particular it was noted that it had been a successful year electorally with a significant increase in local membership. Anita Prabhakar had been adopted as the candidate for the Gedling Constituency in the forthcoming General Election. John Flynn recorded his thanks to key members for their active support during the year.

5. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet for 2018: Paul Hughes presented audited accounts for 2018. This showed a loss (excess expenditure over income) for the year. This reflected that the restructuring of branches along Borough lines with associated disruption to the flow of membership income from HQ, additional printing of Focus leaflets and increased communication with the membership. The forthcoming General Election was likely to place a further strain on finances for 2019.

6. Election of Officers, Committee Members and County Group Reps for 2019:

John Flynn announced his intention to stand down as Chair at the end of three consecutive terms in that office. Paul Hughes recorded the membership's thanks for his work during his tenure.

The following positions were filled:

a: Chair: Maggie Dunkin nominated by Paul Hughes and seconded by John Sutherland.

b: Vice-Chair: John Flynn – nominated by Andrew Swift and seconded by Andrew Ellwood.

c: Secretary: John Sutherland – nominated by Andrew Swift and seconded by Maggie Dunkin.

d: Treasurer: Paul Hughes – nominated by Andrew Dunkin and seconded by Maggie Dunkin

e: Membership Development Officer: Robert Swift- nominated by Maggie Dunkin and seconded by Andrew Ellwood.

f: Data & Computer Officer: Andrew Dunkin – nominated by Maggie Dunkin and seconded by Paul Hughes.

g: Publicity Officer: Tom Sutherland - nominated by John Sutherland & seconded by Andrew Swift.

h. Diversity Officer: Venetia King - nominated by Maggie Dunkin and seconded by Margaret Swift.

i: Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee (4 members): Tom Ferguson, Richard Fife, Tad Jones and Andrew Swift - nominated by Andrew Ellwood and seconded by John Sutherland. If any other party members not present at this meeting wished to become Ordinary Members of Executive they could be co-opted by the Executive Committee Meeting at a future meeting.

j: Representatives to Nottinghamshire County Group (up to 2 members): Richard Fife and Paul Hughes – nominated by Andrew Dunkin and seconded by Tom Ferguson.

k. Council Group Representative – Andrew Ellwood.

The position of Fundraising Officer was not filled.

Rob Bolstridge was re-appointed as Auditor.

8. Date and venue for first meeting of Local Party Executive: It was agreed that the first meeting of the new Executive would be in mid to late January 2019. The time and date is to be arranged.

9. Any Other Business: There was no other business.

Chairman's Report 2020

General Election December 2019

This happened before I took over from our previous Chairman John Flynn whom I thank for his services to our local party.

Our candidate Anita Prabhakar polled 4.6% of the vote which was a vote increase of 2.5%. Unfortunately, we did lose our deposit as to retain that we would have needed 5% of the vote. This was a difficult election as Gedling is a Tory/Labour marginal. It was disappointing to hear that Jo Swinson lost her seat in the general election which left us as a party with a caretaker leader and a Tory Government.

Spring Conference cancelled

The LibDem Spring Conference which was due to be held 13th -15th March in York was cancelled due to Covid-19 at short notice. On a personal note I was disappointed as this was to be my first full conference and I had planned all the of the breakout and training sessions I wished to attend. However, the cancelling was the right decision due to the pandemic.

Leadership change

In August we had a leadership contest with two candidates, Ed Davey and Layla Moran. Ed won this with 63.5% of the vote. Ed had been caretaker leader as Deputy Leader since December when Jo lost her seat in the general election. Having seen Ed at the Nottingham hustings and met and chatted with him again at a Kickstart weekend back in February I am confident he will prove to be a fine leader.

Brexit

We had a surge in membership this time last year due to Brexit and a single-issue stance. It is unfortunate that we have lost several members this year and that Brexit without a deal is still happening which has been overshadowed by Covid-19. The Tory Government seems set on taking us out of Europe without a deal.

Coronavirus

2020 will go down in history as a year that will not be forgotten. Covid-19 has affected every country and the death toll from this pandemic is catastrophic it has brought many challenges to us all and with lockdown happening from March as a local party we have as an executive committee, been holding our meetings on-line via zoom. This brought a few challenges but has proved successful. This year our AGM will be held in the same way as we have had to adapt to life with Covid-19.

LibDem Autumn Conference online

Another first in LibDem history – The Autumn Conference also went online. It proved to be very successful. The software used enabled several breakout sessions to run at the same time along with a “main auditorium” for speeches and debates. Ed’s leader’s speech was very powerful and broadcast live on the BBC.

I extend my thanks to the Executive committee and members of the local party for their hard work in these difficult times both behind the scenes and the delivery of our Focus leaflets.

Maggie Dunkin
Chairman
Gedling Liberal Democrats
November 2020

Gedling Liberal Democrats Treasurers Report

Accounts for 2019

Balances Brought Forward

Current Account	£ 657.53
Deposit Account	£3996.94
Cash in Hand	£ 6.28
Less cheques issued but not presented	£ 61.20
Total	£4,599.55

	2018 Figures			
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Activist's Standing Orders	£1,125.00		£620.00	
Membership	£ 59.40		£ 17.10	
Other Donations	£ 662.45		£499.50	
Deposit A/C Interest	£ 15.55		£ 1.25	
Focus Printing		£ 632.75		£ 747.50
Communication with members		£ 222.89		£ 190.35
Stationery & Postage		£ 0.79		£ -
Borough Election Expenses		£1,003.06		£ -
European Election Expenses		£ 210.00		£ -
General Election Expenses		£2,641.10		£ -
EARS & Marked Registers		£ 331.00		£ 395.00
Website & Social Media		£ 244.80		£ 244.80
Room Hire & Refreshments		£ -		£ 100.00
Bank Charges		£ 78.21		£ 65.80
Totals	£1,862.40	£5,364.60	£1,137.85	£1,743.45
Excess of expenditure over income	£3,502.20		£605.60	
Notional Income/Expenditure	£5,364.60	£5,364.60		
Balances Carried Forward				
Current Account	£ 130.47			
Deposit Account	£1012.49			
Cash in Hand	£ 15.59			
Less cheques issued but not presented	£ 61.20			
Total	£1,097.35			

Treasurer's Comments

2019 saw an unprecedented 3 elections in the same year which has placed an enormous strain on our finances, resulting in a loss of over £3,500. These losses were partially offset by a significant increase in the amount that local activists and other members have committed to pay via a regular monthly standing order.

As you can see from the figures above, almost all of our income comes from these regular payments and other local donations; very little of membership subscriptions to the national party is passed down to local parties. If you feel that you could commit to making a regular payment to Gedling Liberal Democrats or are willing make a one-off donation then this will be most appreciated. Please use the account details below.

Account Name: Gedling Liberal Democrats

Sort Code: 08-90-74

A/C No: 50031553

Paul Hughes

Treasurer

Gedling Liberal Democrats