

Minutes of '2019' Annual General Meeting of Green Liberal Democrats (GLD)

Held 19.45 Saturday 14th March 2020 (delayed from Sept & Nov2019)

- Held on Zoom with some at York Novotel after cancellation of the Liberal Democrats Spring Conference 2020.

Attendees Zoom (Voting Members24): Martin Horwood, Graham Neale (PT from item6), Steve Mason, Simon Oliver, Peter Bruce, Keith Melton, Steve Bolter, Jane Brophy, George Miles, Stewart Reddaway, Pippa Heylings, Julian Hawkins, Sean Henegan, Geoff Mountjoy, Marilyn Francis, Jason Billin, Peter Lord, Ann Parkinson, Ross Benzie, Richard Francis, Helen Quenet, Philip Mills, Jed Marson, Leon Duveen,

Attendees (York6) Steve Mason, Christian Vassie, Carole king, Linda Johnson, Graham Johnson, Stan Collins.

The meeting exceeded the quorum of 25 voting members between the modes of attendance.

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Horwood welcomed everyone , The meeting was quorate (requirement for 25 paidup members). Apologies were received from Graham Neale who was on his way back from a meeting in Birmingham.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM 15Sep 2018 Brighton & EGM (15Sep19 Bournemouth)

These had been pre-circulated and there were no proposed corrections – the meeting passed the AGM v1 and EGM v1 minutes without dissent as a true and accurate record.

3. Executive Committee Elections (Returning Officer Sean Hooker)

Sean Hooker Returning Officer (see written report) said there were 2 elections for posts – i) nominations for Chair from Peter Bruce and Keith Melton and ii) nominations for Ordinary members from Steve Bolter, Geoff Harvey, Pippa Heylings, Diana Catton, Ross Benzie, George Miles and Jed Marson. Voting was open to 8pm.

- a. Executive officers nominations unopposed were:

Steve Mason for Vice Chair Political
Graham Neale for Vice Chair Campaigns
Simon Oliver for Honorary Treasurer
Laura Sykes for VC Comms

These posts were accepted by the AGM.

There are 2 posts vacant (**VC Organisation and Youth Officer**) which the Exec can fill by co-option.

4. Honorary President Executive Committee Elections

- a. The Executive Committee recommendation for The Honorary President was Martin Horwood who was willing to accept the post and the AGM unanimously supported.

- b. Honorary VPs had been proposed to the Exec but no decision had been made to date. It was suggested that the decision was put to the Exec to enact and report back at the next AGM. The meeting supported this with no votes against.
5. Executive Committee Officer Reports (see in website AGM docs or on gdrive AGM)
- a. Chair - Graham Neale was not available and Peter summarised as saying that Graham was proud of the work the committee had done this year in raising their game and achieving higher membership and influence at this time. Graham thanked all his colleagues who had worked so hard. The next committee have great opportunities to build from this.
 - b. Vice Chair Political – see written report – Steve Mason summarised that he had spent much time on anti-fracking and Fossil Fuel development with various partners and work and work in parliament including taking Wera along to the Net Zero APPG.
 - c. Vice Chair Organisation – see written report.– Peter Bruce summarised his report as saying that the committee had upped its activities at conferences and across the board. The team that had suffered some difficulties but had overcome them and become the stronger for it.
 - d. Vice Chair Campaigns – see written report – Keith Melton said about the success of the GLD Conference and the plans for this year along with regional networks. There were some questions about the potential for this year's GLD conference.
 - e. Treasurer – see written report – Simon Oliver presented his report which showed the growth in membership and the strength in finances. The 2019 accounts were provisional. The President thanked him for the clarity of information in the diagrams.
 - f. Accounts -. Simon Oliver presented the 2018 Accounts – see written doc. These were accepted by the AGM unanimously
 - g. Matters Arising – Peter said that there was excellent work done on the Social Media and website over the last 18mths with George Miles and Almona and particularly by Kevin Daws who raised the Twitter Account to 8000 followers (perhaps the highest of sub-LD organisations). There was some discussion on whether the GLD Conference could be held with the Coronavirus restrictions and Keith said this would be looked at including electronic approaches.

6. Jennifer Ware Chair's Award for Exemplary Contribution to GLD

Graham Neale said that there were many members who quietly behind the scenes did great things to support GLD work. Jennifer Ware, who died this year, was one of those who was GLD member number1 and helped greatly on the stand and on other topics without any palaver or disturbance. Graham had decided to make the award to Catherine Bearder our recent SE MEP of some time and distinction in service to the Environment and to GLD. He was sending her a book, The Silent Spring by Rachel Carson which in 1962 eloquently related the harmful effects of pesticides such as DDT and is seen as kickstarting the global environment movement by many.

7. Constitution Amendments (Standing Orders, Election Regulations & Financial Rules)

These had been pre-circulated before the meeting. Simon Oliver led the meeting through the 3 key areas of change. See

<https://greenlibdems.org.uk/en/page/agm-2019-constitution-changes>.

7.1 This covered the introduction of the new role of VC Campaigns that had been approved by the last AGM. The amendment was agreed 17for -0 against

7.2 This covered the membership conditions for eligibility for voting and was split into two sections after discussion of the risks of entryism influence in elections if membership reduced from 60days to paid up (practically about a week) before being eligible to vote. A question was also asked about what the minimum age could be for a member and it was commented that the min. age for a LD member was 10yrs old.

a. All proposals (except the requirement for 60days) – passed 17-0 without dissent.

b. Proposal to reduce requirement for being member for voting down from 60days prior to AGM to being paid up member – passed 15-5.

7.3 This covered the election manifestos of 300 words and photos for Exec posts. It was passed 22-0.

8. Results of Elections for Executive Committee Members

a. **Chair role**

The Returning Officer Sean stated that the elected Chair was **Keith Melton**.

b. **Ordinary Members**

There were 7 nominations for 6 Ordinary Members on a preference vote basis and the Returning Officer stated that the following were elected.

1. **Steve Bolter**
2. **Geoff Harvey**
3. **Pippa Heylings**
4. **Diana Catton**
5. **Ross Benzie**
6. **George Miles**

Four Co-opted Members will be determined by the Executive Committee from the first meeting onwards.

9. Any Other Business – Motions

- a. The next AGM meeting date (and term of the elected Exec Committee members) was questioned. This was stated as Sep 2020 at Brighton Conference but it was not clear with Coronavirus constraints that this would happen.
- b. There were no affiliations for AGM ratification to consider.

The Chair closed the meeting just after 9pm.

Meeting notes by Peter Bruce