

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Green Liberal Democrats – 19.45 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017

- Held at the Liberal Democrats Spring Conference in Hilton Hotel, York.

Attendees: G Neale, R Joy, S Mason, RG Lockwood, J Ware, A Patterson, O Baines, K Davis, B Powell, E Berudez-Galton, R Blezzard, C Sheavey, M Sawyer, D Woodlock, P Reisporf, A Williams, B Mathew, R Craggs, H Macfie, S. Oliver, M Clarke, G Moseley, R Kiernich, T Shaw, D Buxton, S Heinrich, P Chivall, S Bolter, G Miles, P Bruce (meeting is quorate with 25members).

The meeting was chaired by the Honorary President Martin Horwood for the first part of the meeting and part time by Graham Neale after his re-election.

Standing Orders were suspended at the request of Susan Heinrich on the matter that the 14 day constitutional notice for the meeting proposals and nominations had not been fully achieved in communication to all members. 2 members stated they had not received documentation in the requisite time. Susan Heinrich proposed this, Graham Neale seconded and the motion was carried without any against.

1. Minutes of the Previous AGM (Oct 2015 Glasgow)

These had been pre-circulated and there were no proposed corrections – the meeting passed the minutes without dissent.

2. Reports of Executive Committee and factual Questions

a. Chair

The Chair Graham Neale introduced his report which was of a year of transition with the aim of GLD being more engaged with LD Environmental policy formation. He expressed thanks to Susan Heinrich who is standing down after the AGM and to the Executive as a whole. He stated that the request for £2k to help finance the Liberal Democrat Zero Carbon Britain study and policy report was successful and the money put to good use.

b. Vice Chair Policy – Steve Bolter

**Steve Bolter** spoke to his 4 page Report, covering Sept 2015 to Feb 2017. Steve said that major political events had dominated to the extent that routine policy development work has taken second (or third place). Points covered were:

\*Sept 2015 fringe meetings stressed the importance of including strong practical environmental policies in any EU/GE campaign.

\*Steve and Peter Chivall (at their own expense), joined Friends of the Earth on their expedition to the COP21 in Paris. Discussions, lectures were useful as was the final Paris Agreement of 185 nations.

\*Following 2015 resignation of the Chair, Steve had to support Graham and double up on the Vice Chair (Admin) role thus Policy Group working parties did not run on land use and agriculture policy although made progress in opposing Fracking.

\*Regular joint Commons-Lords backbench committee meetings for DEFRA and DECC matters stopped due to only 8 MPs which reducing parliamentary group contact.

\*Sept 2016 Conf – GLD supported the anti-Fracking motion which passed. Steve contributed to motion F29 “Investing in the Green Economy” which passed. Emergency Motion on Nuclear/Hinckley Point was rushed so Steve wrote a more balanced view for Challenge, entitled “The Nuclear Muddle.”

\*Steve contributed to GLD website material on renewable hydrogen, biogas and bio-crops, topics he believes GLD urgently need to cover.

\* Finally Steve announced that at 75, as second/longest serving member of the executive, and having been Vice Chair (P) for 3 yrs he wanted to hand over to someone younger, with more energy. The Chair thanked Steve for his input over the years and expressed hope he could hand on his experience to the new incumbent - fuller typed report is available.

- c. Treasurer – Susan Heinrich Susan stated that her report would cover the accounts for calendar years 2014 and 2015. She was pleased to report that in 2014 there was an excess of £528.05 and in 2015 this had increased to £2007.32. It was stated there were some outstanding Executive committee expenses which had not yet been claimed but nothing major. The issue of possible Auditing of the Account was raised but Susan stated that no Auditor was required for an AO (Associated Organisation of the LibDems).
- d. Membership - Peter Chivall – It was said that there was potential with the growing Liberal Democrat party numbers to increase the GLD membership too and this would be an aim of the new Exec.

### 3. Election of Honorary Officers

The GLD Chair proposed Martin Horwood as Honorary President and Tom Brake, Lynne Featherstone were proposed as Honorary Vice Presidents. This was seconded by Steve Bolter and the meeting agreed the motion with no votes against.

### 4. Election of Executive Committee Members

#### a. **Officer positions**

The names for the first 4 posts below were nominated and seconded to the Returning Officer 2wks before the AGM, with no other persons nominated to these positions at the meeting. Peter Chivall was willing to be nominated at the meeting to the Membership Officer as long as he had someone else to train up and could resign at the Sept AGM. The election of these 5 officers was put to the AGM en masse and agreed without any votes against.

1. Chair - **Graham Neale**
2. Vice Chair Political - **Richard Joy**
3. Vice Chair Organisational - **Peter Bruce**
4. Treasurer - **Simon Oliver**
5. Membership - **Peter Chivall**

Susan Heinrich the outgoing Treasurer suggested there was a need for Financial Standing Orders to be enhanced to ensure full and appropriate control of finances. These comments were acknowledged. Susan was thanked for her different contributions on the Exec (most recently as Treasurer), which posts she has now left.

**b. Ordinary Members**

There were 5 nominations prior to the meeting for these vacancies (up to 7 allowed). At the meeting the 7 people below were nominated and seconded and there were no other persons nominated to these positions at the meeting. The election of these 7 Ordinary Members was put to the AGM en masse and agreed without any vote against.

	Nominated	Seconded
1. <b>Steve Bolter</b>	<b>As per Returning Officer Papers</b>	
2. <b>Steve Mason</b>		“
3. <b>George Miles</b>		“
4. <b>Rachel Harper</b>		“
5. <b>William Powell (Cymru)</b>		“
6. <b>Stephen White</b>	Peter Bruce	Steve Mason
7. <b>Bill Powell (Camb)</b>	Steve Mason	Richard Jo

**c. Co-opted As Ordinary Members**

There were no nominations prior to the meeting for these vacancies (up to 4 allowed). At the meeting the 4 people below were nominated and seconded and there were no other persons nominated to these positions at the meeting. The proposal for these 4 to become Coopted Members was put to the AGM en masse and agreed without any vote against. The Exec (which has the cooption authority) will vote on coopting them formally at the next meeting.

	Nominated	Seconded
1. <b>Daniel Woodlock</b>	Steve Bolter	Anna Williams
2. <b>Nigel Orchard</b>	Steve Bolter	George Dice
3. <b>Anna Williams</b>	Graham Neale	Steve Bolter
4. <b>Jane Brophy</b>	Jennifer Wear	Peter Chivall

Toran Shaw offered to help out on IT.

At this point the meeting was suspended temporarily for a talk by Tom Brake, MP.

The meeting was then restarted:

5. Constitutional Amendments

These had been pre-circulated before the meeting and the chair thanked Richard Joy and Steve Bolter for helping with their preparation following guidance from HQ about changes needed. It was noted that on the copu of the summary of Amendments circulated the paragraph numbering was +1 and para 4 should have been a)-d) The changes to the constitution were proposed and accepted by the meeting nemcon.

A proposal for new membership prices and categories that incentivised members to take an electronic version of Challenge was made to the AGM. Comments were made that:

- the paper copies were more likely to be read by many people (incl. outside the membership).

- many (especially younger) members were more than happy with electronic copy
- there seemed to be natural opting for electronic copy for GLD members even without financial incentive.

The motion was made that new membership categories/prices should be reviewed and a presentation made to the next AGM in September. This motion was carried.

6. Life Members

Martin Horwood proposed and Graham Neale seconded the proposal that the following should be made life members reflecting their contribution to the aims of GLDs:

Baronness Kate Parminter, Catherine Bearder MEP and Susan Heinrich.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried with no votes against.

7. Members Questions, suggestions and comments

There were some questions on Challenge Magazine and on ALDE comparisons.

8. Any Other Business

None and so the Chair closed the meeting.

Meeting notes by Peter Bruce