

Thursday November 2nd 2023 7.30pm

Held via Zoom due to stormy weather with thanks to Vilnis Vesma, host.

As it was not quorate a vote was taken and carried to hold the meeting.

MINUTES

In Attendance: Stewart Bean (SB Chair); Peter Brown (PB Membership); Liz Brown; Dr Anthony Lynch (AL President); Gill Moseley (GM); Vilnis Vesma (VV); Geoffroy Kinns; Julie Hudson (JH); Sue Edwards (SE).

1. Apologies for absence were received from :-

Marie Leach, Paul Cummings, James Joyce (JJ), Aaron Burnard (AB), David Lewis, Robin Warren, Susan Warren, John Griffiths, Graham Carter, Chloe Reese.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on November 24th 2022 were agreed without change. Proposed SB; Seconded GM
There were no matters arising.

2.1. **Chairman's report.** See attached.

2.2. **Treasurer Report.** See attached. AB was unable to attend due to illness, so SB gave a short commentary saying that our modest resources are building a healthy reserve that will be depleted by a general election at some point & council elections in May 2025. SB added his thanks to the Councillors for income from tithes and he thanked AB for his hard work keeping finances in order. AB had said he needs a deputy to help with workload & to ensure futureproofing.

2.3. **Membership Sec report.** PB said 92 full members & an influx of new members with proven experience who, it is hoped, will inject commitment and activism into the membership. At last year's AGM PB said he aimed to recruit some younger members & to this end personal letters had been sent to teenagers resulting in 20-30 new registrations. Thanks are due to James Green & SB for drafting the letter.

2.4. **Council Group Reports.**

District:- JH said she was on a steep learning curve but the dynamics of DC at work is interesting & important work (eg solar farms & young carers' programme) is ongoing. VV asked which committees JH is on:- Licencing; Member development; Planning meetings; Young carers

County:- GM talked of new opportunities now GCC has two extra seats. She hopes to build on the strong LD presence in CC to get an LD majority. VV asked if that was wise considering the financial state of the CC & asked how the risk to the Liberal Democrats of being associated with a failing CC might be mitigated. GM countered that CC was reasonably healthy & there are areas where cost-savings can be made. Childrens' services is a big source of expenditure largely due to FoD lack of suitable facilities, as an example.

Conference Representative:- GM found conference interesting with lots to do. She said JJ was worried by lack of house building & the main debate was on targets for new homes

3. Motions to AGM

4. **Election of Honorary President.** Dr Anthony Lynch was elected. Proposed by GM, seconded by PB. He made a brief speech to say he was honoured to accept the role, thanked the Exec for all their hard work and said he would add the script of his speech to the next newsletter.
5. **Election of Officers.**
[note AB & JJ not present, but gave consent beforehand]
Chairman, Stewart Bean, proposed VV; seconded JH
Secretary, vacant
Treasurer, Aaron Burnard, proposed SB, seconded VV (see note)
Member Development Officer, Peter Brown, proposed SB, seconded GM
Data Officer, Aaron Burnard, proposed SB, seconded VV (see note)
Executive Committee Members:- Vilnis Vesma, proposed SB seconded GM;
James Joyce, proposed SB seconded GM (see note); Sue Edwards proposed SB seconded JH
Council Representative: County: Gill Moseley, proposed SB seconded JH;
District: Julie Hudson proposed SB seconded GM
6. **Approval of Accounts.** Accounts approved, Proposed SB, seconded VV.
7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** It was proposed SB and seconded VV to ask Jonathan Gault if he would be willing to examine the 2023 accounts. AL said he would ask Jonathan.

The meeting closed at 20:28.

APPENDICES
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
ACCOUNTS REPORT
COUNCIL REPORTS