**Minutes of the AGM of Camden LibDems held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at London Borough of Camden Town Hall at 7pm**

**Present:** Baroness Sue Garden (in the chair)

James Bowen, John Bryant, Linda Chung, Charles Clinton, Will Coles, Scott Emery, Janet Grauberg, Nancy Jirira, Derek McAuley, Keith Moffett, Farrell Monk, Nick Russell (Returning Officer), Tom Simon, Chris.

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| Item | Record |
| 1. Introductions and Apologies | Sue Garden welcomed everyone to the meeting  Apologies: received from Flick Rea, Judy Dixey, Sarah Hoyle, Simon Malkovic, Elizabeth Pearson, Tracey Shackle, Erich Wagner, Ann Ward, Craig, |
| 1. Minutes of the AGM held on 24 November 2022 | The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated in advance.  There were no matters arising.  They were agreed, Jim Bowen proposing, Derek McAuley seconding. |
| 1. Chair’s Report | Derek noted the progress we had make this year. Two PPCs were now in place following the boundary changes. The party has fought two by-elections in South Hampstead, and Highgate. This was in large part due to all those that volunteered. Sarah, Janet, and Keith were particularly thanked for their management of local campaigning. The members of the Executive Committee were thanked for their contribution. The Trustees, Sarah, and all the staff at the Kentish Town Community Centre were thanked for hosting several strategic meetings.  There will be a General Election next year, and it might be as early as April or May and this would be an opportunity to recruit and galvanise the interest of new members. Derek indicated that he would not be seeking re-election in November 2024 having served two years. |
| 4. & 5. Accounts for the year to December 2020 and interim to end November 2021 | The Accounts 0fr the Year ending 31st December 2022 had been submitted to the National Party.  2023 year to date summary accounts were circulated in advance.  In Erich’s absence, Derek presented his report.  It was noted that there were differences between the 2022, and 2023 accounts. Noteworthy items mentioned here were:   1. There were local elections in the borough last year. This would account for there being more donations and expenditure. 2. Brent paid for any activity in wards that were in the Hampstead and Kilburn constituency, but their borough. 3. We are going to undertake more digital campaigning next year, and this will cost some money, for it to be effective.   The acceptance of the accounts were proposed and agreed. |
| 6. Independent Reviewer | Thanks were also minuted to Valdir Francisco for reviewing these accounts. He had agreed to continue in that role and was appointed. |
| 7. Parliamentary Update | Baroness Garden noted that we had just had the King’s Speech (which she wondered if he enjoyed?), and the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement.  It was added that some small pieces of legislation are being passed (pedi-bikes, for example), but nothing truly significant.  One interesting development of note was that Jo Johnson is heading up a committee looking at what to do with GCSE. Lib Dems are actively contributing to that committee.  On the subject of Lib Dem activity, we are very active in the Lords. As an example, we got a ban on “conversion therapy” tabled in the Lords, but doubts were expressed about whether we could pass it through the Commons. |
| 8. Council update | Tom Simon reported on the past 12 months in Council, saying he leads a great team who are active in a variety of areas. They have decided to focus on long term, systematic challenges faced by the council.  Some of the areas that the team have focused on include:   1. There are about 9000 fire safety issues, a quarter of which are 4 years old. A plan has been published, but action on it keeps being pushed back. 2. Rough sleeping is an issue in the borough. The actions the council took moving rough sleepers on at UCLH were criticised. 3. Action on Healthy Schools Streets will always be welcomed, but it is felt that the council has sometimes been too rigid in the actions they took. 4. Councillors are good at claiming they are doing something, but are less transparent, when it comes to saying what they are doing.   Issues with parking along the Finchley Road were raised, but it was noted that this is, in fact, a TfL issue.  It was noted that the Conservatives are criticising us in Belsize Ward, over how we voted on the Haverstock Hill Safe and Healthy Street Scheme. It was pointed out that the Lib Dems were trying to improve the situation, rather than voting against, for the sake of being contrarian.  We are doing a little canvassing in Frognal Ward, on top of other campaigns  The Council Report was accepted. |
| 9. Motions | No motions were submitted. |
| 10. Appointments and elections | Returning Officer Nick Russell continues to point out that the role of Honorary President was not up for election.  Baroness Sue Garden is willing to continue as Honorary President, so she was duly confirmed and thanked for continuing in that role.  The position of Vice Presidents would be clarified with HQ in terms of the model constitution which had been adopted with proposals for amendment brought to the 2024 AGM.  Nick Russell announced that the following had been nominated for the Officers and the Executive Committee and were elected unopposed.  The Executive Committee now is:  President Sue Garden Chair Derek McAuley  Vice-chair Keith Moffitt  Treasurer Erich Wagner  Secretary Jim Bowen  Membership Development Officer Charles Clinton  Elections/Campaigns Officer Sarah Hoyle  Diversity Champion Janet Grauberg  Executive Committee (4) Tracey Shackle, Alderman Flick Rea, Pranay Hanrahan, Will Coles.  Co-options of Jil Fraser would be made at the Executive Committee meeting.  Thanks were proposed to Nick for his role as Returning Officer. |
| 11. Campaigns update | Our campaigning in the Highgate by-election is being used to identify new activists, to this end, we are having campaigning events in Swains Lane, the High Street, and on polling day.  Leafletting will also occur in Fortune Green, West Hampstead, Hampstead, and Belsize wards in the run up to Christmas. |
| 12. PPC Speeches | Scott Emery introduced himself as the Hampstead and Highgate PPC and London Assembly candidate for Barnet and Camden. He is a Highgate councillor, in Haringey, and is an in active campaigner there, especially on green issues. He stressed that if he is remembered as a constituency campaigner, he will be extremely happy.  Charles Clinton introduced himself as the Holborn and St. Pancras PPC. He wants to take explicit leadership on green issues, because we need people to take action. He believes that this can be achieved by showing people how to make positive change.  Charles recognises that we can use technology to grow the Party in the future, however, this requires success in elections. That way we can get proportional representation, and reform the system from the inside. |
| 13. AOB | Attention was drawn to the return of the legendary Christmas party at Flick Rea’s house on 16th December. More details will follow in emails and on Facebook.  John Bryant spoke on the benefits of the National Liberal Club, and Liberator magazine, which is free. |