

Minutes of Bromley Borough Liberal Democrats AGM

Thursday 14th November 2024

at 7.00pm: meeting held at Orpington Liberal Club

	ITEM
1	Attendees from the Exec: Gita Bapat, Graeme Casey, Ian Catchpole, Michael Chuter (Chair), Rick Das, Stephen Gosling, Julie Ireland, Mike Jones, Sandy Stern, Allan Tweddle and Sam Webber. Members: Clive Broadhurst, Alan Carter, Martin Cooper, Michael Hall, Tina Fitcher-Smith, Lesley & Peter Furniss, Stephen Jefferies, Graham Jones, David Morrison, Chloe-Jane Ross, Steve Sollit, Andrew Stotesbury, and Stephen Wells. Apologies for absence were received from: Andrew Coleman, Will Connolly, Tom Paul and Tommy Velvick.
2	The Minutes of previous the AGM held on 7 November 2023 The minutes were approved, proposed RD, seconded GC.
3	Matters arising. MC explained the circumstances that had led to Suraj Gandecha standing down earlier in the year which resulted in MC taking over at short notice.
4 a	Chair's Report. MC commented on the party's excellent General Election result, where we saw 72 MPs elected – our best result for 100 years, achieving third party status in the Commons. This was achieved by targetting the most winnable seats which meant our local seats' vote share went down. We will have a much higher profile again at the locals in 2026.
4 b	Treasurer's report. IC expanded on the accounts he had circulated. The main income we have is through donations and events. The accounts had been reviewed by Martin Cooper and submitted to party HQ. They were proposed by CJR and seconded by SW. They were passed by the meeting.
4 c	Reports of other Officers (where applicable) i. CJR explained that the councillors had been working hard in both Beckenham and Bromley. Their pressure had saved Bromley's Churchill theatre through an amazing effort. A priority had been to protect the most vulnerable and pushing the Tories to invest in traditional housing to help the homeless in the borough. Had worked to increase funding for voluntary groups. They had had no luck in pushing for more youth service provision – there is none at present, or indeed on accessibility issues. ii. JI (campaigns) explained that the GE had seen our votes squeezed because none of our three borough seats were targetted by the national party. We will be working hard towards the next local elections in 2026. Hustings for our target wards will be in January. MC outlined the new targetting policy which he summed up as 2+2+2: 2 holding our current wards, 2 target wards and 2 development wards.

5	Election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee for 2025. The following were duly elected: Chair Michael Chuter Vice Chair Martin Cooper Secretary Michael Jones Treasurer Ian Catchpole Elections & Campaigns Officer Julie Ireland Membership Development Officer Sandy Stern Diversity Champion Allan Tweddle Orpington Constituency Rep Graeme Casey Beckenham & Penge Constituency Rep Steven Jefferies Bromley & Biggin Hill Constituency Rep Steve Gosling Ordinary Members: Andy Coleman and Rick Das
6	Appointment of Independent Reviewer for the party's accounts. Michael Hall agreed to take this role.
7	Any Other Business AT suggested that the party locally might leave X (Twitter). MC pointed out that this might not be wise as we currently have 1574 followers on that platform. There was support for moving to Bluesky from the meeting. No decision was made. Andrew Stotesbury asked how many members we have? MC reported 390, it had been 443 a year ago. He said that CamCom were keen to recruit more <u>active</u> members.

Mike Jones (Secretary)
November 2024