

Bath & North East Somerset Liberal Democrats AGM

Minutes of the Bath and North East Somerset AGM held on Friday 24th November 2023

Virtual meeting by Zoom

Simon Taylor Chair of the BANES local party, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from various members of the party including

Cllrs Kevin Guy, Manda Rigby and Fiona Gourley, Will Sandry and Alan Greenfield .

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on Friday 12th November

The minutes of the last AGM were approved.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on a very successful year with 41 Councillors elected in May and the Conservatives reduced to only 3 seats. He also reported on the excellent result in the Somerton and Frome By-election where many members from Bath and NE Somerset went to campaign.

Simon thanked all members for their help and support in these elections

Simon also reported that the staff team remains very strong with two new officers in place and a Campaign Manager due to start in February.

4. Treasurer's report

Steve Gourley introduced the accounts item and informed the meeting that the budget for 2023 would be presented to the IGM of the new party.

a. Adoption of the accounts of 2022

It was agreed that the accounts of the local party for the financial year ended 31 December 2022, as circulated before the meeting and submitted to the electoral commission be noted

b. Appointment of the independent Examiner

It was agreed to appoint Paul Fox as the Independent Examiner to produce an independent report on the accounts for the financial year 2023

5. Data Officer Report

Clive Dellard presented the data report. Membership shows a small decline during 2022 and he stressed the need to recruit more members.

6. Membership Development Report

Fran Edwards outlined the key activities for members which includes a monthly email to members, Socials, Fund-raising and Policy events.

7. Campaign Report

Dave Wood outlined the importance of continuing to campaign in the run up to the General Election. All wards are asked to follow the literature campaign plan. He outlined how following the plan had made a difference in the local elections although local issues have an influence too.

8. Councillors Report

Sarah Warren, Deputy Leader, mentioned some key current issues.

The Local plan partial update has been adopted and this means BANES is the first Council to require Developers to meet net zero targets.

The Clean Air Zone has successfully cut NO2 emissions including those in the outskirts of the City

In 2024 Finance will be a challenge with increasing demands on services and costs rising

9. Winding up of BANES local party

Following a vote of members of BANES local party it was agreed:

a) That the current officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Elections Officer and Membership Development Officer) be designated as the Management Committee for the purpose of supervising the winding up of the Local Party, the approval of its accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the transfer of its assets to its successors.

b) That the activities of the Local Party be suspended with effect from 31st December 2023, and that the Local Party then be dissolved and its assets be transferred to its successors as directed by the Regional Party.

c) That upon the accounts of the Local Party for the year ended 31 December 2023 being approved by the Management Committee and, if necessary, filed with the Electoral Commission, and upon all the assets of the Local Party being transferred to its successors, the Local Party be dissolved

10. Any other business

There was none and the meeting was closed.

