



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## North Shropshire Liberal Democrats

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7.00pm via Zoom

### MINUTES

Present: Dave Walker (chair), James Owen, Romer Hoseason, Julie Bushell, Gregory Ebbs, Rob Jones, Clive Geary, Clare Geary, Tim Ashton, Pat Davies, Peter Brown, Phoebe Ashton, Dan Widdon, Malcolm Myles-Hook

1. Apologies: Helen Morgan, Geoff Soul
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

The minutes of the previous AGM were reviewed and approved unanimously.

#### 3. Officer's Reports

##### a. Chair

See Appendix

##### b. Treasurer

No report submitted, but accounts done and submitted. Current bank accounts hold ~£4,500 once commitments paid out; additional funds expected in the New Year.

##### c. Membership Officer

No report submitted, but membership currently steady at 134.

##### d. Member of Parliament

No report submitted.

4. New / revised Officers:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Elected</b>
Chair	Robert Jones
Vice Chair	James Owen
Treasurer	Clare Geary
Secretary	Malcolm Myles-Hook
Elections Officer	Delegated to local team
Membership Development Officer	Dan Widdon
Diversity Champion	Clive Geary

All the above proposed, seconded and approved unanimously.

5. New / revised Executive Committee Members:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Elected</b>
Connect Co-ordinator	Romer Hoseason
Youth and Student Co-ordinator	Gregory Ebbs
Press Officer	Delegated to local team
Campaign Organiser(s)	Delegated to local team
Fundraising sub-committee	Julie Bushell, Phoebe Ashton, Tom Dainty, Sarah Newell, Pat Davies
Ordinary Members	Tim Ashton, Roger Jones, David Walker

All the above proposed, seconded and approved unanimously.

6. AOB

Fund raising dinner booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

Next meeting is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, with Exec meeting at 6:30pm, followed by Campaign meeting at 7:00pm.

Weekly clerical meetings every Wednesday morning in Wem.

## Chair's Report AGM 2023

Last year we grew massively in terms of funds, campaign capacity, deliverers, poster sites. That growth for us was exponential and nothing like anything we have ever seen before. This year has been no different. We have continued to grow at a great rate.

At the start of the year key activists attended Advanced seats weekend at Yarnfield Park in January. This was a hugely helpful weekend and helped us put our incredible efforts into context. Despite our previous year's growth, we were still behind what other target seats needed to achieve to win their seats. These targets for funds, literature delivered, and contacts made were tried and tested. As I have previously said we were building towards these targets backwards compared to other seats which had to build their capacity before they could become a target seat. However, HQ staff and the head of campaigns, Dave McCobb, were encouraging and were really impressed by what we were achieving, outstripping some other targets or the other by-election winning seats. We left the weekend emboldened and with a clear plan for what we needed to do to win.

This year we have actioned those plans, shifted the fundraising emphasis, improved our social events while also increasing voter contact, delivering a bigger literature plan, increasing our poster sites, supporters, and deliverers right across the constituency. It is only right to thank Julie & Pheobie on the events side of fundraising, who along with Vijay made a huge difference on that front. Vijay also served us well with his excellent literature setting. Thanks, must also go to Joe, Alex and Tom for the huge effort they put in as organisers and all of our members & supporters for making our jobs easier. And of course, not least thanks to Helen who has served the whole community of North Shropshire exceptionally well since taking office.

We have recently reselected Helen as our PPC for the next General Election. This is now a critical period for the local party. We have an excellent candidate with a proven record of success in stark contrast to the previous Conservative incumbent and a great opportunity to get Helen re-elected. But we still have a lot of work to do to get all our deckchairs in a row between now and the GE. The GE could happen in April or October next year or early 2025. Next year is now only a few weeks away. We must be ready for all of those GE windows if we are to win. We can win but we can't do that without your help.

Winning the seat for Helen will also be critical for our success in taking control of Shropshire Council in 2025. Taking control is eminently achievable. We have a good number of candidates in place. Selecting

those is a priority and they will also play a key role in organising their patches to get Helen re-elected.

I have been the chair, vice-chair and chair again for a long period now. It is time for me to step back from that. I haven't performed as well as I would like over the last year. Starting a business whilst still working in my day job has considerably added to my stress levels. Helping care for Sandra's dad has also added to pressures. The business is growing and hopefully that growth will allow me to stop the day job soon and concentrate on winning a seat on Shropshire Council in 2025.

Thank you all for support during my time as chair and helping me rebuild the local party from the ground up. Couldn't have done that without you all. We have come such a long way in a short space of time but there is still plenty to do. I know Robert will do an excellent job as the next Chair.