

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Ipswich Liberal Democrats held on 30/11/2023 at The Quaker Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich

**1. Apologies:** Timothy Oxborrow, Robin Whitmore, Gerald Pyke, Amy Bendall, Sandy Lloyd, Lucy Drake, Charles Croydon, Pam Plumbley, Rosalind Lavington, Sophie Williams, Henry Williams and Mark Valladares

**2. Minutes of last AGM:** These were agreed subject to Gareth Jones be shown as present rather than just Gareth. Also "Ed Davies" amended to "Ed Davey's" in last paragraph of Chairman's Report.

**3.1 Chairman's Report** It was a complicated year with a series of local and national by-elections which we lent support to. We had the sad passing of Julie Fletcher who was a long standing member who had stood as a council candidate for us on many occasions. Another sad passing was that of Caroline Page, County Councillor for Woodbridge. Help was given in holding that seat and also gaining a seat in the Felixstowe by-election. In the Local Elections Tim Lockington held his own seat in St Margarets with a substantial majority and Giles Turner (St Johns) and Martin Pakes (Castle Hill) made progress. Elsewhere in Suffolk we also made progress with the Conservatives losing control of a number of councils

**3.2 Treasurers Report:** A written report was circulated. These included the formal accounts ending 31/12/22. Steve Card affirming as Independent Examiner. Also 2023 accounts to date with estimates to end of 2023. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to those who gave by way of donation or Councillors Tithe. The current surplus is up on 2022 but will almost certainly go down next year if, as is likely, a General Election is held. Malcolm Mitchell proposed and Oliver Holmes seconded that the accounts be noted and approved, Passed nem con.

**4. Election of Honorary President:** Malcolm Mitchell was unanimously re-elected having been nominated by Trevor Powell and seconded by Tim Lockington.

**5. The Honorary President then took the chair for the following elections:**

**Chair: Martin Pakes** Nominated by Trevor Powell and seconded by Inga Lockington

**Secretary: Trevor Powell** Nominated by Martin Pakes and seconded by Conrad Packwood

**Treasurer: Martin Hore** Nominated by Trevor Powell and seconded by Tim Lockington

**Memberssship Development and Data Officer: Tim Lockington** Nominated by Trevor Powell and seconded by Martin Pakes

**Diversity Officer: Conrad Packwood** Nominated by Trevor Powell and seconded by Martin Pakes

All were elected without opposition

**6.1 PPC Report** James Sandbach reported that had done a number of press releases only some of which had got coverage. He was involved in organising the Regional Conference in Ipswich which also got some media coverage. He believes Ipswich is a welcoming community but he has realistic aspirations. A campaign group will be meeting to discuss General Election plans shortly. Gareth Jones expressed the view that the priority must be to remove Tom Hunt as our MP. This view met no disagreement.

**6.2 Borough Council Report :** Cllr Oliver Holmes gave the report as group leader. The council has had a change of both chief executive and council leader this year. Lack of funding means more austerity and cuts in discretionary spending next year..

**6.3 County Council Report.** Following the sad passing of Caroline Page Inga Lockington has taken on the role of leader of the Liberal Democrats on the council. and she also chairs the health committee. The two new Lib Dem councillors elected in the by-elections are welcome additions to the team. The group now have an excellent researcher to support them.

Martin Hore proposed a vote of thanks to all our councillors and this was seconded by Martin Pakes and duly passed.

**At this stage Tim introduced Jon Neal, CEO of Suffolk MIND:** Jon indicated he was a long standing Liberal Democrat member and activist but was no longer able to campaign publicly because of his current role. He then gave an interesting and well received talk on the work of Suffolk Mind, distributed written information on emotional needs and resources and answered questions on funding.

**Any other business.** Martin Pakes reminded members of the Executive Committee that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 4th January.