

Horsham Liberal Democrats

Minutes of the AGM 2024

Held on 8 November 2024 at the Roffey Millennium Hall

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Morwen Millison and John Milne

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 3rd November 2023

The minutes of the last AGM were approved.

3. Reports from:

3.1 Chair

It was noted that we had now elected a Lib Dem MP for Horsham for the first time in 144 years. We should feel proud – although circumstances may be different next time. We also needed to prepare to fight the county council elections. SU thanked the executive group for their contribution.

3.2 Treasurer

BW provided a brief report – the financial accounts had been submitted as required. The general election had cost us £35k. HQ had informed us that we would now be a target seat so a budget of £500k was needed which we knew we could not raise but we raised money via the councillors paying a share of their allowance, donations from members, and wealthy benefactors. We were also fighting a by-election in Denne and the attendees were introduced to Ben who was standing for us.

3.3 Horsham District Council Group

Martin Boffey delivered a report on the last year. Amongst the highlights of this were:

We had produced a local plan

We had saved the future of Denne Hall

We were relocating the council offices to save money and reduce our carbon footprint.

We had passed the first budget through and secured support for the most vulnerable people.

We were refining the council tax support scheme to make it permanent.

We were continuing the Wilder Horsham Project.

We were looking at a new economic development strategy.

We would be improving our governance

We would be changing our approach to the unparished areas to ensure they were included.

We had delivered two annual plans.

We were enhancing the protection of Horsham Park.

We were working to deliver more affordable social housing.

MB explained that we needed more activists to support all the plans.

3.4 West Sussex County Council Group

Nigel Dennis presented a brief report of activity in WSCC.

We had challenged some planning proposals, we were trying to support children's services and there were the usual issues over potholes.

Millais school had been subject to consultation around going co-ed.

4. Note the Accounts of the Horsham local party for the year ended 31st December 2023 and the current financial status.

BW explained that the official timetable meant that the accounts were formally approved at the beginning of the year as required by the Electoral Commission so the accounts were simply noted.

5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2025

The following were elected for the coming year:

5.1 President Morwen Mollison

5.2 Chair Sarah Ullman

5.3 Vice-Chair Malcolm Brierley

5.4 Treasurer Bob Wheatcroft

5.5 Secretary Surrie Everett-Pascoe

5.6 Data Officer Dave Fox

5.7 Membership Development Officer Belinda Walters supported by Aubrey Claridge

5.8 Elections Officer Jon Olson

5.9 Diversity Champion Colin Minto

5.10 Up to four ordinary members of the Executive

Mark Baynham, Collette Blackburn, Jay Mercer.