

LDER AGM, 13 November 2022, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Draft minutes (for approval at 2023 AGM)

Agenda item	Minutes
1. Apologies for Absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom Brake - Crispin Allard - Adrian Fullam - Stephen Gosling - Brendan Blake - Andy Berriman - Sally Yalden
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2 November 2021 a. Accuracy b. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No comments/objections to 2021 minutes (minutes approved) ● No matters arising
3. Reports a. Chair b. Membership Secretary c. Treasurers Report- i) 2022 y-t-d; ii) budget 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keith Sharp offered chair's report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formal welcome to Wendy Chamberlain MP and Christine Jardine MP ○ Noted momentous change in Labour Party policy re: support for PR ○ Noted support to the Parliamentary Party on the Elections Bill ○ Noted coordination with cross-party allies ○ Noted internal matters: banking, transition to an affiliate organisation of the LDs, technology transition ○ Noted transition in treasurer position ● Helen Parker offered membership secretary's report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome to new members and thank you to those who have renewed their membership/changed the method of payment ○ Non-members encouraged to sign up ○ Current paying LDER members: 118 ● Kay Kirkham offered treasurer's report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Took on the role following last year's AGM ○ Noted balance sheet for year to

	<p>date, but await compensation for cancelled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approval of budget for 2023
<p>4. Annual Accounts</p> <p>a. To consider and approve the examined annual accounts for 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanks to Richard Lawrie for his service ● Approval of annual accounts for 2021
<p>5. Membership fee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keith Sharp proposed keeping membership fees at GBP10 and GBP5 (concession) - Approved
<p>6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members</p> <p>a. President - Wendy Chamberlain</p> <p>b. Chair – Keith Sharp</p> <p>c. Secretary - Sarah Lewis</p> <p>d. Treasurer – Kay Kirkham</p> <p>e. Membership Secretary - Helen Parker</p> <p>f. Up to five Ordinary Members of the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crispin Allard - Hazel Fell-Rayner - Denis Mollison - Kathrine Santos - Richard Wood <p>g. Thanks to outgoing members & cooptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wendy Chamberlain MP proposed as president by Keith Sharp, seconded by Denis Mollison ● Keith Sharp proposed as chair by Anna Beria, seconded by Daniel Cope ● Sarah Lewis proposed by Keith Sharp, seconded by Richard Wood ● Kay Kirkham proposed by Keith Sharp, seconded by Kathrine Santos ● Helen Parker proposed by Keith Sharp, seconded by Anna Beria ● Ordinary Members taken as a bloc (Crispin, Hazel, Denis, Kathrine, Richard W) proposed by Keith Sharp, seconded by Richard Lawrie ● Daniel Cope put forward nomination for joining the Exec and Keith Sharp to follow up (missed 7:30pm nomination deadline) ● Keith Sharp has noted gap in diversity of the committee re: race/ethnicity ● Keith Sharp has noted that Exec has power of cooption (3 cooptees) and this will be first business of the new Exec ● Keith Sharp thanked Peter Hirst for his work as member of the Exec and Peter will remain active
<p>7. Appointment of Examiner</p> <p>To appoint an Examiner of the accounts for the coming year. – Dominic Mathon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kay Kirkham proposed Dominic Mathon as the Examiner for 2022, seconded by Keith Sharp
<p>8. Motions to AGM.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keith Sharp proposed constitutional amendment - approved

8.1 The LDER Constitution 4.1 shall be amended, with the word 'associate' being deleted and replaced by the word 'affiliate'. This is to bring the LDER constitution into alignment with the reform of party bodies such as ourselves into affiliate organisations of the party.

Close of formal AGM – approximately 8 pm.

'Turning turmoil to our advantage – threats and opportunities for electoral reformers'

Christine Jardine MP, Cabinet Office
 Spokesperson, Cabinet Office (including Political and Constitutional Reform; **and Wendy Chamberlain MP** address the meeting, followed by q&a. The meeting is due to close by 9pm.

- **Christine Jardine MP** addressed the meeting
 - By-elections turned turmoil to our advantage
- **Wendy Chamberlain MP** addressed the meeting
 - Turmoil is not over yet!
 - Boundary Commission will come into effect next year
- **Keith Sharp:** Both of you have told us about the anger on the doorsteps/the perception that politics is broken. How can we as a party turn this to our advantage - for electoral reform, or to win seats?
 - **CJ:** Elections are not always about what people thinking they are going to be about. PR will not win us the election, but it will be the prize. No pacts! We will win by being the candidates who can beat the Tories.
 - **Wendy:** SNP will fight on single line manifesto to have independence referendum
- **Anna Beria:** Are there divisions in our own party?
 - **Wendy:** We were only party with 100% turnout on the fracking vote. Within the parliamentary party, we are pretty much aligned.
 - **CJ:** By the time policies have got through conference, the cats are already herded!
 - **Wendy:** Currently talking about costed priorities
- **Marisha Ray:** How can we create a democracy/politics in which people from all backgrounds are comfortable to

participate, given that PR in other countries does not automatically create community cohesion?

- **CJ:** Parliament/government that reflects society and everyone sees themselves represented. Benches in parliament far better reflect the diversity of British society. Rishi Sunak getting elected is a thing. Margaret Thatcher as PM is a thing. Ideally, an elected upper house, a PR system and chambers that reflected the society they are supposed to represent.
- **Wendy:** The challenge is not those who do engage in politics, but those who don't. Most people are not engaged in the way that we are. Lack of engagement is a trend in western democracy. Electoral reform won't solve all the ills including engaging those who don't vote/transient populations.
- **Daniel Cope (PPC for Maidenhead):** What advice to PPC in blue wall seat?
 - **Wendy:** Long term strategy with realistic goals. Strong local campaigns (leaflets and doors!)
 - **CJ:** Important question is whether or not she will stand again - and then you will have a real chance!
- **Hazel Fell-Rayner:** How do we get beyond the pity for the government, Boris, Covid-19 etc.?
 - **CJ:** Have to be careful with past Tory voters, so that they do not feel blamed/offended. Or be sure not to waste your time.
 - **Wendy:** They probably won't vote for us!
- **Mary Kenchington:** Are we being proactive enough re telling voters what we are FOR versus commiserating with voters on things that are wrong?
 - **Wendy:** Have to be news agenda responsive and therefore comment on the performance of the government. Keynote from Ed this coming Sunday which we expect to be covered on ITV. Making headway when it comes

	<p>to media coverage, particularly in target areas. Our by-election stunts have worked!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CJ: Have to put forward our agenda, but to do that we have to get on air and be relevant.● Sarah Lewis: If you had to be in a reality TV show, which one would you choose?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wendy: Strictly Come Dancing!○ CJ: MasterChef / Best Home Chef (cooking, not baking)● Closing remarks?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CJ: Thank you for everything you will do (in advance) in the GE.○ Wendy: We are closer than ever to PR.
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