**The Croydon Liberal Democrats**

**Annual General Meeting 2021**

**Minutes**

**Meeting**

Date: Tuesday 18 November 2021

Time: 7:15pm for 7:30pm start

Location: St Andrews Hall. West Croydon (and also Virtual on Zoom)

**Attended**

Andrew Barrett

Andrew Bennett

Claire Bonham *(Chair)*

Luke Bonham

Frederic Bonhoure

Mark Chalmers

James Clark

Jean Cook

Ken George

Gill Hickson

Tomas Howard-Jones

Richard Howard

John Jefkins *(minutes)*

Chris Jordan

Pat Knight

Peter Ladanyi

Drew Lindon

Keith Miller

Dan Houghton

Andrew Rendle

Katy Perryment

Dug Tremellen

Susan Watson

Francis Wilkinson

**Proceedings**

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| **Item** | **Description** |
| **1** | **Welcome and introductions** |
| 1.1 | **Claire Bonham** welcomed all present to the meeting. |
| **2** | **Apologies for absence** |
| 2.1 | Apologies for absence were received from those named at the head of this document. |
| **3** | **Minutes of the previous meeting** |
| 3.1 | The [minutes of the 2020 AGM](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ldcroydon/pages/580/attachments/original/1602340778/2019_agm_-_minutes_-_final_draft.docx?1602340778) were agreed to be an accurate record of that meeting, and were approved. |
| **4** | **Reports** |
| **A** | **Chair’s report** |
| 4.1 | **Claire Bonham**, Chair, relayed highlights from the [Chair’s report](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ldcroydon/pages/580/attachments/original/1604480187/Croydon_Liberal_Democrats_Chair%27s_Report_2020.docx?1604480187) on the year’s activities circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. |
| 4.2 | **Mayors campaign:** Claire thanked members and supporters for their hard work during a Mayor’s election, where (with Sutton) we were one of the only areas to beat the Greens. One lesson was that Inner London messaging had not always worked here.  |
| 4.3 | **Social gatherings:** Covid rules had restricted social gatherings until later in the year. It was tough to do everything online. She thanked John for the September garden party and said, “we’ve bounced back now” |
| 4.4 | **Next year’s elections:** Claire looked forward to next year’s elections, commenting that with Labour in such a financial mess, “if we can’t win a councillor or two now I don’t know when we can”. Next year’s election will be more complex with the new Mayor. There would be training organised in the New Year to aid people who’d never canvassed before. She finished by thanking everyone she’d worked with, in 3 years as chair. There would be a reception after the meeting with some wine & nibbles. |
| **B** | **Treasurer’s report** |
| 4.5 | **Mark Chalmers**, Treasurer, [reported on the local party’s accounts](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ldcroydon/pages/580/attachments/original/1605447186/CroyLibDemAcctsYE2019-1.pdf?1605447186) for the calendar year 2020, as prepared by himself. To summarise: Due to covid and no elections the year made a profit as not a lot happened.Key elements of expendure where “office costs” of Nationwide (our website & email system), £300 for marked registers of the 2019 General election, and some pre-campaigning (leaflets etc) for 2021. A bridging loan from the period in 2019 when money was tied up in Paypal was repaid.Income was £5,503.27 with 58% coming from regular donors. Only £200 was rebated back from National Party members – meaning that the new rebate system offers us less financial incentive to retain inactive members. We had gifts in kind of £1,400 that funded leaflets & marked registers.We are thus overdependent on the generosity of a few people and need to diversify our fundraising. For example the South East Surrey Supporters Club provided £333 in 2021. It costs members £1 per share and offers prizes back of up to £100 to participants. |
| 4.6 | **John Jefkins** asked what percent of that comes back to us & how that compared with national membership money. Mark replied that 35% returns as prizes & almost all the rest is returned proportionally to the 3 participating parties. And we **do** get more money back from the Supporters club than national membership. **Adrian Glendenning** commented that the system had changed in 2019 when party membership money switched to funding national campaigns & local parties were forced to fundraise themselves for any local campaigning.**Claire Bonham** then confirmed that in her discussions on London region with national party officials she had pointed out that there was no longer any incentive for local parties to retain “national” members. She said the system was unlikely to change anytime soon. If we want to campaign locally we need to fundraise ourselves and point out to members that their “national” membership fees now provide very little support to us locally.Mark then commented on this past year (2021) as being much busier in campaign spending & fundraising that pretty much covered the £1500 of campaign expenditure. Going forward we have 3 “priority” wards of South Croydon, Old Coulsdon and Crystal Palace for May next year’s elections.**John Jefkins** then summed up for the audience that1. 100% of local Donation money gets used on local campaigning
2. Most of SESurrey money also comes to us locally (rest in prizes)
3. Very little of national membership fees come to us & your minimum membership fee is £12 – meaning you could adjust your proportions according to how much you value national versus local campaigning.

**Claire Bonham** said our accounts were independently examined & approved by a Richard Elliot. She asked if anyone had questions.**Ken George** (who manages the supporter club) pointed out Croydon members won 5 of the 13 prizes last month as a dispropotionate share. We’ve also won the £100 prize several times.**Peter Ladanyi** asked how the prizes were selected. **Ken** answered as a random selection of the participating shares. **Mark** thanked **Adrian Glendenning** for his work on the 1st three months of these accounts as Mark took over in March 2020. |
| 4.7 | The accounts were approved by the AGM proposed by Dan Houghton & seconded by Adrian Glendenning. |
| **5** | **Election of Honorary President** |
| 5.1 | **Lord Dholakia**, Honorary President, was re-elected. |
| **6** | **Election of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2020** |
| 6.1 | **John Jefkins**, Secretary, reported on nominations received. |
| 6.2 | The 2021 Executive Committee will be:Officers:* **Peter Ladanyi** – Chair
* **Mark Chalmers** – Treasurer
* **John Jefkins** – Secretary
* **No candidates** – Data Office
* **Tomas Howard**-**Jones** – Membership Development Officer
* **No candidates** – Young Liberals Representative

**No candidates** – Diversity OfficerMembers and representatives:* **Gill Hickson** – Ordinary Member
* **Keith Miller** – Ordinary Member
* **Adrian Glendenning** – Ordinary Member
* **Pat Knight** – Constituency Representative, Croydon South
* **Jean Cook** – Constituency Representative, Croydon South
* **Andrew Rendel** – Constituency Representative, Croydon Central
* **James Clark** – Constituency Representative, Croydon North

As a result, no contested elections are to be held. |
| **7** | **Appointment of an Independent Examiner for 2021 accounts** |
| 7.1 | The meeting agreed to mandate Richard Elliot be an Independent Examiner for the 2021 accounts. |
| **8** | **Close and reception** |
| 8.1 | **Claire Bonham** thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting. The meeting was followed by an informal reception. |