

Hereford and South Herefordshire Green Party

Notes of Annual General Meeting on 9 October 2018 at Garden Room, Hereford Left Bank

Present: Toni Fagan, Tricia Griffiths, Helen Heathfield, Kyrle du Heaume, Libby Hudson, Tony Hull, Martin Kibblewhite, Mary Kibblewhite, Alicia Lagoutte, Louis Lagoutte, Jeremy Milln, Robert Milne, Sheila Milne, Felicity Norman, Rob Palgrave, Colette Priestley, Richard Priestley, Carole Protherough, Maggie Setterfield, Ian Stead, Glenn Storhaug, David Straker, Jane Straker, Diana Toynbee, Natalia Waring, Alan Wheatley, Sue Young

1. **Apologies.** Allen Fisher, Edward Milford.

2. **Welcome & introductions.** Diana Toynbee welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She particularly thanked Natalia Waring for providing the venue. She referred to the deaths of 2 good friends of the local Green Party. Martin Knight had died in July and Brian Lunt just last week. They had both contributed much, with Brian acting as treasurer for many years and also standing for Parliament. There was a card for his widow Sheila which everyone could sign.

3. **Minutes of meeting on 11 October 2017.** These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Their adoption was proposed by Kyrle du Heaume & seconded by Natalia Waring. They were agreed as a true record and signed by Diana.

4. **Matters arising.** There were none.

5. **Chair's report.** This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Drawing out some highlights, Diana thanked the Committee and all who had contributed over the year.

The emphasis during the year had been local, building up good relationships with local groups, enhancing our local reputation and making ourselves more visible.

An important focus had been on the fight against the Southern Link Road and the Hereford bypass – Carole Protherough, Rob Palgrave and Jeremy Milln had been particularly active in the Hereford Transport Alliance. They have produced proofs of evidence for the SLR public enquiry which begins on 30 October.

Diana has been selected as our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (as has Ellie Chowns in the North Herefordshire constituency) so we are ready to go if a General Election should be called.

In connection with the bypass, it was mentioned that Professor John Whitelegg is presenting an alternative vision for transport in Herefordshire at the CPRE AGM on 13 October (details on web site).

6. **Treasurer's report.** This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Rob Palgrave said that the balance of just over £3,000 was thanks largely to donations and to the sum given to us by national office from membership fees. We are in a healthy position to fund the campaign for May 2019 local elections. He invited questions, but there were none.

7. Reports from other officers.

The membership officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Kyrle du Heaume said she had nothing to add.

The nominating officer's report was circulated at the meeting. Glenn Storhaug reported that Diana Toynbee has been re-elected as the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. Only 15% of the membership completed and returned ballot papers.

The press officer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Rob Palgrave referred to the good relationship with Hereford Times which means that our letters generally get published. Jeremy Milln has drawn together all the coverage on the bypass. Our web site, Facebook & Twitter accounts provide details of what is happening. The election coordinator's report was circulated at the meeting.

8. **Election of officers.** It was pointed out that only members could vote and each nomination needed a nominator and a seconder.

Sue Young took the chair. She said that there was a suggestion that the title of coordinator should be used rather than chair and invited nominations.

Coordinator. Diana Toynbee was nominated by Richard Priestley and seconded by Kyrle du Heaume. There were no other nominations. Diana was appointed unanimously. Diana then took the chair.

Vice chair. Edward Milford was nominated by Rob Palgrave and seconded by Richard Priestley. There were no other nominations. Edward was appointed unanimously.

Treasurer. Rob Palgrave was nominated by Glenn Storhaug and seconded by Richard Priestley. There were no other nominations. Rob was appointed unanimously.

Nominating office, agent & electoral returning officer. Glenn Storhaug was nominated by Kyrle du Heaume and seconded by Alan Wheatley. Glenn said that whilst he was happy to continue, he was only in Hereford half the time and did not feel he was contributing as much as he would like to. He would be happy for someone else to take it on. There were no other nominations. Glenn was appointed unanimously.

Membership officer. Kyrle du Heaume was nominated by Carole Protherough and seconded by Glenn Storhaug. There were no other nominations. Kyrle was appointed unanimously. Kyrle mentioned that Maggie Setterfield had offered to assist her which was most welcome.

Campaigns & Elections Coordinator. Edward Milford was nominated by Sheila Milne and seconded by Libby Hudson. There were no other nominations. Edward was appointed unanimously.

Secretary. Sue Young was nominated by Glenn Storhaug and seconded by Kyrle du Heaume. There were no other nominations. Sue was appointed unanimously.

Diana said that unless there were any nominations, the other roles listed would be shared out around the team more.

9. **Agreement of bank signatories.** The 4 bank signatories were agreed as Glenn Storhaug, Rob Palgrave, Edward Milford and Diana Toynbee.

10. Strategy and goals for forthcoming year and 2019 elections to Herefordshire Council

Diana spoke first about the energising impact of the Autumn Green Party conference that she and others attended last week-end. There were passionate speeches from the two new co-leaders (available online) and a target was set to overtake the Lib Dems as the third party. She was also very impressed with the active group of Bristol Councillors.

Our focus locally was now firmly on the May 2019 elections when all 53 councillors on the Herefordshire Council will be elected. She invited Felicity Norman (Green Party Councillor for Leominster West) to tell us about discussions with other parties.

Felicity said that at the initiative of Its Our County (IOC) there had been a meeting between them, us and representatives of the Labour Party and the Independent group. Perry Walker facilitated the meeting. It was agreed to co-operate to stand, wherever possible, only one strong candidate against the Conservatives. The meeting had been encouraging and another is to take place next week where each party will say which are those seats they will definitely be contesting and those where there could be debate & co-operation. So far as North Herefordshire is concerned the seats the Green party will definitely contest are where the 4 GP councillors already sit, plus Leominster North & Rural & Three Crosses.

Diana then asked Jeremy Milln to talk about the survey work he had been spearheading in Central Ward. Jeremy explained that he had been using the GP recommended technique of 60 second surveys. With the help of a number of volunteers 400 household forms have been returned. Has been hard work, but have achieved a high level of engagement. He will now be analysing the responses regarding key concerns / issues and summarising this in a newsletter as a follow up. Richard Priestley emphasised the importance of having a large team of people prepared to deliver leaflets and engage on the doorstep.

Diana invited Rob Palgrave to introduce the local manifesto. Rob said that as a result of a long and interesting process a document had been put together which outlined what the Green Group will stand for on Herefordshire Council. Copies are available and it will be put on the website. It is not for use whilst canvassing, but is useful background if anyone wants to know the details.

Finally Diana introduced Helen Heathfield who (thanks to a major donation) has been appointed to work 2 days a month over the next 6 months to help us fight the Herefordshire elections. Helen said she has recently moved to this area, has been a GP candidate elsewhere in the past and has experience of campaigns. Her first task when she starts next week will be to put together a draft programme of work for discussion with both constituency parties.

11. **Date of next AGM.** This would be in Sep / Oct 2019. Date and venue to be notified.

12. **Date of next business meeting.** Tuesday 13 November 19.30 in the Brewery Room at the Barrels. All are welcome to these meetings.

13. **Date of next Big Green Conversation.** The next one will be on Wednesday 28 November at the Left Bank. Natalia Waring said that Gareth Davies will be speaking about rail and bus plans for Hereford.

14. **Any other business.**

A number of events were mentioned: Meeting of Women's Equality Group with Ellie Chowns speaking; HEnergy events; Leominster Apple Fair 20 October; & Brexit march in London 20 October. Also Trish Marsh on Politics on Sunday can be seen on iPlayer. For details of all these see web site.

15. The meeting closed soon after 8.30.