

Minutes for AGM, Thursday 10th December 2020

1. Those present: Cecily Blyther, Nick Agnew, Toby Ebert, Pam Ebert, Kathie Salter, Siobhan Strode, Doug McLynn, Val Cann, Mark Cann, Steve Hinchliffe, Annie McVey, Roy Tomlinson, Glynis Walker, Andy McGeeney, Chris Swanwick, Martin Robathan, Ian Crawford, Finola O'Neill, Jerry Dickens, Harry Ellis, Oliver Bell, Catherine Bearfield, Ben Totterdell, Sid Baldaro, Rosie Godfrew, Jane Dickens, James Baldaro, Sean O'Callaghan, Allan Davies, Katie Baldaro, Lydia Gladstone, Masie Dickens, James Williams, Phil Hawkins, Blake Hawkins, Molly Dickens, Gaynor Howe, Tamsin Higgs

2. Apologies., Terry Elliott

3. Minutes of previous AGM – 22nd October 2019 were approved.

4. Annual Report: Siobhan Strode presented the report

Annual Report 2020

A bizarre year for North Devon CLP and Labour nationally.

We ran a general election campaign with our PPC, Finola O'Neill, and members working in rotten conditions, battling the tactical vote nonsense and Brexit shenanigans to encourage the people of North Devon to vote Labour. Sadly it wasn't our time. However, Fin set up the Climate Forum and continues to work closely with XR and local campaigners on cycle paths. Membership currently at 571 (586 in 2018) (40 New Members this year) We have lost 114 (21 Resigned, 93 lapsed). We still have 160 affiliated members through their Trades Union. Total membership now stands at 746 – still encouraging despite the circumstances of a difficult year – a net loss of 92 over the year.

The Pandemic meant that our last CLP was just before lockdown number 1, back in March. Which has made campaigning impossible, apart from online. However, the Exec sprang into action, organising Zoom Coffee Mornings and Quizzes to help combat loneliness during these difficult and - ahem - unprecedented times. It's been lovely seeing lots of new faces, and the stalwarts too. We are continuing weekly meetups to chat, collectively sigh at the world, and plot a socialist future. Alternating coffee mornings with wine nights...

Thank you to Martin and all the Red Ramblers for their efforts to keep us fit and healthy and enjoying the wilds of Northern Devon. It's great to have another extra curricular activity for members to engage with.

Left Book Club has been a success too, an initiative started by Andy McGeeney that has created an opportunity for members to read and discuss various lefty books.

Members across North Devon have been delivering essential shopping to vulnerable people who slipped through the support cracks, or had no access to online shopping. Members rallied together to donate to their local foodbanks and supported their local shops. I'm proud of the efforts from our members who were able to support their communities with prescription deliveries and phone calls.

During the summer, Devon Forum interviewed potential candidates for the County Council elections next May, and since then we've had several selection meetings for members to select their ward's candidate. We now have candidates selected for Braunton, Chulmleigh, Barnstaple North, South Molton...

Our social media has continued to do well, with lots of hard work from Annie McVey, Mark Cann, Nick Agnew and Lydia Gladstone. Thank you, there are now over 2136 Likes. And you might have seen the videos Nick, Chris (and Mark) have put together for our online ad campaign. This is the beginning of our County Council campaign, and Steve Hinchcliff has been coordinating - all members are welcome to those meetings - and in the new year, we hope to see some fresh blood on the campaign trail.

Our 4 elected Parish Councillors – Terry Elliot in Ilfracombe, Val Cann in Braunton, Oliver Bell in Morteohoe and Ian Crawford in Fremington continue to do sterling work in their communities despite the coronavirus trying to thwart efforts. All of your work inspires me and other members. Thank you.

Campaigning events – General Election, Street Stalls supporting national Campaign days. Somewhat limited in what we can safely do offline. We joined the summer BLM protests in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe, and the Plate Protest outside Selaine Saxby's office. We have had zoom meetings with farmers, to find out their issues and listen to their views.

Our Finances are in good shape – we will be looking to raise more in the coming year, as our local election campaign will make a dent in the reserves. The Lottery continues to be a successful means of regular fundraising and our thanks to Steve Webber for continuing to run the scheme.

Social events have helped to raise funds – our Christmas Skittles Event was a success, with the fish and chip supper! But sadly our Summer Party was cancelled and we will have to look forward to the socialist jams and veggies next summer. But we've raised some money for NDADA during lockdown with proceeds from one of Val and Mark's quizzes.

Due to the coronavirus, we've been unable to have Conference, but fingers crossed we will be choosing delegates and attending in 2021.

In the last 12 months we have had 3 CLP meetings (meetings were cancelled in Nov/Dec because of the election and this evening will be our first CLP since March and the initial lockdown). These have been well attended - averaging 35.

Informal meetings at Ilfracombe have continued online as far as possible with one face to face in autumn, and ND members have been coming to the coffee mornings.

Finally – can I give thanks to all the Exec for their efforts over the year and thanks to all of our members for the support you give throughout the year and on a personal note as I come to the end of my first year as Chair, I'd like to thank all of you lovely humans for your support over the last year.

5. Finance Report: Martin Robathan submitted the following report

The financial position of the North Devon Labour Party is as follows:

Our bank balance at 10 Dec: £4087 (*at last year's AGM (22 Oct 19) this was £5217*)

Our total income for the 11 months to 30 Nov was £ 3229 (*12 months to £5569*)

Our expenditure for this period was £ 2673 (*£9076*)

Major items of expenditure were:

Election expenses £1133.

Income included:

Membership fees (the part of your membership that is returned to us) £ 1157 (*£1479*)

Affiliations from Unions (Unison, CWU, GMB, USDAW) £ 58 (*£166*)

Donations £450 (*£537*)

Lottery profit £696 (*£900*)

6. Election of Officers:

The following Executive Committee members were elected to serve for until the AGM at the end of 2021 (less than the usual 12 month period as a result of the delay to this AGM due to the Coronavirus Pandemic)

Executive Officers

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| • Chair | Siobhan Strode |
| • Vice Chair M'ship | Oliver Bell |
| • Vice Chair | Steve Hinchliffe |
| • Secretary | Nick Agnew |
| • Treasurer | Martin Robathan |
| • Women's Officer | Finola O'Neill |
| • Policy Officer | Roy Tomlinson |

7. Additional members of the Executive Committee

Communications and Social Media Officer	Lydia Gladstone
Diversity Co-ordinator	Tamsin Higgs
Fundraising Co-Ordinator	Val Cann
Trades Union Liaison Officer	Cecily Blyther
Youth Officer	Sean O'Callaghan
Political Education Officer	Chris Swanwick

8. Election of Auditor Mike Rath and Harry Ellis

The meeting closed at 7.35pm