

## North Devon Labour Party



### Minutes of a CLP Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

PRESENT: Toby Ebert, Pam Ebert, Dylan Billson, Tamsin Higgs, Mark Cann, Val Cann, Glenda Thurley, Harry Ellis, Siobhan Strode, Martin Robathan, Philippa Mackintosh Roy Tomlinson, Oliver Bell, Marion Mason, Andy Stapley, Alison Bater, Paul Arkell, Terry Elliot, Wendy Smith, Donald Kilpatrick, Roger Phillips, Andy McGeeny, Steve Hinchliffe, Nick Agnew

### Apologies

Helen Cooper, Lydia Shelton, Mike Rath, Sarah and Goef Bailey, Bob and Anne Mannings

### Minutes of CLP Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Were agreed

### Matters Arising

- CORONAVIRUS the next CLP meeting is likely to be cancelled
- We will be looking into alternative ways to conduct meetings online
- Tamsin raised the issue of decision making on a platform that is not accessible to every member and suggested online meetings be restricted to discussion

### Membership update

- Total membership stands at 647 – affiliate membership 234

### Finance

- Balance in Bank Account at 2<sup>nd</sup> March: £2,212. Previous report (Jan) £2252.
- **Annual Statement of Accounts**  
The Audit Committee met this week. The Committee consists of Martin Robathan, Treasurer, Siobhan Strode, Chair and Deputy Treasurer, Mike Rath, Harry Ellis. The Committee discussed and approved the Annual 'Statement of Accounts'. The Committee requests that the CLP approves these accounts which have to be with the Part nationally by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

#### OVERVIEW OF YEAR 2019

##### **31<sup>st</sup> Dec 18**

Balance in Bank: £8143

Cash in Hand: £101

TOTAL £8244

##### **31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019**

Balance in Bank: £3063

Cash in Hand: £163

**Total £3226**

TOTAL INCOME THIS YEAR; £6013, INCLUDED:

Donations: £775

Membership: £1735

Lottery Profit: £1410

Fundraising about: £750

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £11103, INCLUDED:

A total of £7435 on election expenses. This does not include the £872 committed in this year but was not paid by us until 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2020.

Conference expenses were £1396

Running costs including room bookings £1128

- The CLP would like to extend their thanks to Steve Webber for his commitment to running the lottery
- The report was proposed by Martin Robathan, seconded by Toby Ebert and passed unanimously

## **Executive Committee Report**

### **1. SOCIAL MEDIA**

- Some recent incidents on Facebook page and members group involving both members and non-members
- We are addressing how we interact on Facebook and putting clear policies in place for dealing with abusive behaviour/ language as well as a formal system for dealing with complaints/ queries, etc...
- Members are reminded our public Facebook page is the public face of the party and behaviour should reflect our values of tolerance and fairness. Our member's page is the place for debate and discussion about party matters but should also be respectful and constructive

### **2. FUNDRAISING**

- Quiz next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Saunton Road Studios
- Film screening and music night being planned

### **3. COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

- We'd like a local candidate in every seat
- Ilfracombe our target area
- Discuss further at the CLP (item 12)

### **4. PCC**

- Noted that the Exec was unhappy with the way the campaign was conducted and are writing to Region to outline why.

## Councillors Report

### OLIVER BELL – MORTHOE PARISH COUNCIL

- Attended Northern Devon Right to Travel meeting
- Arranging the next Community Land Trust Meeting and has taken on the role of Treasurer

### TERRY ELLIOT – ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

- **Housing Standards** Terry has become the 'Housing Champion' on the town council. It is a very difficult position to fill with plenty of opposition within the council. 51% of housing in Ilfracombe is private rental and Terry goes to the properties to assess their state and status.
- **Health Inequality** Terry met with Selaine Saxby to demand better and fairer health facilities in Ilfracombe
- **Social Care** is beyond crisis in Ilfracombe, with a huge amount of unmet need. Terry had just come from 'Micro Providers' meeting where they try to think outside the box to help independent and self employed carers to see if there are ways to improve the situation.

### VAL CANN – BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

- **Climate Emergency** since Braunton declared a climate emergency, there has been no action taken by the council. Every meeting is spent dealing with other issues. At the last meeting, 2 motions were presented by Val. 1. A water refiller in the village, 2. To encourage Barnstaple to apply for electric buses. Both fell on deaf ears with ridiculous objections to both. There is clearly no will to act from the Lib Dems. Val is attending a Climate Emergency working party on Monday.

## Regional Conference Report

### General Election Report – Greg Cook

- The slides from this presentation are available should members wish to receive them

### Result of Motion Appeal and Response from other CLPs

- Already fed back to Exec via email

### General Election Discussion

- Discussed with other CLP delegates what we felt had gone wrong/ challenges we faced/ issues that need to be overcome. This was then fed back to Regional Panel
- Rural affairs – not able to reach or have the expertise to engage with the rural community/ farmers – NFU hustings cited
- Selection of PPC – Lots of consensus that not having one is a massive setback

- Lib Dems – Similar stories to us, although we seem to be lucky that the Lib Dem vote took such a hit
- Labour Leader –
- Brexit –
- Manifesto –

#### Advice from Luke Pollard

- Data collection is vital
- Choose data collection over street stalls – used year-round for Facebook targeting and contact. Data is then used all year and kept up to date for elections
- Can be applied to County Council Elections
- Get 'marked register' from council
- Aim to get data for 50% of single ward – Ilfracombe
- Use this to target and blitz the right voters in Ilfracombe to win seat on County Council!

#### Working Group Training Session

- Regular training emails to members? A way to get them engaged through 'featured content'
- We must read training bulletins
- Organise 'Group Training' sessions
- Sort training tools into 'Role Holder' groups for role holder ongoing development and new role holder initial training
- We were asked if we have a 'Safeguarding Officer'
- Political Education Days – educating members involved in campaigning on subjects such as History of Social Care, History of Industrial Revolution and Climate Change, History of the NHS, etc... The idea is to get experts/ teachers/ union members to run sessions
- ACHIEVE – is an eLearning platform for members to use that many are not aware of
- It was suggested we should put together a series of training/ information emails for new members that cover 6 – 12 months to try and increase member engagement
- Clear role descriptions and training should be provided so members will want to fill roles because they understand what they entail. It also becomes clearer what can be delegated to members who can't commit to the full role (support roles)

#### **National Conference**

The role of the delegates was discussed including how they represent the CLP, the structure of voting at conference and the delegates accountability to the CLP by reporting back their actions.

- Main Delegate: Steve Hinchliffe was proposed by Mark Cann and seconded by Val Cann. Nick Agnew was proposed by Martin Robathan and seconded by Harry Ellis. Nick was selected by a vote of 16 to 5
- Women's Delegate: Tamsin Higgs was proposed by Siobhan Strode and seconded by Terry Elliot. She was confirmed by a unanimous vote
- Youth Delegate: Oliver Bell was proposed by Siobhan Strode and seconded by Martin Robathan. He was confirmed by a unanimous vote

The constitutional amendment prepared by the Executive Committee was proposed by Mark Cann, seconded by Phil Hawkins and passed with 19 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

### **Youth Officer - vacancy**

No candidates were present so the role remains open.

### **CLP Development Plan**

It was agreed that we will schedule a separate meeting, dedicated to the development plan to increase the democratic involvement of members.

### **County Council elections**

- It was agreed that our target seat will be Ilfracombe
- We intend to field candidates in all seats and the timeline for applications was outlined
- Terry Elliot outlined the issue of apathy in Ilfracombe and the issues of large numbers if the electorate not registered to vote and those who don't turn out to vote

### **Special Conference**

The special conference to announce the new party leadership has been cancelled.

### **Police and Crime Commissioner results**

- Gareth Derrick selected
- We have offered £150 towards his campaign and to hold a public meeting for him in Ilfracombe on 25<sup>th</sup> April

### **Any other business**

- Tamsin noted the lack of diversity at Regional Conference. She has spoken to Phil Gaskin about the efforts being made by CLPs. She asked what we can do and how Regional Conference could be more proactive.
- Oliver ran a successful Facebook meetup with an altered format and would welcome feedback. Phil Hawkins experienced some disrespectful behaviour and Mark asked for a reminder email about behaviour to be sent out to members.

### **Future meetings, events and venues**

- 28<sup>th</sup> April 7pm, Castle Centre (Barnstaple)
- 9<sup>th</sup> June 7pm, South Molton, venue tbc.