

Minutes of General Meeting
Wednesday 17th March 2021
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Sharron Honey (SH)	John Skipworth (JS)
Neil Stevenson (NDS)	Mark Clayton (MC)
Danny Simm (DS)	Meg Flower (MF)
Ben Thomas (BT)	Ian Dyer (ID)
Stuart Thomas (ST)	Brian Witt (BW)
Lewis Parkin (LP)	Graham Suddick (GS)
Brian Fisher (BF)	Simon Lepori (SL) Guest Speaker

1. Apologies for Absence:

Geoff Matthews, Rob Stevenson, David Burley

2. Officer's Reports

a. Chair's Report (SH)

SH reminded members that we can now deliver leaflets. SH had delivered in Orrell on Monday and had a photograph. SL was to join the meeting at 8:30pm. We will take a break in our meeting to talk to SL and resume the meeting afterwards.

b. Treasurer's Report (NS)

In DB's absence NS presented the treasurer's report on his behalf. We have £1885.67p in our bank account. Outstanding debts were for the Wigan leaflet, for which we have had no invoice. Also, £350 towards the Mayoral campaign. The figure of £350 was questioned, as at our February meeting we agreed £250. It was agreed to check with DB. Local campaign donations now amount to £1390.00p.

c. Social Media (DS)

DS asked for the photos of the footpath clean up in Orrell. ST agreed to send them to DS. SH's photo delivering leaflets had 3000 views on her Twitter account. There was a discussion about links between Facebook and Twitter. It was agreed that a personal approach on social media worked better.

d. Campaigns (ST)

The Winstanley leaflet is ready to go to the printers. The Orrell leaflet is being prepared. Both will be ready to go to Election Workshop before this Sunday's deadline to receive the discounted price. We should receive them back from the printers by 1st April. To-date eight walks (of 33) have been completed in Orrell and six in Hindley. ST and BT have two Orrell walks to deliver. JS reported that two further ward specific leaflets for Pemberton and Ashton would be produced. ST will manage their production. A generic leaflet for Wigan wards will be managed by Will.

At this point, Simon Lepori joined the meeting. A precis of his attendance follows these minutes.

e. Membership (JS)

JS reported that we have 90 members, three of whom are at risk. There are 52 supporters. ST will speak to Peter Hill, who is thinking of re-joining the party

f. Other Officer Items

MF reported that her email address is Diversity@wlm-libdems.org.uk Given that it was International Women's day recently, MF urged members to support the campaigns for women's safety. It was agreed that all officers who wished to, were requested to provide their email addresses to NS. These will be shared with all members. ID reported that further details of Wigan Pride were awaited.

3. Local Election Planning

JS reported that we have twenty candidates for the 6th May local elections. Nomination papers are being distributed to candidates. The earliest date for submitting nomination forms to the council is 28th March. The regulation period starts on this date and we must all abide by election law from then to election day. The count for the local elections will take place on Friday 7th May. The count for the mayoral election will be on Sunday 8th May. Arrangements for the counts are not yet known. It was emphasised that candidates must not touch any ballot papers at any time, other than their own. This includes postal votes.

Our reduction in the number of councillors campaign is gaining traction. We should promote this on social media. We must get our leaflets delivered.

JS reminded the meeting that our aim is to increase our vote in every ward.

4. Any other business

The provisional date for our candidate briefing is 9th April. It is important that all candidates attend the Zoom meeting. JS and NS are attending an Agents' briefing on 18th March. (After the meeting, the agents agreed to notify candidates before the start of the regulated period to ensure that there were no accidental breaches of election law).

5. Next LOCAL PARTY MEETING: WEDNESDAY 21st April, Zoom Meeting

Neil Stevenson, Secretary
18th March 2021

Simon Lepori, Mayoral Candidate, Meeting

Simon sees his role as helping others to win. He is working with Warrington Liberal Democrats. He spent seventeen years in social care with the NHS.

The campaign for mayor is our campaign. He wants to help us win and build for the future. We need to get our messages over. These are:-

- Rebuild the reputation of our police force
- Health and social care need a more streamlined and efficient service
- A transport system that works for everyone
- Make Northern boroughs leaders in the green revolution
- More affordable housing
- Homes for the homeless

There was then a Q&A session focussing primarily on local transport issues.