

2022 Brentwood & Chelmsford Green Party AGM

Minutes of Meeting of Members

Date: 24th November 2022, 19:40hrs

Location: Zoom

Chair: Julian Goode

Minutes: David Hale

Present: Julian Goode, David Hale, John Hamilton, Reza Hossain, Paul Jeater, Emma Randall, Angela Thomson, Mike Thomson, Will Young

Apologies for absence: Ronnie Bartlett, Nick Caddick, Angie Faulds, Peter Fowler, Ben Harvey, Greg Ince,

1. Officer Reports

Coordinator - Julian Goode

First off, to repeat what was said at our last meeting in September - a big thanks to Ben for all his sterling work as Coordinator, which continued through the first half of this year despite him having flagged up at last year's AGM that he wanted to stand down as he moved away from the area.

I was pleased to be elected as Coordinator in the summer, and my main aim was to keep things ticking over through the rest of the year up to the AGM, get some different types of meetings in the diary - and see how we could re-engage with the local membership as a result. That's been a challenge, and something to return to next year.

Having got through another Covid-affected winter and spring it was good to have some face to face meetings, in Ingatestone, Brentwood and Chelmsford through the summer and the autumn. We re-started Green Drinks too, both in Brentwood and Chelmsford. And we held a BCGP Committee meeting via Zoom.

We'll try and maintain this meeting pattern going into 2023 - a bi-monthly members and supporters meeting, a Green Drinks on alternate months; and short online Committee meetings to tackle local party business.

In the summer we ran a candidate selection process for General Election candidates for both the Brentwood & Ongar and the Chelmsford constituencies. While we didn't find a candidate for the former, Reza Hossain was selected as our candidate for Chelmsford.

Treasurer - Paul Jeater

Paul confirmed the HSBC bank account is still in Ben Harvey's name, which will need to be changed in the near future and that himself, Ben and Angie Faulds are signatories to the account. Efforts will be made to change the signatories to Paul Jeater and Angela Thomson but that the HSBC

procedures are notably difficult.

Two cheques have been paid out, £40 for GP data storage and £5 for Chelmsford Fairtrade. The Writtle by-election cost about £200 and the cost of meeting rooms has been met by donations. There are still several members paying a monthly subscription so the overall balance remains relatively static.

The balance is such that we could comfortably meet the costs of a General Election if one were called in the near future.

Efforts will be made to find a new bank, one suggestion from Paul Jeater being the Unity Bank which his Parish Council is currently moving to.

Animal Protection Officer - Emma Randall

Went on a GP visit to Knepp Rewilding Project with other co-ordinators to view how they are working and to see if it could inform future policy. Spoke to the owner, Charlie Burrell, which was found to be informative. Some concerns raised about how it seems to be moving more into meat production as a way of financing the project, with an uncertainty of how this tallies with ecological values.

It was suggested (by David Hale) that more information about the philosophy is found in the book about the project, *Wilding* by Isabella Tree.

Membership Secretary - Will Young

Will reported that there were currently 140 members, up from 120 in 2021. Said he would be working with Julian Goode to create a new welcome email for new members.

Communications - Julian Goode

Has been continually updating the various social media feeds and said that central GP office was providing some good content. Has updated the website but said that the main aim for 2023 is to move it across to WordPress, but this is a fairly involved process.

Will, and others, again thanked Julian for his excellent work on the social media sites and comms in general.

2. Nominations of Officers

Co-Ordinator

Julian Goode – nominated by Paul Jeater, seconded by Angela Thomson.

Membership secretary

Will Young – nominated by Julian Goode, seconded by Angela Thomson

Animal Protection

Emma Randall – nominated by Julian Goode, seconded by Angela Thomson

Election Agent (Brentwood)

Paul Jeater - nominated by Julian Goode, seconded by Angela Thomson

Election Agent (Chelmsford)

Vacant

Minutes Secretary

David Hale – nominated by Julian Goode, seconded by Paul Jeater

Communications

Julian Goode – nominated by Paul Jeater, seconded by David Hale

Treasurer

Paul Jeater - nominated by Julian Goode, seconded by David Hale

3. AOB

Paul Jeater suggested contacting Chelmsford members regarding the May local elections with the idea of putting ideally a candidate in each ward to give residents the chance to vote for a Green. He thinks the selection process for candidates will only require 2 signatures in future as opposed to the current 10 which should make the process easier. Asked if we should target any seats. Will suggested writing letters as opposed to emails to the Chelmsford members to ask for candidates. This was generally agreed that it would be a better approach. Angela said we need to give everyone [in the general population] the chance to vote Green. Paul said that there might be boundary changes soon, with discussions regarding this in progress. More information can be found here: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

Angela Thomson mentioned the meeting going forward are bi-monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next one will be 19th January 2023. David will ask the Chicken & Frog Bookshop if their room is available.

David Hale asked if it would be worth getting a Zoom subscription as it seems all meetings in future will be hybrid in nature. Paul will investigate.

Julian said the next Green Drinks will be on 15th December 2022, with the venue to be decided via WhatsApp. Chelmsford city centre was suggested as the best compromise for a venue. Will also suggested The Viper at Mill Green as a possibility. Mike reiterated the need for meeting in person, and Green Drinks in particular for the social contact.

Meeting closed at 21:00.