

Andover Green Party.

Meeting May 1st 2019. 7.30pm at The White Hart.

Minutes

Attending and introductions: Andrew, Laura G Catherine, Phil, Brian, Annie, Carol, Ben, Lance and Dan who joined us part way through the meeting. Andrew and Annie explained they live in Whitchurch but are nearer to the Andover group and share the North West Hampshire constituency.

Apologies: Vanessa, Paul, Laura A and Michelle.

1. Local Council Elections. There are local elections in Test Valley on 2/5/19 but none in Whitchurch (Basingstoke and Dean Council) A map was circulated showing the new ward boundaries. Some of Augusta Park and all of Burghclere Down have been brought into the Andover town wards. The town wards have either two or three seats and the country wards one or two. Lance Mitchell is our only Green Party candidate standing from the Andover Green Party and he is standing in Charlton and Penton one of the new wards. Lance explained why he chose to stand in a one seat ward and how one candidate in a two or three seat ward can easily be cancelled out when the voter has two votes or three votes to use. About 800 leaflets have been delivered in Charlton and Weyhill.

It was discussed that these leaflets were purchased one year ago but still relevant so used in this campaign and the cost of these leaflets should be in the expenses return for the candidate. Catherine to check how many leaflets we ordered and give the cost of 800 leaflets from that batch.

Lance stated that if elected he would 'Work collaborately with all political parties if policies were in alignment with National Green Policies.'

2. EU Election Campaign. The EU elections uses the Proportional Representation system and The Green Party has selected 10 candidates to stand in the South East area. Catherine has ordered 3,000 leaflets for us to deliver. We will not leaflet Charlton and Penton Ward as they have been recently leafleted. (Unless agreed later and those houses already leafleted are avoided.). Approx. 6-8 people have agreed to leaflet in Andover, (more would be welcome) and Catherine will coordinate the leafletting. This can start as soon as the leaflets arrive as there is only a short period as elections are on 23/5/19.

Andrew and Annie are already in touch with Basingstoke/North Hampshire regarding their involvement leafleting in Whitchurch.

Saturday 11th May and Saturday 18th May are the only two Saturdays before the EU election. It was agreed we would run a stall in the Upper High street on both or one of these Saturday mornings.

3. Town Council Report. Carol Bartholomew has stood on the Town Council for three and a half years when she was Co-opted. She reported she was advised to be of no political party but after asking the question to the Town Clerk, The Green Party could be stated on the Town Council Election application and voting slip. Carol did not put herself forward to stand at the election on 2/5/19. If anyone wishes to know more about the Town Council and the role of a Councillor Carol can arrange to talk to people individually or in a future meeting.

4. AGM and Local Party Posts. Andover Green Party will have an AGM in June. A local party needs a Membership Officer, a Treasurer, a local Party contact and someone to cover Press and Social Media. Only members can be Officers. It was felt that some roles could be shared and some roles

could overlap to support the officers and build the membership. Officer's rolls can be found on The Green Party members site: my.greenparty.org.uk

Catherine will send a Doodle poll with a selection of dates for the AGM.

The Twitter log in is needed to be able to use the Twitter Account. Ben expressed an interest in being involved in running the Twitter account.

6. Financial Report. Balance - £407.65. The Bank account is difficult to use and may need to be changed.

7. Membership Report. The Green Party online system is CIVICRM which shows Andover Green Party having 37 members including those in 'Grace' (period). Plus 180 non-member supporters.

8. Ideas and Future Focus.

To encourage supporters to become members.

To relate national policies to local issues and use opportunities to help explain policies. One opportunity would be to highlight the link between air pollution outside schools, parents and coaches running engines outside the school and raise awareness of alternatives to using the car.

To start a Whats App group for communication between active members.

Discuss Proportional Representation and how to raise awareness to make this a priority issue.

9. Any Other Business. The Green Party Spring Conference is in Scarborough on 7th- 10th June.

10. Next Meeting, the AGM to be confirmed.