DOVER & DEAL LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Annual General Meeting

Royal Hotel, Deal, CT14 6JD

Saturday 22nd November 2025, 10:30 am

Draft Minutes

Apologies: Rick Blackwell (RB), Ryan Grimes (RG), Christine Headley (CH), Penelope James (PJ).

Those Present:

David Cock (DC)	Lynne O'Donoghue (LOD)
Howard Evans (HE)	Diana Osborn (DO)
Julia Evans (JE)	Angela Pearson (AP)
Mary Evans (ME)	Martyn Pennington (MP)
John Gosling (JG)	David Reid (DR)
Paul Harvey (PH)	Annabel Stogdon (AS)
Merrill Johns (MJ)	Adrian Walker-Smith (AWS).

Guest: Cllr Alex Ricketts, Deputy Leader for the Liberal Democrat Group on Canterbury City Council and Kent County Councillor for Canterbury North.

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting 16th November 2024

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by MJ, and seconded by ME.

2. Officers' Reports

a. Chair's Report

see attached report.

b. Treasurer Report

AWS referred to the account sheets circulated (see attached). He commented that the format for the reporting of the accounts is set by the Electoral Commission. As of October 31st, 2025, there is £6,029 in our account, a healthy figure as we have only had the KCC elections this year but have continued to receive funds steadily through the year from donations and fundraising.

MP thanked AWS for preparing the accounts. MP presented AWS with a bottle of wine with our thanks for his services to the local party over the past 3 years. LOD proposed that the accounts should be accepted and DC seconded.

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c. Membership Report

MP reported that the membership in the Dover and Deal local party, remains static, hovering between 92 and 99. A priority going forward must be to encourage more members.

MP referred to the recent death of Sheila Smith, a longstanding member of the Liberals and the Liberal Democrats. Her funeral is on Monday December 8th, 2025 at 11 am at Barham Crematorium. Several members are to attend and a tree is to be planted at Longbeech North Wood in Challock, Ashford Kent through the Woodland Trust, as per Sheila and family's wishes. DO to follow up at the funeral.

d. Council Reports

i. Walmer Town Council

see attached report

ii. Sandwich Town Council

see attached report

JE raised the issue of poor bus services, serving Sandwich and the villages. Cllr Ricketts answered that this is an important issue, which taxes many councils. Stagecoach is desperate for more bus route services, but profit making is the key. He cited an example of Canterbury City Council running a scheme with Kent College, who have buses ferrying pupils to and from school, which then sit at the College, doing nothing for the rest of the time, with the Council being able to use them when not in use by the school. Kent Carrier is an on-demand service run from Canterbury bus station.

3. Election of Honorary President

MP presented MJ with flowers in thanks for her longstanding service to the Party, as PPC and Chair in the past, and recently as Honorary President.

LOD was elected as Honorary President, unopposed.

4. Election of Officers and Executive Committee members

The following were elected unopposed:

Chair – John Gosling
Vice Chair – Martyn Pennington
Treasurer – David Cock
Secretary – Annabel Stogdon
Comms – Ryan Grimes
Ordinary members – HE.

5. Accounts 2024

The accounts were noted.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2025 Local Party Accounts

Nigel Whitburn has agreed to act as Independent Examiner for the 2025 Local Party accounts and the meeting extended thanks to him for his continued service in this role.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am

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