

Annual General Meeting
Royal Hotel, Deal, CT14 6JD
Saturday 16 November 2024, 10.30 am

Draft Minutes

Apologies: Rick Blackwell (RB); Robin Hook.

Those Present:

Howard Evans (HE);
Julia Evans (JE);
Mary Evans (ME);
Ann Ford (AF);
Tony Ford (TF);
John Gosling (JG);
Paul Harvey (PH);

Christine Headley (CH);
Linda Hook (LH);
Bob Hope (BH);
Penelope James (PJ);
Merrill Johns (MJ);
Diana Osborn (DO);
Sam Neill (SN);

Martyn Pennington
(MP); David Skinner (DS);
Sheila Smith (SS);
Adrian Walker-
Smith (AWS).

Guest: Cllr. Ben Chapelard (BC), Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

1.	Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 5 November 2022 at the Royal Hotel Deal. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by LH, and seconded by ME.
2.	Officers' Reports a. Chair's report See attached. b. Treasurer's report AWS referred to the account sheets circulated (see attached). Expenditure was high this year, which is to be expected with the GE but the GE also elicited considerable donations. Coffee mornings, the Pizza and Politics evenings and the Strawberry tea all contributed to funds and AWS anticipated that the party would end the year with approximately £2,600 in the bank. PJ proposed a vote of thanks to AWS for preparing the accounts and this was seconded by ME. c. Membership Report PJ reported that there are 98 members in the Dover and Deal local party.

	d. Liberal Democrat Groups from i. Walmer Town Council As RB was unable to attend, PJ read out his report which is attached to these minutes. ii. Sandwich Town Council MP noted that it was 12 months since he had undergone an operation to have a pacemaker fitted and he thanked everyone for their support and good wishes, particularly PJ and CH. He reported that STC is recovering from the bitter warfare between the Conservatives and an independent group - Sandwich Matters. As a result, no Conservatives stood in the May elections, though one did stand as an Independent. MP sits on several committees – the Finance Committee, which can be challenging as he described the assets of the town as “breathtaking”. There is continuing debate as to how to invest funds from the Toll Bridge Fund and from bequests such as that recently from Georgina Maddox (a long-term Liberal Democrat member!) for the benefit of the town and residents. MP also sits on the Planning Committee where he reported a delicate balance between development and heritage of the mediaeval “jewel”. He is a member of the Gazen Salts and Monks Wall nature reserves, which are within the town. There is a large programme of events to promote tourism within the town.
3.	Election of Honorary President MJ was re-elected as Honorary President, unopposed.
4.	Election of Officers and Executive Committee members The following were elected unopposed: Chair – Christine Headley Treasurer – Adrian Walker-Smith Communications Lead – Penelope James Ordinary members – HE, MP; SN.
5.	To note the Accounts for 2022. The accounts were noted.
6.	Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2023 Local Party Accounts PJ to approach Nigel Whitburn to act as Independent Examiner for 2024 Accounts.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am