

Minutes of the Ipswich Conservative Association Annual General Meeting on April 9th 2024 at Newton Road Conservative Club at 7pm.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr John Howard.

Executive members present were :

Mr John Howard, Mrs Heather Mills, Mr Tim Buttle, Mr Michael Scanes, Mrs Rosamund Fellowes. Mr Geoff Holdcroft, Regional Deputy Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from :

Mr and Mrs Pert, the Rev Paul Hamlet and Mr Paul West.

The adoption of the Minutes from the AGM of 2023 was proposed by Mr James Harding and seconded by Mrs Katherine West.

The Chairman's Report

Mrs Heather Mills read out her report, a shortened version is written below. Mr Howard thanked Mrs Mills.

As the previous AGM was held only last September there was a limited amount on which to report.

We have all been most active campaigning for the forthcoming Local Elections and, of course, for the General Election whenever it should be held.

It has been difficult to deliver our literature, plus the literature from CCHQ, in a timely fashion due to the paucity of volunteers and deliverers. The top priority was to get out the Manifesto.

We have had limited success in recruiting new volunteers. Any new leads were being followed up promptly.

The Campaign Office was up and running and well organized with Jack Smith, Campaign Manager, working hard.

Membership stood at xxx currently, which included a slight increase, possibly demonstrating that the increase in subscriptions had not had a negative effect.

We raised four thousand pounds at our well supported Annual Fundraising Dinner with Suella Braverman. We also gave a Christmas party and held a Quiz. We do, however, need to raise more funds. Mrs Mills thanked the Fundraising Team, Ms Laura Allenby, Mrs Liz Harsant and Mrs Rosamund Fellowes for their considerable efforts.

Mrs Mills thanked Mr Mike Scanes for all his hard work as DC-M and Treasurer, and also Mr Edward Phillips, Campaign Co-ordinator and Mr Stephen Ion.

The resignation of Mr Tim Buttle as Deputy Chair - Political was accepted and Mrs Mills thanked him for his important contribution over the previous two years.

Report from the Deputy Chair Political.

Mr Buttle reflected on the Local Elections, where we were fighting a strong campaign. In September we had 13 strong candidates, since when one candidate became ineligible and withdrew, one dropped out and we also needed a further candidate to fight a by-election. Mr Michael Scanes and

Mr Bob Hall have agreed to stand in Priory Heath and Rhys Ellis will be standing in Gipping. All wards now had candidates in place.

Mr Buttle stressed the importance of support for Jack at the weekly canvass/delivery meetings. He was very pleased with the Manifesto, especially the "Save Our Shops" piece, and said 60% of all the literature had been delivered across the Constituency so far.

Treasurer's Report.

The certified accounts which were verified by Mr Nick Anthill, were presented and adopted, proposed by Mr Edward Phillips and seconded by Mr Stephen Ion.

Mr Mike Scanes proposed and Ms Laura Allenby seconded the continuing appointment of Mr Nick Anthill as the Independent Verifier of the Accounts.

The Election of Officers.

President – Mr John Howard has kindly agreed to continue in the role.

Chairman – With no other nominations received Mrs Heather Mills was duly elected.

Deputy Chairman - Political - Following the resignation of Mr Tim Buttle, another nomination was received from Mr James Harding. Mr James Harding was duly elected, proposed by Mr Michael Scanes and seconded by Mrs Liz Harsant.

Deputy Chairman - Membership and Finance – With no other nomination received Mr Mike Scanes was duly elected.

Chairman of the Young Conservatives – With no other nominations received Mr Nathan Wilson was duly elected, proposed by Mr James Harding and seconded by Mr Edward Phillips.

Appointment of GDPR Officer

Mr Michael Scanes kindly agreed to continue in his role and was duly thanked for continuing.

He did however advise that there was a large number of documents which must be shredded and there was a shredder at the Office.

Presentation of the Awards.

There were no presentations being made as it was only seven months since the previous AGM. Cups would be presented at the first Full Executive Council meeting instead.

AOB

No items were brought up.

Report from Mr Tom Hunt

Things are difficult at the moment, with low polling and supporters feeling let down, and the danger of Nigel Farage and the threat of Reform. We do need to have more conservative policies.

The immigration situation is most serious with six thousand illegal immigrants arriving on small boats, so we do need the deterrent of Rwanda.

The local issue is the Town Centre, where people do not feel safe and the police should act more robustly.

Mr Hunt is the Trade Envoy to Bangladesh and due to the benefits of Brexit we can export more to that country.

He is on the all-party Parliamentary Committee for Special Needs and believes we should encourage more neurodiversity in defence recruitment.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....