

## North Norfolk Green Party AGM September 2024

Attendance at meeting: Liz Dixon, Stephen Green, Mike Bossingham, Mike Ward, Edmund Wright, Ray Mooney, Anne Filgate and Mike Filgate

Attendance via Zoom: None.

Apologies: Clare Wilson

Matter arising from the minutes of the last AGM: None

### 1. Annual Report:

Liz covered what was a busy and successful year for the party nationally, resulting in having 4 Green MPs voted into parliament and a record number of Green Councillors being elected across the country in local elections.

### 2. Financial report:

Mike reported that there was currently £1,452.14 in the current account and that we were still awaiting capitation income from the National Party. The year's books will be closed on the 30 September and he will give the annual statement to the October meeting.

### 3. Elections:

Report on elections. October 2023 to September 2024.

**WHAT A BUSY YEAR!**

After the excitement of the District elections in May 2023 things were quiet until December when a by-election was called in Briston on 2 May. James Whitehead stood for us and came 3rd out of 4 and took 9% of the vote. Turnout was 34%, the same as previous elections. Time is always short for by-elections so many thanks to James for volunteering so quickly which let us get well organised.

We hadn't stood in Briston before but we got leaflet rounds and maps organised, printed an election letter and managed to get one delivered through every letter box in the ward, a wonderful achievement! Many thanks to Charlotte Ward for offering her house as 'Campaign HQ' as a gathering point, holding place for the leaflets, comfort stop, etc. Also thanks to all the leafleteers, including Trevor, Ian, Suzanne, Mandy and apologies to anyone I've missed.

Next up was the General Election on 4 July. We had already chosen Liz Dixon as our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC) so we weren't caught napping like many local parties, of every colour! We had printed some posters but agreed not to do any leafletting or canvassing in North Norfolk. Liz did attend all the hustings though and put the Green message across very well. We played it low-key because the most important thing was, as it always is, to get rid of the Tories and we thought Steff Aquarone, the Lib Dem candidate, stood the best chance of doing that if he had as little opposition as possible. We didn't withdraw though, Liz was on the ballot paper and gave 1,406 people the chance to vote for the Green Party, 3% of the vote. Fortunately Reform stood as well, and to be honest it was their 6,000 votes that won it for Steff! The right-wing parties took 49.8% of the vote!

There was a by-election called for the District Council seat of North Walsham East for the same day. Mike Bossingham stood and came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 186 votes, 12% of the total. The LibDems got an impressive 62% and the turnout was 56%. The Conservatives were last, reflecting the mood of the country at the time.

A by-election was called in North Walsham Market Cross for August 12<sup>th</sup>. I asked for people to stand and Liz volunteered when no-one else came forward. We got a special leaflet printed, again we got maps and rounds organised and got the leaflet through everyone's letterbox and a letter to postal voters. Many thanks to Irene and the other leafletters. Liz came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 8.7% and the turnout was 27%, miserable even for a by-election.

So, a busy and eventful year, a change of Government, 4 Green MPs, and a new MP for North Norfolk. An effective local party organisation but still nearly all the leafletting, writing, and canvassing is done by very few people.

Stephen Green, Election Agent, September 2024.

#### 4. Membership report:

Liz gave the membership report and explained that she had engaged in a tidying up exercise to bring the membership database up to date by adding new members, removing those that had sadly died or left, noting those that did not want to receive email communications. The database will now also include members date of birth and in so doing will give us a greater understanding of the demographic of our membership.

We currently have 104 members (16 of whom have joined this year, half of these being very recently joined). However 6 existing members will leave the area this year and come off the list.

Many of these are passive members and some do not only not want to be actively involved.

#### 5. Election of Officers for the coming year:

Membership Sec: Proposed Liz Dixon, agreed unanimously.

Press and Communications Officer: Proposed Liz, agreed unanimously.

Election Agent: Proposed Steve Green, agreed unanimously.

Treasurer: Proposed Mike Bossingham, agreed unanimously.

Secretary: Proposed Ray Mooney, Agreed unanimously.

Any other business:

None.

Meeting closed. 19:30