Lambeth Lib Dem AGM 2025

23rd November 2025

Chair: Nicholas Sanders

Minutes: Taken by Sarah Lewis (substitute for John Siraut, Secretary)

***

1. **Apologies**

- Monica Whyte
- Ishbel Brown
- Adrian Hyrrlainen - Trett
- Donna Harris
- Kita Ogden
- Tina Valcarcel
- John Siraut

2. **Chair's report (Nicholas Sanders)**

The Chair offered his annual report to members, which can be found here. He thanked this year's Executive Committee, and encouraged members to get involved in the 2026 Lambeth Council election campaign.

3. **Treasurer's report (Jackie Harper-Wray)**

The Treasurer offered her annual report to members, which can be found here. In particular, she updated the AGM as follows:

- The 2024 annual accounts were signed off by both the Executive Committee and the examiner (Andrew Thurburn) before being submitted to Liberal Democrat HQ on time; and are therefore commended to the AGM for noting only.
- Andrew Thurburn has been again appointed examiner for the local party's 2025 accounts.

In response to a question from member Andrew Hadley regarding the primary focus of expenditure, the Treasurer confirmed campaign literature as the dominant line item (in both past accounts and future budget).

4. **Report from the Council Group (Matthew Bryant, Deputy Leader)**

The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Lambeth Council offered the Group's annual report to the AGM, offering apologies from the Group Leader.

Noting that they hoped to have a bigger Group post-May election, he reported on:

- *Scrutiny:* The Group initiated an inquiry into the payoff for the previous Chief Executive of Lambeth Council; raised concerns about the early use of bailiffs in tackling council tax arrears; and highlighted areas of council debt, noting no central understanding of the council's debt position.
- *Casework:* The Group achieved repairs to Selby House lifts and security doors on two blocks on the Oaklands estate in Clapham Common & Abbeville, a win they are seeking to replicate in Streatham Hill West & Thornton; they continue to seek an alternative provider for the Streatham Space Project; they are tackling significant

issues around Streatham Hill Theatre; and Clapham South tube station has not been closed since Liberal Democrat councillor action.
- *Public campaigning:* The Group has led campaigning on the provision of electric vehicle charging points (a mess!); opposition to the dimming of street lights; support to schools faced with closure; the planned multi-use games area proposed by Thomas Grant School; the Council's inadequate response to the law on damp and mould; and the provision of space for safer neighbourhood teams.
- *Policy development:* The Group put forward Council motions on climate and nature (January); gender recognition (May) and tourist tax/nighttime levy proposal (October).

In response to a question from member Judy Best on the mechanics of a tourist tax, the Deputy Group Leader noted this would work similarly to the common practice in other European countries (at least half hypothecated).

In response to a question from member Fareed Alderechi on the sanctions for non-compliance with statutory requirements around damp and mould, the Deputy Group Leader deferred to member Roberty Doyle, who noted that the law is regarding rights within leases and resolution still must be sought through the dispute resolution process or in the courts.

In response to a question from member Christine Hinton on the impact of school amalgamation in the borough, the Deputy Group Leader confirmed that this would be a thorny issue for the foreseeable.

5. **Report from the Chair of the Campaign Committee (Chris Nicholson)**

The Chair of the Campaign Committee noted that work on campaign and literature planning for May Lambeth Council elections was live. Citing a list of Lambeth Council failures under Labour, he encouraged the room to get involved in the campaign to ensure resident awareness of the issues – highlighting a failing national government and a badly run Labour Council as a "change election" opportunity.

6. **Elections to the 2026 Executive Committee (Peter Truesdale)**

The Returning Officer noted the unopposed election of the following officer positions:

- Chair: Nicholas Sanders
- Vice Chair: Ben Austin
- Treasurer: Jackie Harper-Wray
- Secretary: Stuart Beadnall
- Elections Officer: Donal Kane
- Diversity Officer: Tobias Ikegbunam
- Membership Officer: Colin Penning
- Ordinary Members (8):
    - Nick Davidson
    - Sarah Lewis
    - Fareed Alderechi
    - Alex Haylett
    - Robert Doyle
    - Simon Bucknall
    - Alex Davies

The Chair closed the formal AGM and invited member Rob Blackie to offer a keynote speech to members in an informal session.