Minutes of Mid & North Bucks Lib Dem AGM – 22nd November 2025.
Approved at Executive Meeting 9th January 2026.

1. Welcome & apologies

   Apologies were received from: Julian Newman, Sue Lewin, Andrew Ferry, Roger Slevin.

2. Minutes
   The minutes of the previous AGM were noted.

3. Chair's report

- The Chair provided an update on the 2025 local elections and ambitions moving forwards for Mid and North Bucks.
- The hope for local elections was to secure 7 to 10 councillors in the area. We were successful in having 5 councillors elected, mostly in mid-Bucks area; but were also close in Wendover, Stoke Mandeville, close in Princes Risborough, Berryfields & Quainton. However, this still marks a step up from the last local elections in 2021 where no seats secured.
- A key challenge to securing more councillors this year was the lack of capacity for sufficient door-knocking and leafletting.
- We do need now to start preparing for next general election. Although there is little indication that this will occur ahead of 2029, we have the potential to succeed, but it requires effective work to start now.
- The last general election provides a sound basis for optimism with the Liberal Democrat candidate coming second, within 6,000 votes of the successful Tory candidate Greg Smith. Also, worth noting that the Labour candidate secured around 5,000 votes.
- Given the strength of Labour in Bletchley the focus should be on Mid-Bucks as a target for Liberal Democrat growth. Buckingham & Bletchley should be subject to a different strategy.
- We are in the early stages of preparing for the next general election. Mid-Bucks has been classified by the party as a "moving forward seat" rather than a "target" seat.
- The selection process for the PPC has been initiated. The Chair of the Regional Selection Committee has been contacted, and a Returning Officer identified. We are working with regional vice-chair due to the temporary absence of the Regional Chair.
- The Chair advised that she has been encouraged to stand again so she will put herself forward for selection. As such she will remove herself from ongoing involvement in the selection process. Going forwards the Mid and North Bucks Vice-chair will, therefore, take the lead.
- The formal selection process will probably kick-off early in the New Year aiming for the PPC to be in place by late February/ early March.
- We should produce a leaflet to introduce the candidate once they are confirmed.

- In the meantime, our focus needs to be on capacity building (especially deliverers) and fund raising.

4. Treasurer's report (in absentia)

- The Treasurer provided a breakdown of expenses over the last year, primarily being £13,586 spent in target wards for the local council elections.
- £600/ month is coming in from donations.
- A new Freepost account has been set up which can, for example, be used for addressed surveys.
- The balance carried forward is £11,815.

5. Independent Examiner

Members agreed unanimously to ask Mike Smith to continue as independent examiner.

6. Membership Report

- We have c.220 members at present but need to ramp this up going forwards.

7. Elections officer

- The primary aim for the Liberal Democrats in Buckinghamshire local council elections of wresting council control to NOC was achieved.
- In the area we put forward 26 candidates contesting 15 wards.
- Achieved with v limited numbers – hence drive for capacity.

8. Motions to AGM –

There were no motions to the AGM.

9. Nomination/ election of officers

The following members of the executive were elected unopposed:

- Anja Shaefer – chair (NB – Anja will need to step down if selected as PPC)
- Ian Churchill – vice-chair
- Nick Jackson - secretary
- John Eyres – Elections officer
- Ben Harris – membership
- Andrew Ferry - Treasurer
- Ivo Haest – Connect officer
- Ian Churchill – Media
- Diversity – vacant
- Exec Officer (w/out portfolio) – Kate Wescombe
- Exec Officer (w/out portfolio) – Llew Monger
- Exec Officer (w/out portfolio) – Sue Lewin
- Exec Officer (w/out portfolio) – Eli Kling
- Exec Officer (w/out portfolio) – Audoen Healy
- ? Exec Officer (w/out portfolio) – Susan Morgan

10. Close of formal meeting. The Chair closed the formal meeting and invited a presentation from Gareth Epps, Chair of Regional Campaigns Committee.