

Wolves Green Meeting, Monday January 29th

From (senders in message print header) Don Gwinnett <info+wolverhampton-green-party-2-info@email.actionnetwork.org>
To dongwinnett@protonmail.com
Date Thursday, 18 January 2024 at 13:13



Wolverhampton Green Party Meeting MONDAY January 29th 2024 - 7 PM – 8.30 PM

at Tettenhall Wood Institute (TWI) - <http://tettenhallwoodinstitute.org/>

AGENDA

(Minutes follow each item)

1. Apologies
2. In Attendance:
3. Minutes of last meeting (see below for full minutes - Appendix 1) Agreed as Accurate or Corrected as ...
4. Coordinator Report - Paul Darke
5. Should future meetings be open to non-members?
6. Sub-Committee report - Capacity Building, Membership, Fundraising - Isabel Gilles, Don Gwinnett
7. Report back on Gaza event - Naseem Mohammed
8. 2nd Meeting with Karl McNaughton - Regional Coordinator
9. Treasurer's Report – Mike Jenkins: progress of Bank application, donations, Petty cash:
10. Upcoming Events – Fundraising, Canal Open Day
11. Digital Progress – Social Media & website: Don Gwinnett

11. Digital Progress – Social Media & Website. Don Gwinnett

12. Any Other Business

Next Meeting: Monday 26th February at Tettenhall Wood Institute (?)

Paul Darke - Coordinator / Nominations Officer / Acting Secretary

EMAIL is: coordinator@wolverhampton.greenparty.org.uk

or

paul@digital-disability.com

Wolverhampton Green Party Meeting Minutes Monday November 27th 2023 - 7 PM – 8.30 PM

at Tettenhall Wood Institute (TWI)

Minutes Written by Paul Darke

**PLEASE READ 3 ITEMS AT END OF MINUTES FOR MINUTES
Agenda Item then Minutes Follow Each Item:**

1 – Apologies: Helen Curry / Amy Bertaut / Andrea Cantrill / Stephen Petter

2 - In Attendance: M. Naseem, P. Darke, M. Jenkins, I. Gillis, Don Gwinnett

3 – Minutes of Last Meeting: Agreed with following comments:

Not heard Reply Yet on Door-Step App;

Smestow Valley Litter Pick – No Follow Up. Action Next Year;

Palestine Policy: Don to Write Press Release on Our Policy;

Wi-Fi at TWI is available if needed.

4 – Coordinators Report:

No follow-up meeting with Karl McNaughton – will contact to arrange for January;

P. Darke presented OUR EARTH week of shows on WCR FM (all a-political) promoting all environment positive activity in Wolverhampton. Very successful week. Hopefully continue the work throughout 2024.

5 – Report of new Bank Account Progress:

Mike Jenkins (Treasurer) spoke – in essence the content of email below:

To try (again) to get the signatories on the West Brom Building Society account changed from Holly and Kate to Steve and me, as Steve and I are not in work and

will find it easier to go in and withdraw cash when required, and so Holly is free of doing the quarterly returns:

- *Managed to find a time when all of us could go into the branch at the same time to do the paperwork;*
- *I went into the branch and checked that this was OK and made an appointment;*
- *A few days later the branch rang Andrea to say, 'don't come in, we can't do this in branch, you'll have to ring head office on this number' (I assume they rang Andrea because she set up the account and they still have her details);*
- *I rang the number but didn't get very far because they were going to ask for account security information;*
- *Andrea doesn't know what this is (presumably telephone access was never set up); when they called her, they only asked for confirmation of name and address.*

So I am going to leave this for now and concentrate on getting a new account open. Following on from what Karl said about thinking that a lot of local parties use the Co-Op: I went in a week or so back but they were unsure what account would be suitable, said to find out of other parties that use Coop what account they use.

I started to email other local parties, but stopped after one because I realised it might look suspicious as it was not coming from a 'treasurer @ Wolverhampton Green Party email address.

Mike

FOLLOW ON COMMENTS FROM MEETING:

Thanks, given to Mike for his persistence.

Additionally, Paul Darke will ask Party to set Mike up with treasurer@ Green Party of Wolverhampton E-mail address as required.

6 - Treasurer's Report – Mike Jenkins:

How to make donations: Via BACS into West Brom account (withdrawals cash only);

Petty Cash set up need box (Paul Darke to acquire);

Cash flow (as in previous meeting) revealed need for fundraising (see item 11).

7 - Document Archive:

All agreed a great idea (again);

Paul Darke needs to send more documents (Minutes) to Webmaster.

8 - Upcoming Events - Of Interest Activity:

Potential of a fundraising events on 23rd January at Heritage Centre as available at cost. Need to be able to invite people to it – see how accessing Members progresses and take feedback. See Item 9 and 11 for more info on Contacting Membership

9 - Digital Progress:

Paul and Don still have no access to Action Network Membership so cannot email all members. Paul still must ask Andrea to send out group emails. Don (and Paul) even today attempting to progress this with Action Network itself but still no progress. Will continue tackling problem.

10 - Website (Stephen Petter)

Need for more content. All delayed as Party formalises roles and actions but request to be sent out for Officer info & images. As well as activity. Don Gwinnett offered to assist Stephen Petter in doing this.

11 - Any Other Business

Focus of Any Other Business was Documents following on from Minutes from Stephen Petter (2 Documents) and Don Gwinnet (1 Item).

Focus titled:

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL FOCUS ON CREATING AN ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

ABOUT THE DIRECTION AND PRIORITIES WE WILL TAKE IN 2024

Don's Spider Diagram (See Below - not able to be displayed) discussed. It was agreed that it was excellent and starting point to focus on one or two elements (related) given limited membership, finance and so far limited Digital Access to Members. It was agreed to set up a small Sub-Committee Chaired by Isabel Gilles to focus on Membership & Fundraising looking at 'Building Capacity' for the Green Party of Wolverhampton. This group will ask (invite) D, Gwinnett, M. Naseem and S. Petter to be on it. Isabel will send out date/time for first meeting with remit of group. Agreed this should be capacity building on membership and fundraising as from this comes greater membership and, as such, funding, and awareness.

In relation to S. Petter's Green Campaign Plan concerns expressed about it being unrealistic to deliver on it due to lack of active membership or funding. Thus, the meeting recognised the need to focus priorities on key activities: capacity building, Membership and fund raising.

It was agreed that the a new sub-committee (of S. Petter, M. Naseem, D. Gwinnett and I. Gilles) be set up and that it will take the lead on the way

forward with a focus on capacity building particularly membership and fundraising. Isabel will organise next meeting and chair it.

(Since Meeting – Stephen Petter has resigned as Campaigns Coordinator – we thank him for his work.)

Next Agenda will include a Call Out for candidates to stand in local elections in May – they will be required to fill out their paperwork and get the two signatures required. Happy to support members to do this.

12 - Next Meeting:

Monday 29th January 2024 Tettenhall Wood Institute

<http://tettenhallwoodinstitute.org/>

The car park entrance is on School Rd and the entrance to the building is at the back, off the car park (not the old front door on Wood Rd). We have Room 3 for the meeting; press the button for this at the door and someone should come and let you in. There is no dedicated cycle parking but there is no problem with a few bikes being brought into the foyer for security if they do not obstruct access. The room has plenty of sockets if you are bringing a laptop. There is WIFI in the building for which you need a code from the council, I'm afraid I haven't got the details of how to apply for that yet. There is a kitchen we can use to make drinks; I will bring some semi-skimmed milk and de-caff coffee. Anything else please bring your own. Free WiFi available at meeting.

Paul Darke – Coordinator EMAIL is

coordinator@wolverhampton.greenparty.org.uk

PLEASE COME TO NEXT MEETING

Monday 29th January 2024

Tettenhall Wood Institute

FOLLOWING PAGES ARE THE ADDITIONAL PAPERS FROM

STEPHEN PETTER

Discussed in ITEM 11 Above

Wolverhampton Green Party: Campaigns Co-ordinator Report on a meeting held on November 7 2023 held via Zoom with the following present: Isabel Gilles (IG); Don Gwinnett (DG); Mohammed Naseem (MN); Stephen Petter (Campaigns Co-ordinator) (SP).

SP said that the purpose of this inaugural meeting was to discuss actions we might take to raise the profile of the GP in Wolverhampton. He mentioned displaying posters by the roadside such as "Is your car killing our planet?". This idea was not

aaoptea.

MN said that the priority should be informing people of the GP's many Policies. He suggested informing small and medium business organisations, such as the Black Country Chamber of Commerce (CoC), Black Businesses CoC, W'ton Business Forum.

In this connection DG mentioned Andy Winter. He agreed that SMEs be approached.

IG said that she agreed on action to raise our profile. She cautioned against any action that might antagonise the public such as sitting in the highway. Sitting by the roadside might be OK but not in winter.

DG had issued a Mind Map intending to clarify all the aspects that would need to be considered while planning and running a campaign, starting with agreeing a policy. Matters to be considered included: short and long terms, who to approach, print or digital media, Graphics, Banners, Newspapers, Newsletters, Facebook, Twitter. He also mentioned working with existing organisations such as refugee and asylum seekers' support groups, and Amnesty. Above all we needed to obtain funds. He summed up by listing 4 areas: Print, Digital, Links and Funds.

IG proposed:

- 1. That we four should form a core group supporting the Campaigns Co-ordinator, formulating Campaign policy.*
- 2. That we hold another meeting within the next 4 weeks*
- 3. That we flesh out a Campaigns Plan*
- 4. That the Plan be submitted to a general meeting for approval.*

This proposal was agreed.

SP asked that we get back to immediate actions. We had agreed they should be primarily informative. He suggested a Press Conference and Press Release to launch (or re-launch?) our Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs). This met with some approval.

MN mentioned city-wide leafletting. He had leafletted all his Ward. The problem was funds.

SP said he had formulated a long-term plan for election campaigning. It was intended to be sent to all members, but this had not occurred. His plan was centred on recruiting supporters who would not need to pay any membership fee and who would commit to only a few hours a year. He was asked to re-issue his plan.

We agreed to meet again on November 21 (at 1900 via Zoom)

The meeting ended at 19:40 pm.

Note - On this Page is V2

(sent to Paul Darke from Stephen Petter - which has more detail)

Wolverhampton Green Party - Campaigns Group (Minutes of a meeting 21/11/23)

Present were: Isabel Gillies / Don Gwinnett / Mohammad Naseem

Stephen Petter (WGP Campaigns Co-ordinator)

The following points were agreed (not in the order presented here):

- 1. Don to see to publicity including social media*
- 2. We are concerned about the difficulty of getting information out to members and supporters. We find it hard to accept that contact information is not available to us, especially between officers. If member information it cannot be made available, then we expect an officer of WGP (e.g. the Coordinator or the Membership officer) to send out information on request.*
- 3. We propose (if not already agreed) that the two Target Wards are Heath Town and Tettenhall Wightwick*
- 4. We propose (if not already agreed) that Kwaku be a candidate at HT and Don be it at TW.*
- 4A We urge WGP General Meeting to confirm candidates asap, especially Constituency PPCs and Target Ward candidates.*
- 5. Steve will draft content for a message to all members and supporters appealing for commitment to do at least small amount of work for WGP.*
- 6. We agree that where supplies and other resources are limited top priority will be to the target wards.*
- 7. Don has agreed to find out what statistical and demographic etc data are available from the national GP.*
- 8. We invite Paul Darke onto this Campaigns Group, and we invite him to set the date of the next meeting, preferably in mid-December. (e.g., 14th or 15th)*
- 9. We agree that a high priority is to get more support.*
- 10. We ask the WGP Co-ordinator to assist Don to get technical information for updating social media.*
- 11. We agree to organise a Social Event (e.g., a New Year Party). We suggest it be on January 19th at 7 p.m. Don has agreed to publicise it. Naseem has agreed to*

secure a venue, probably the Caribbean Resource Centre

12. Steve presented a Campaigns Action Plan which was broadly accepted.

This plan follows these minutes.

SUGGESTED Plan of Action Version 2

AIM: To get at least one WGP member elected to City Council at the next election and at least two at the following election.

Outline method:

Get more support from existing members.

Get more support from Supporters, starting with WGP's followers on Facebook.

(See "Getting Support" below)

Select one target ward (? Or three – one in each constituency?) (Presumably Heath Town)

Target Ward (TW)

Establish a Ward Co-ordinator

Ward Co-ordinator may set up co-ordinators for each polling station/district.

Canvas every household in before next election then annually.

Leaflet each household every six months.

Seek to hold some public event or demonstration annually.

In 6 weeks, run-up to election get maximum help, issue "Vote Green" posters, do additional canvassing and leafleting.

On election day have Tellers at each Polling Station from 0700 to 2200 (but especially 1600 to 2000).

Other Wards

Establish a Ward Co-ordinator in each Ward.

Canvas every household in as and when resources are available.

Leaflet every household in as and when resources are available.

In 6 weeks, run-up to election get maximum help, issue "Vote Green" posters.

On election day have Tellers at each Polling Station from 1600 to 2000

On election day have letters at each polling station from 1000 to 2000.

Constituencies

Plan to be developed. Include Press Conference re PPCs, re Policies. Re VIP visits.

Priority to be given to TW(s).

Initiative to be taken by PPC, (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate)

Immediate Action Plan

Update WGP Website

Obtain Electoral Rolls for each Ward.

We need to establish good communications between officeholders. (I prefer email but also WhatsApp or non-public Facebook Group or another group e.g., Groups.io.)

Create and frequently update a List of willing/active members and supporters.

(This list should be available to the Campaigns Co-ordinator)

Continual social media output of news and appeals for members and Supporters.

Appoint a Press Officer.

Press releases as often as possible. (Any news is better than none, e.g. "Wolverhampton Green Party Official crashes off illegal e-scooter – Admits speeding")

Can any one of us post to our FB page?

Get advice from qualified advertiser or Public Relations specialist – have them advise us (e.g. re media and website) and vet all our printed output. (I thought Kwaku's final leaflet was excellent)

Appoint Ward Co-ordinators (see below), initially in Target Ward(s), eventually in every ward.

Getting Support

The key to the plan is that we get a lot of supporters – members and non-members.

How? The Campaign Co-ordinator with the help of the Membership Co-ordinator would use several methods to contact known possible supporters e.g. starting with members and FB followers. Also, via social media and leafletting at events where supporters might be found (Quaker meeting, AI Greenpeace FoE etc.

Maybe even local radio advert (tho it's better to get free publicity via news)

Letters to the local press.

Get existing supporters to recruit others, e.g. spouses.

Demonstrations/vigils e.g. at site of pedestrian or bicyclist 'accident'

Flyer (maybe on the back of a normal pro-Green leaflet)

Did You Vote Green Last Time?

Do you support green policies – environment, social justice, public transport, peace...?

Is it enough only "Doing my bit for the environment"?

Real change can come only through political action.

You could join the Green Party (£xx per year membership)

Or you could sign up as a Supporter of Wolverhampton Green Party (No fees)

Pledge to do one or two hours work for the GP, once or twice a year.

Wolverhampton GP Election Fighting Fund

Donate £3 to £10 per month to our Fighting Fund by Standing Order

How to set up a Standing Order for our Fighting Fund: See Details below"

Campaign Co-ordinator and Treasurer to set it up, inc Standing Order form

SUPPORTERS (May also be Members)

Supporters will be asked to pledge to give service to the WGP

Such as

Display a "Vote Green" poster during election campaign.

Do one or two sessions ever year. .

Do 2 or more sessions per week during an election campaign (6 weeks prior to election)

(As session being 1 to 2 hours on a weekday evening , or a weekend morning.)

On Election day do a 2-hour shift as a Teller, or other job as required,

WARD CO-ORDINATORS.

Receives - up to date list of all known Supporters.

- *Ward's Electoral Roll*

- *Streetmap (e.g. from A to Z)*

Devises Rounds of about 200 households (1 to 2 hours work)

Seeks to appoint a supporters so that each Round is covered.

Receives leaflets and organises their delivery

Maintains record of what was delivered to which places.

Seeks to organise canvassing of every household at least once between local elections.

Canvassers from outside the Ward will co-ordinate with Ward Co-ordinators.

Keeps record of canvassing results. ("For", "Against", "Don't Know", "No Answer", "Poster OK")

Canvassers leave leaflet calling for supporters.

Canvassers may also leave "Sorry you were out" leaflets which include invitation to contact WGP.

Ward Co-ordinator Reports progress to Campaigns Co-ordinator each month.

WolvesGreen Campaign Plan Don Gwinnett, Social Media and Membership Officer




The mind map above is a quick attempt to identify areas that require attention when planning campaigns. Following a difficult period with few meetings and several members leaving the group, none of these areas is well organised. Following a discussion between several members it is felt that little can be achieved until we address two main areas: (1) membership consolidation (2) Funding.

We cannot canvass, produce printed material, form productive links with other organisations or promote the group through digital advertising and social media until we have people to take a lead in these areas. Before then campaigning is unlikely to be productive. With more active members and funds we can start to systematically address the other areas.

If members agree to this suggestion, a small group including Don Gwinnett, Isabel Gillis, Naseem Mohammed, and Paul Darke, will produce further ideas for addressing the two main areas. DG 24.11.23

Wolverhampton  Green Party

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