

GREEN PARTY WOMEN COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 9th April 2024

Present:

Liz Mansfield (non-portfolio, acting chair)
 Sue Williams (secretary) Kaz Kruzycka (Secretary)
 Hazel Pegg (membership Secretary) Jessica Goldfinch (membership secretary);
 Rachel Hardy, Linda (Loppy) Oubridge, Siobhan Scanlan, Amanda Stones (Non portfolios)

	Discussed	Action
1	Attunement	
2	<p>Apologies for absence Tina Rothery (co-chair), Anne Price (Treasurer), Sarah Bond (non-portfolio officer).</p> <p>Liz chaired due to Tina’s unavoidable absence and Jude’s absence due to her NFS (No Fault Suspension).</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting (March 2024) Proposed: Loppy Seconded: Jess Agreed unanimously.</p>	
4	Matters arising	
4a	<p>Inviting PDC (Policy Development Committee) and GPEX (Green Party Executive) committee members to speak to Green Party Women Jude and Tina were going to take this forward. The committee decided to carry the item over to next month’s meeting.</p>	Tina
4b	<p>Bank signatories We like to have 3 signatories – treasurer and 2 co-chairs. Our current treasurer, Anne, was treasurer last year so is already a signatory. We are unable to have Jude as a signatory due to her NFS.</p> <p>In her report, Anne recommended that the 2 other signatories for this year should be Tina (as co-chair) and Sue (as secretary) This was agreed by the committee.</p>	Anne Tina Sue

4c	<p>Donate button on Green Party Women website Hazel is still working on this. It's an ongoing action.</p>	Hazel
4d	<p>Denial of service to women for 110 days late 2023/early 2024 Jude and Tina were going to work together to take this forward. The closing down of the Green Party Women didn't just adversely affect the committee; it was to the detriment of women in the Party.</p> <p>Jude is unable to continue her work on this because of her NFS.</p> <p>Siobhan: We have been in protracted correspondence over what happened and we will continue to follow it up. We need to make sure that it doesn't happen again to Green Party Women or to any other special interest group.</p>	Tina
5	<p>Reports from Officers The following reports had been produced prior to the meeting: Membership Secretaries report; Secretaries report; Social Media report; Treasurer report; Website report.</p> <p>All committee members were able to read the reports prior to the meeting.</p> <p>All reports will be shared with Green Party Women members via email (to go out with the minutes of the meeting) and via Green Spaces (will be uploaded to the files section of the GPW Space).</p> <p>Amanda talked through the website report, Sue through the secretaries report and Hazel through the membership secretaries report.</p> <p>The reports were all very thorough and there were no questions about them.</p>	
6	<p>Social Media Loppy wanted to thank those on the Social Media team for the great work produced to celebrate Women's History Month.</p> <p>Siobhan: Last year, the GPW committee elected 3 social media officers but they were subjected to bullying and vexatious complaints. This year, we have decided to have a larger SM team but not to identify who is on it to avoid a repeat of what happened to women last year.</p> <p>Siobhan will speak on behalf of the Social Media team at GPW meetings.</p>	

	<p>Rather than reinventing the wheel, the SM team looked at last year’s policy and strategy (a huge amount of work had gone into these last year) and updated them.</p> <p>These will be uploaded to Green Spaces as part of our commitment to transparency and openness.</p> <p>Siobhan: We hope that the links between our social media and our website (as exemplified by our Women’s History Month posts) will drive traffic to the website and encourage more women to join Green Party Women.</p> <p>Vote to approve the Social Media policy Proposed: Loppy Seconded: Jess Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Vote to approve the Social Media strategy Proposed: Sue Seconded: Loppy Agreed: unanimously.</p>	
7	Strategic Aims	
7a	<p>Belonging Liz: This is all about finding spaces where women in the Party can meet, talk, share and explore ideas. It’s about helping women to feel connected to Green Party Women and to the wider Party.</p> <p>Sue: The book club met for the first time last month. We enjoyed talking about The Outrun. Anne is looking forward to hosting the first Green Witchers meeting.</p> <p>Sue: We welcome input from our members – this is your committee so do get in touch if you have something that you feel you could offer and that you would like us to support you with or if there is something that you would like us to offer to you.</p>	
7b	<p>Raising Women’s Voices</p> <p>Sue: This has lots of different aspects including recognising the campaigning work that women are doing already and giving those women a voice so that others can learn from them. Also finding out how policy is created within the Green Party and giving women the knowledge, skills, and confidence to get more involved.</p>	

	<p>Sue: Contacted Anne Gayfner, Policy Development Co-ordinator via Green Spaces and Anne offered to speak to Green Party Women. We have agreed a date of April 22nd for a webinar about policy making.</p> <p>Sue: Anne will talk about policy making within the Green Party and Liz will talk about a specific campaign which she has been involved with.</p> <p>Liz talked movingly about how the Truth About Zane campaign was created following the tragic and avoidable death of 7 year old Zane following the contamination of land. Liz has worked on raising awareness of the campaign within GPEW (Green Party of England and Wales) for 10 years, including bringing motions to Conference and culminating in Lewes Council (where her local Green Party is in overall control) becoming the first local authority to back a proposed new law to ensure greater transparency over contaminated land.</p> <p>Liz wants to show women ways of taking a campaign forward and also to honour Zane and his family.</p>	
8	EEDI (Equity, Equality Diversity and Inclusion)	
8a	<p>EEDI survey Sue: We sent out a link to this in an earlier email. The original closing date was in March but as there have been so many submissions and it is proving so useful, this has been extended to the end of July.</p> <p>The committee felt that we should send out the survey link again, encouraging members to take part and also to share with their local party.</p> <p>Sue to include in next email.</p>	Sue
8b	<p>EEDI report Hamza Egal, the EEDI manager, has written an EEDI report which has been shared with Special Interest Groups, leadership, GPEX (Green Party Executive) etc.</p> <p>The committee decided that we would like to respond. It would be a good opportunity to raise the issue of sexism within the party.</p> <p>Actions: Committee to share ideas on Slack Someone to collate these and formulate them into a response as a Google Doc on the shared Google Drive</p>	All committee members

	<p>All of the committee to have the opportunity to comment on the Google Doc.</p> <p>Sue to contact Hamza to find out whether there is a deadline for responding.</p>	Sue
8c	<p>Invitation to Hamza Egal Sue: Green Seniors have invited Hamza Egal to their next meeting. Seniors want to be able to share their experiences of ageism within the Party.</p> <p>Do we want to invite Hamza to a Green Party Women committee meeting?</p> <p>The committee was strongly in favour of this. Sue to contact Hamza.</p>	Sue
9	<p>AOB None</p>	
10	<p>Open Mic As the committee had covered the agenda, Liz opened the floor to any observers who wished to speak.</p> <p>Mandy: 1. Wishes to thank the committee for the amazing work for Women’s History Month with tweets and facebook posts every single day throughout March. These celebrated a different woman each day and were linked to biographies of those women on the Green Party Website.</p> <p>2. The EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) committee are looking to co-opt a new member. They have a wide remit, do a lot of important work and could do with some help. Please consider putting your name forward if this is something that you’re interested in. Don’t worry that you don’t have enough/the right kind of experience; you would be given a lot of support.</p> <p>Judy: Wanted to address the issue of suspensions. There are a large number and many of those put on NFS are women. She wondered if there was anything that the committee or members of Green Party women could do about this.</p> <p>Several other observers agreed that this is very worrying, some expressing concern about lack of good governance and misuse of the disciplinary system and one saying that she knew of several members</p>	

	<p>who were only just hanging onto their membership of GPEW because of their unhappiness about how people were being treated.</p> <p>A member of the committee spoke about the stress of having a complaint put in against her for something that she felt wouldn't be punished outside the party and described how the process is the punishment.</p> <p>Hazel gave figures for the number of suspensions over recent years showing how the numbers had increased and how the majority of those suspended were women.</p> <p>Liz: Thanked all those who had come to the meeting. She hopes that Green Party Women will become a rallying point for women to meet together and to share ideas; we are always stronger together.</p> <p>This was an important meeting for us to be able to celebrate what has been achieved so far and for people to be able to speak openly and to share their concerns.</p>	
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 13th May at 6.30</p>	