

North West Cambridgeshire Conservative Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting March 13th 2020 The Bell Inn, Stilton

Welcome

Vice-president Graham Bull opened the meeting and welcomed guest speaker Darryl Preston and Melanie Williams, area representative (Beds and Cambs)

Apologies

Shailesh Vara MP | Lord De Ramsey | Cllr Peter Hiller | Cllr Janet Goodwin | Cllr Tim Alban | John Dewis | Roger and Valerie Lucas | John and Wendy Watt

1 Chairman's Report: Gavin Elsey

Gavin opened with 'breaking news' that local authority and police and crime commissioner elections had been called off due to the spread of coronavirus.

- He thanked all councillors and members for their support during 2019 which culminated in December's General Election. The so-called 'Boris Bounce' had seen a surge of support locally which brought a rise in membership and saw MP Shailesh Vara achieve a significant increase in his majority.
- Building on this momentum Gavin urged everyone to work more closely across the constituency to support candidates and existing councillors and create an Association to be proud of, politically and socially.
- To this end he announced the imminent opening of an Association office and the appointment of Judith Wojtowicz as part-time office manager
- Plans were underway for two constituency fundraising events this year
- Paid tribute to retiring Peterborough councillor (Glinton and Castor ward) John Holdich after almost 40 years' service and to Michael Perkins, who steps down after 25 years as treasurer

2 Political Report: Deputy Chairman Sheila Scott

- The past year started with disappointing results, winning just four of eight contested seats for Peterborough City Council as well as losing the European elections. Having ended on a high note, Sheila reported a more favourable outlook for the coming year.
- With ten seats up for election in Peterborough, candidates and members could now take advantage of the Government's decision to postpone, by using the extra time to build their profile locally. Further advice on the wider implications of the decision awaited from CCHQ.
- Potential candidates actively being sought for Cambridgeshire County Council elections due in 2021.

3 Financial Report: Treasurer Michael Perkins... approved

4 Election of Officers 2020/21

Chairman: Gavin Elsey

Deputy Chairman (political): Sheila Scott

Deputy Chairman (membership): Michael Perkins

Vice-Chairman (north): Cllr John Howard

Vice-Chairman (south): Cllr Steve Corney

Treasurer: Irene Walsh

President: Peter Hiller

Vice-President: Graham Bull

5 Speaker

Darryl Preston, Conservative candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner Cambridgeshire spoke about his career as a police officer and more recently his role with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. If elected his intention was to become 'the victims' champion' and provide the visibility and reassurance rightly demanded by the public. Followed by Q&A.

6 Any Other Business

- Melanie Williams passed on an area request for a donation towards the police and crime commissioner election... suggested sum of £3,000
- She also highlighted a series of online training sessions available to officers, councillors and members. Dates to be sent to Judith for sharing more widely.
- Judith appealed to councillors and members to sign-up and engage with the NWCCA Facebook page to enable more personalised messaging. Social media is a free communication channel and used effectively can reach a much wider audience.