

Minutes of the Confelicity Party Manifesto Meeting



Date: 15th October 2024 – 7:00 PM

Present: DS, JM, LC, JH, LH, SV, SJ, CC, MA

1. Declarations of Interest

- The Leader reminded members to declare any personal or financial interests when relevant items arise.
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
 - **Action:** General secretary requested copy of members email to send copies of the minutes -JM to provide.
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3. Leader's Update

- The Leader emphasised the importance of focusing on the upcoming 2026 elections.
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4. Deputy Leader Review

- JH was named **Honorary Emeritus Deputy**.
 - The appointment of position of Deputy Leader is deferred until future members meeting.
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5. Leigh Town Council Election Results

- JW secured 12% of the vote, which is believed to have impacted the overall result.
 - **Action:** AW to research the Essex and Rochford elections.
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6. 2026 Election Planning

a. Candidate Selection

- Kursaal: **Lee Clark**, Thorpe: **Diane Sossou**, Prittlewell: **Simon Jones**, Leigh: **James Miller**, Milton: **Sandy van Deventer**, Thorpe: **Lee Hooton**
- **Other Positions TBC**

b. Campaign and Fundraising

- A positive approach to campaigning was agreed upon.
- **Signatories on the party bank account:** James Miller, Warren Hooton, Sandy van Deventer, Simon Jones (to be confirmed).
- A fundraising event, "Stir It for Christmas," is scheduled for **Monday, 25th November**.
- Campaign efforts are officially underway.

7. Manifesto Debates

7.1 Youth Outreach Project

- SJ outlined the intentions and successes of current programmes and presented supporting documents.
- Discussion on how the party can support youth groups and initiatives.
- SJ presented the manifesto implementation plan.
- Various ideas were shared around the table.
- **Key points:**
 - Incentives for parents were suggested, as the children who need the support most may not attend voluntarily.
 - Pressure needs to be applied on the council for implementation.
 - Public outreach: Emphasise "We want this to happen."
- **Action:** Engage with groups already involved in similar work.
- **Funding discussion:** JM raised concerns about costs and potential grants.
- **Voting:** Unanimous approval (100%).

7.2 Councillors' Pay/Expenses Review

- Discussion on whether being a councillor should be voluntary or paid:
 - View 1: Councillors should not be excluded from service due to financial constraints.
 - View 2: Councillors should serve voluntarily for the benefit of Southend residents.
- **Amended motion:** Councillors should not receive a salary but may be reimbursed for expenses.
- **Vote:**
 - DS: 100, JM: 100, LC: 100, JH: Abstained, LH: 100, SV: 100, SJ: 80, CC: 100, MA: Abstained.
 - **Motion passed.**

7.3 Development on Salvation Army Greenbelt Land

- JM passionately argued that greenbelt land should never be developed, warning that terms like "grey belt" are being used to undermine protections.
- **Amended motion:** The party supports Hadleigh residents in opposing the development on greenbelt land.
- **Vote:**
 - DS: 100, JM: 100, LC: 100, LH: 0, SV: 100, SJ: 100, CC: 100, MA: 100.
 - **Motion not passed.**

8. Items Deferred to Next Meeting

- 7.4: **Support for Parish Councils** in other Southend districts.
 - 7.5: **Net Migration Figure** discussion.
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9. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Future items for manifesto debates should be proposed via WhatsApp at least one week before each meeting.
 - **Dates of future meetings:**
 - Wednesday, 20th November
 - Thursday, 19th December
 - Monday, 20th January
 - Tuesday, 25th February
 - Wednesday, 26th March
 - **Spring Equinox Conference**
 - Details of party administration will be published on WhatsApp.
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Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.