

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orpington Conservative Association,  
29 March 2019.**

The outgoing Chairman, Tony Owen, welcomed members to the meeting, including Jo Johnson and Gareth Bacon. He announced that Doug Auld had died the previous day. He had been a hard-working councillor, an active member of the Association, and a former ward colleague of the chairman. John Hocking, Joy Keates, Nan McIntyre, George Raine and Daphne Smart had also died over the last year. Members rose for a minute's silence.

The Chairman thanked officers for their hard work over the year, and also thanked Joan Newman for her hard work in running the office. He also thanked Shaun Slator for his hard work as Borough Campaign Manager.

Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Scoates, Mike and Carolyn Lawson, Paul Bonter, Karisma Aberdeen-Woo, Lee Hannaford and Angela Page.

- Minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated, and were agreed as a true and accurate record.
- Matters arising – none.
- 2018 accounts: These had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were received and approved – proposed Simon Fawthrop, seconded Samaris Huntington-Thresher.
- Constituency report: this was agreed. Proposed by Simon Fawthrop and seconded by Barbara Ferry.
- Election of officers. The only post that had received more than one nomination was that of Chairman. Kim Botting had been proposed, but declined the nomination. The following were therefore elected unopposed:
  - President: Daphne Wright
  - Chairman: Graham Short
  - Deputy Chairman Political: Mike Botting
  - Deputy Chairman Membership & Fundraising: Linda Hewitt
  - Treasurer: Sue Clark
  - Secretary: Tony Owen

Graham Short then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He said that Doug Auld would be sadly missed. He thanked Tony Owen for his hard work over the last three years, also those who had elected himself tonight, forecasting it may prove to be a difficult time, with the Brexit delay and possible leadership, EU and General Elections.

- The following were elected as Honorary Vice Presidents: Paul Bonter, Judi Ellis, Diana Esler, Cosette Huntington-Thresher and Judy Jones. Proposed by Tony Owen and seconded by Graham Short.
- Appointment of representative to the National Convention. Graham Short was proposed by Lois Hyett and seconded by Phil Clarke. Elected unopposed.
- Appointment of representatives to the Area Council. Mike Botting and Linda Hewitt were proposed by Graham Short and seconded by Kim Botting. Elected unopposed.
- Rules amendments – none.
- Election of Trustees and Trustees Report. Tony Owen read a report that had been written by Paul Bonter. The Trustees had been trying to change the names on the deeds held by the Land Registry; the current names were those of former Trustees who had all died some years ago. The election of a 4<sup>th</sup> trustee was discussed. OCA has recommended that Bob Blanchett should be appointed; it is now for the existing Trustees to consider this recommendation.

- Appointment of persons to certify accounts. Sue Clark explained that Joan Newman prepares the accounts on Sage, and these are then checked by Baxters. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. This was proposed by Samaris Huntington-Thresher, and seconded by William Huntington-Thresher. Agreed.
- Any other business.

Three motions had been submitted to the AGM for consideration.

Motion 1: Proposed by Tony Owen and seconded by Lois Hyett. That "Orpington Conservative Association is shocked at the suspension of Policy Forum chairman Paul Towlson and asks CCHQ to review this at the earliest opportunity, letting us know within 7 days details of the process and an indicative timescale". The motion was carried on a show of hands.

Motion 2: Proposed by Simon Fawthrop and seconded by Keith Onslow. That "In agreement with The National Convention, The Orpington Conservative Association supports the commitments the Prime Minister has made to the country to honour the European Union referendum result of 2016, that having triggered Article 50 we will leave the European Union on the 29 March 2019. Another referendum, a delay beyond the European elections, taking 'no deal' off the table or not leaving at all would betray the 2016 People's Vote and damage democracy and our party for a generation". There was a very short discussion. The motion was carried on a show of hands.

Motion 3: Proposed by Keith Grange and seconded by Bernie Keeler. That, "The Orpington Conservative Association has no confidence in Jo Johnson as the Conservative Member of Parliament for the constituency of Orpington". The incoming Chairman advised both the proposer and seconder that a similar motion had been discussed at a recent Executive Council Meeting. However, he was mindful that the previous discussions had been at an internal meeting to which ordinary members had no access, in which case he would allow the motion to be put.

It was agreed by those attending that it would be helpful if Jo Johnson were to make his address to the AGM prior to the motion being heard.

Jo Johnson then spoke of some of the work that he had undertaken in the constituency throughout the year before moving on to discuss Brexit, and the reasoning behind his voting record on the subject.

Jo Johnson then took a lengthy series of robust questions from the floor prior to the Borough Campaign Manager, Shaun Slator, supervising a secret ballot. Gareth Bacon acted as an independent scrutineer. The proposer and seconder witnessed the count. The motion was defeated.

- Other AOB.  
Kim Botting suggested that membership should be handled separately to fund-raising. Graham Short explained that the rules of the OCA mirrored those of the national party. The next officers' meeting could discuss whether a change in the rules would be appropriate. Cosette Huntington-Thresher queried the change in rules whereby lapsing members would lose their voting rights as soon as their membership lapsed. Graham Short agreed to investigate this.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm.