



MINUTES of our AGM

5th June 2019

Laleham Village Hall

First of all – profound apologies to everyone (especially Kye Gbangbola) for the fact that the venue was entirely inappropriate and inaccessible. We will not use this hall again. Thank you Kye for persevering and participating via telephone.

As we did not have a minute taker, these are just very brief action points recorded by the Secretary, Paul Couchman.

- 1) In attendance: Paul Couchman, Malcolm Beecher, Kye Gbangbola, Peter and Jolanje Hughes, Fiona Corr, Brian Creese, John Hadwin, Ginny Eaton, Sue Gross, Veena Siva & Helen Couchman
- 2) Apologies for Absence – Mick Dawson (UCU), Liz Mansfield (Greens), Steve Trafford (Greens), Lee Belsten, Iain Raymond, Jan Doerfel, Thelma Snelgrove, Serena Powis, Jon Button, Robert Evans & Matt Clarke.
- 3) Notes from meeting on 4th April were agreed.
- 4) Truth About Zane update – Kye Gbangbola gave a detailed update of the campaign so far. They have met several senior cabinet ministers and shadow ministers, including the justice minister. Support for an Independent Panel Inquiry is growing steadily. There are now 59,000 signatures on the petition. An appeal was made for supporters to join them at the joint protest with Grenfell survivors on 15th June at Westminster. People were asked to spread the word in their organisations – particularly pushing presales of their book.
- 5) Secretary's report – Paul gave a brief report (also circulated with the agenda) of the past year's activities.
- 6) Treasurer's report – Thelma had provided a current account balance of £591.43 (as of February when the book was last updated). The cost of the new banner and any BACS donations since February would not be included. NOTE: £33 was collected at the meeting which paid for the costs of the room.
- 7) Elections – the following members were elected:
 - a) Chair – Ginny Eaton
 - b) Secretary – Paul Couchman

- c) Treasurer – Fiona Corr
 - d) Comms/Social Media – Sue Bryers
 - e) Steering Committee – to include all officers and all on current Whats App group plus those at the meeting who volunteered their mobile numbers.
- 8) Fire Service Cuts, consultation, petition and protest – petition currently heading towards 12,000. There was some discussion around the severity of the cuts and the poor quality of the consultation. A major protest will be arranged outside the cabinet in September when the decision is likely to be made.
- 9) General Discussion – Points were raised and discussed over cuts to childrens centres, Special Educational Needs provision and the health service. School funding was raised as an urgent concern and it was agreed to put out the feelers to see if a campaign against school cuts was a possibility. The issue of Spelthorne Borough Council's 'Open Spaces' policy was raised and people were urged to support the petition to defend the green spaces in the borough.
- 10) Local election results – It was agreed that our next meeting would be in Woking on 3rd September and that we would invite all the Labour and Green borough, district and county councillors to see if a common anti-cuts, anti-austerity SOSiS platform could be agreed upon for councillors and candidates to unite around.