Minutes of GLD Special General Meeting 16th Jan 2023

Special General Meeting – GLD Affiliation Status

The Green Liberal Democrat Executive Committee called a Special General Meeting for 16th January with over 60 days' notice (*first notice 11th Nov 2022 and DETAILS sent out on 19th December - over four weeks prior to the meeting*) & with the express intention of discussing a new Constitution fitting the Federal Party's brief for GLD to become an Affiliated Organisation of the Party.

The meeting was held via Zoom and a political meeting was set up prior to the General Meeting, to help to ensure we had enough members of GLD to form a quorum for the SGM.

In the event there were over 61 people present for the political meeting and the Constitutional SGM started with nearly 60 people present. Quite a few apologies were sent in as well. Most people stayed after the political meeting, for the first half an hour of the SGM but numbers gradually declined as time went on. By the time the meeting reached its nominal closing time of 9.00pm there were about 28 – 30 people still present. There were still 27 people present at the close at 9.40pm.

(*We did not provide a roll-call to ascertain a full list of those present at the beginning of the meeting and it turns out that the recording of the meeting only shows speakers – not names of participants, so we cannot name everyone present. However, towards the end of the general meeting it was possible to discover the names of the people remaining during the voting stage. These are given in the appendix*).

Points of Order

A point of order was made early in the meeting about length of notice of the meeting. GLD President, Martin Horwood, took the Chair at this point and following a short discussion ruled that appropriate notice had been given.

A second point of order concerning the lack of an agenda was also discussed but it was ruled that the notice had made it plain that the meeting was solely to approve a new Constitution in line with the Federal Party's wish to normalise all constitutions of Party bodies, whether Affiliated Organisations or Local Parties, against a requirement for standard GDPR delivery and questions associated with the PPERA rules (Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000).

In order to clarify the issues to be considered, it was agreed that the order of business for the SGM was "***to consider and approve the proposed new Constitution of the Green Liberal Democrats***", in order to achieve Affiliated Status of the Liberal Democrats amending the wording, if thought appropriate, whilst sticking as close to the model constitution as possible.

"Drafting Amendments"

There were a few small issues that had been raised before the meeting, or were raised during the meeting, which the President deemed (with the agreement of the SGM by acclamation) could and should be considered as "Drafting Amendments".

These were all discussed and resolved without serious dissension and were agreed to form part of the final wording of the Constitution by general agreement. As the appendix contains the initial proposed constitution and the final version agreed at the end of the meeting, it is not felt necessary to highlight all the minor wording changes made.

Amendments of Significance

Two key issues will be separated out, as they were areas of potential and actual disagreement, before and/or during the meeting.

1 The first of these concerned the statement of the Mission of the Green Liberal Democrats. Several points had been raised in the meeting about how the section should read and a considerable range of options had been proposed. It was decided that there should be a small `drafting group` established who would meet in a separate Zoom room for a brief period to bring a recommendation back to the larger meeting as to how the section could and should be amended.

The drafting group reappeared in due course, with a paragraph which was moved formally, discussed at reasonable length, and voted on towards the end of the meeting. The motion was to "*Delete and replace the paragraph starting with the words `The Mission` with the following -* ***Green Liberal Democrats exist to raise awareness of the ecological and environmental crisis, support net zero, restore nature and establish a sustainable economy. We will seek to integrate these goals into all national and local Liberal Democrat actions and policies.***"

This paragraph was duly agreed upon (see below).

2 The second key issue concerned a paragraph (highlighted in yellow in the Proposed draft constitution in the appendix) which suggested having Country and Regional representatives on an expanded Executive Committee.

Whilst the Drafting Group were meeting separately the main group discussed the merits and disadvantages of having country and regional reps and concluded by acclamation that the paragraph should remain in the Constitution. (This broad decision was shared with the `drafting group` when they returned, and it was decided that no further discussion of this point was needed.)

The meeting concluded (rather later than intended at 9.40, rather than 9.00pm) with the series of votes as mentioned above. At this point there were at least 25 people recorded as present and voting. Neither the Chair, Keith Melton, nor the GLD intern, Sam Campling, who were designated as Zoom hosts, actually voted in this process, due to the fact that, as hosts, they were seeing the results of the voting rather than the option to vote! Not that this would have made any difference to the outcome as **the votes were all `nem con` with one abstention each time.**

The Appendices below contain both the draft Constitution as debated (Appendix 2) and the final version as agreed (Appendix 3). The email that will accompany these minutes will also have the final agreed version of the Constitution attached as a PDF file.

Appendix 1

25 GLD Members present and voting at the Special General meeting on 16th January 2023. The names of the Chair, Keith Melton and the GLD Intern, Sam Campling have been added to this list as they were both present but did not, in the end, have a vote. So, 27 people altogether.

Anna Beria
Jacquie Coule Bleakley
Steve Bolter
Cllr Clare Cape
Catherine Dawson UK
Cllr Sarah Dyke
Julia Ewart
Guy Fancourt
Merilyn Francis
David Garlick
Heather Glass
Sharon Harris
Martin Horwood
Karen Lawrance
Jed Marson
Cllr. Steve Mason
Charlotte Mbali
George Miles
Adrian Miller
Inga Lockington
Tim Lockingtom
Simon Oliver
Kate Parminter
Josie Parr
Fiona (surname not recorded)

Sam Campling
Keith Melton

Appendix 2

Word version of the draft constitution as discussed in the Special General Meeting

1. Name, Objects and Definitions

The Name of the Organisation shall be the Green Liberal Democrats – abbreviated to GLD.

The Mission of the Green Liberal Democrats shall be to raise awareness of environmental issues among Liberal Democrats and encourage them to embed these issues into all Liberal Democrat social and economic policies, national and local, in a distinctive and electable way.

The Objects of GLD shall be:

- to seek to achieve the objects set forth in the Preamble to the Federal Constitution of the Liberal Democrats;
- to support, directly or indirectly, the election of Liberal Democrats as Members of Parliament and members of local and other elected public authorities;
- to admit and actively recruit new members to the Liberal Democrats, and encourage existing members to renew their membership;
- to participate in the formulation of the policy of the Liberal Democrats;
- **to work with others, both within the Liberal Democrats and more widely across society to address the twin existential issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity Losses in particular**
- **to work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to address all issues appropriate to the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable economic development**
- **in LD run councils, to assist Liberal Democrat councillors implement and showcase policies that protect the environment and enable sustainable economic development**
- "Federal Party" shall refer to the Federal Party of the Liberal Democrats.

2. Membership

Membership of GLD shall be regulated by Membership rules and code of conduct as passed by the GLD executive committee and in agreement with the Liberal Democrat Federal People and Development Committee (or its successor(s)). Any such rules and code of conduct shall accord with the provisions that:

Membership of GLD shall be open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation;

Members of GLD must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass, or intimidate anyone; and Members of GLD must abide by the Members Codes of Conduct of the Liberal Democrats.

Only members of the Liberal Democrats, or one of its sister parties, who are members of GLD may:

hold the role of Officer, including Chair, Vice Chair(s), Treasurer and Membership Officer; sit on Federal Liberal Democrat Committees; access Liberal Democrat Party data; receive financial or

sensitive political information, relating to the Liberal Democrats; or participate in elections or votes within GLD.

Associate Members of GLD who are not members of the Liberal Democrats shall otherwise hold the rights of Registered Supporters of the Liberal Democrats. This provision shall not apply to anyone whose membership of the Liberal Democrats is refused, revoked, or suspended, but shall apply should such sanctions be lifted. On applying, potential Associate Members must declare their membership of any other political party and acceptance of membership is subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
Any member of the GLD must agree to be subject to the Complaints Process of the Liberal Democrats in the event that a complaint is made to which they are a party. If someone refuses to accept the jurisdiction of the Complaints Process, or fails to respond to its requirements, this shall automatically revoke their membership of GLD.

Membership shall be acquired through application to the GLD Executive Committee (by methods decided upon by the committee), subject to the Membership rules of the Liberal Democrats and code of conduct.

If a member of GLD Is a member of the Liberal Democrats and their membership status is altered by any decision of the Party's Complaints or Appeals procedures, that same change shall take effect to their membership of GLD. No person may be simultaneously suspended or expelled from the Liberal Democrats and be a full member of GLD.

3. Officers and Executive Committee

The Officers of the Affiliated Organisation shall be the Chair, Four Vice-Chairs (one for Organisation, one for Policy, one for Campaigns and one for Communications), Treasurer, Youth Officer and Membership Officer.

The Vice Chair (Organisation) shall not later than 2nd January and within seven days after any subsequent change notify the names and email addresses of all Officers to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party

There may **(will?)** be an Honorary President to be elected by the Annual General Meeting ("AGM").

The general and financial business of GLD shall be controlled and carried on by the Executive Committee, subject to the decisions of General Meetings and in compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

The Chair - to chair all General and Executive Committee Meetings (in the event of a tied vote the Chair shall have an additional casting vote); to be jointly responsible with the Treasurer for compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and any other legal or regulatory requirements;

The Vice-Chairs - to chair General and Executive Committee Meetings if the Chair is unable to do so, to organise campaigns, policy formulation and to communicate the activities of GLD;

The Vice Chair (Organisation) - to handle the Affiliated Organisation's correspondence; to maintain minutes of meetings; to handle internal links within the Federal Party;

The Treasurer - to handle the Affiliated Organisation's financial business and present financial reports to Annual General Meetings; to be jointly responsible with the Chair for the Affiliated

Organisation's compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and any other legal or regulatory requirements;

The Membership Officer – to receive all notices of application for membership and refer them to the Executive Committee for acceptance; to maintain a membership register; to hold and maintain all GLD data; and to ensure compliance with data protection legislation.

The Youth Officer shall be a Youth Member and only Youth Members are eligible to stand for this position. (This covers members who are able to demonstrate that they are under 25 years of age on the day they join or renew their membership. Youth Members have all the rights of Full or Associate Members, according to their membership, or not, of the Liberal Democrats.)

As Ordinary Members,

1. Six Ordinary Members elected according to Section 4; and

2. One National/Regional Representative elected according to Section 4 from each region in England, from the national parties in Scotland and Wales, co-opted from the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland and from Liberal Democrats Abroad.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least five times each year between the Annual General Meetings. Any Executive members who fail to attend 3 executive meetings consecutively, regardless of sending apologies, will have deemed to have resigned, unless their special circumstances have been agreed, by the Executive, by or at the fourth meeting, to excuse the absences. The Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, adopt Standing Orders.

The Executive Committee may, by rules it determines via its Standing Orders, establish sub-committees as it deems necessary to support its work but may not delegate its decision-making authority or responsibilities.

The Executive Committee may co-opt up to three additional 'Ordinary' members, for a term expiring not later than the next following AGM. Co-opted members may speak but not vote.

Members of GLD shall be entitled to attend, but not necessarily to speak, at meetings of the Executive Committee, as agreed by the Executive Committee. The Chair shall decide if speaking rights are given to any such members attending

The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy occurring among the Officers or the Ordinary Members. Any vacancy in the Chair shall be filled from amongst the existing Executive Committee members. The VC (Organisation) shall within seven days notify any change of Officers to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

The Officers shall convene a meeting of the Executive Committee within one month after taking office. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly and not less than four times in a year. The VC (Organisation) shall give at least 7 days` notice of meetings to all of the Executive members Committee. One-third of its members shall form a quorum.

In urgent circumstances, the Officers may act on behalf of the Executive Committee. They shall report on such actions to the next meeting of the Executive Committee

Minutes shall be kept of any meetings of the Executive Committee. In the absence of an Executive Committee member charged with the duty, the Meeting shall appoint a member to take minutes.

4. Elections of Officers and Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of Officers, National/Regional Representatives and Ordinary members only. Officers and Ordinary members, except those who are co-opted, shall be elected using Single Transferable Vote by and from the members of GLD. This election shall typically take place at the time of the AGM.

The term of office of Officers and Ordinary Members shall be from the 1st January following their election until the 31st of December twenty four months after that. They shall be eligible for re-election, save that an Officer shall not serve for more than three consecutive terms for the same position, and the Chair shall not be eligible for re-election as Chair for two terms after leaving Office.

Nominations for election shall be invited in the notice summoning the AGM, and shall close at the AGM, but not before the reception of the Executive Committee's report. They must be proposed and seconded and shall be in writing, or digitally signed by the proposer, seconder and candidate and accepted by the Chair or, if the elections are contested, the Returning Officer.

Where elections are contested, the Chair shall ensure that an independent Returning Officer is appointed. That Returning Officer must have Returning Officer, Senior Returning Officer, or Assistant Returning Officer status within the Liberal Democrats, and shall conduct the election using whatever process, subject to any necessary alterations, is currently used by the Liberal Democrats for committee elections. All contested elections under this constitution shall be by secret ballot using the Single Transferable Vote method in accordance with election rules made under the Party Constitution.

No person may be elected to hold more than one Office. Elections for Officers shall be counted in the order listed in Section 5 and for Ordinary Members after Officers. Any votes cast for candidates already elected to Office shall be transferred according to the voters' subsequent preferences.

Accidental failure to despatch notice of the AGM or a ballot paper in due time or at all to a person entitled to vote shall not invalidate an election or be treated as an irregularity unless a substantial number of persons entitled to vote have not received notices or ballot papers at all or have received them too late to make it practicable to attend the meeting or return the ballot paper in due time by first-class post.

An unsuccessful candidate who alleges that there has been or may have been an irregularity in the election may within one calendar month after the declaration of the result ask for an investigation by the Federal Liberal Democrats in accordance with the Investigation procedure. Subject to any order made after such an investigation, no irregularity shall invalidate an election.

The Returning Officer may extend the time for distribution and return of ballot papers where there are special circumstances making it necessary to do so.

If no member of GLD fulfils the following criteria,

a) is a member of GLD;
b) is willing to act as Treasurer;
c) is duly elected; and
d) is considered capable of the role of Treasurer, as determined by the Compliance team of the Federal Liberal Democrats ("Compliance")

the Chair shall urgently report to Compliance and, in consultation with Compliance, arrange for the Executive Committee to co-opt a Treasurer who fulfils at least criteria b-d.

If GLD fails by 15th January to notify the Chief Executive of the Federal Party of the appointment of a Chair and a Treasurer, its Affiliated Organisation status shall be automatically suspended. This suspension shall be automatically lifted once the CEO confirms that the roles have been duly filled.

In exercising the right of the GLD to make nominations for candidates in Federal Liberal Democrat internal elections, the decision to nominate a candidate shall be made by the Executive Committee by simple majority vote.

5. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be on a day appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may postpone the AGM if it would conflict with a Parliamentary Election in the Constituency, or for other urgent reasons.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall consist of all members of GLD.

The business of the AGM shall include:

a business session to which the Executive Committee shall report;

The consideration of, and if thought fit, approval of the annual accounts for the previous financial year and a report from the Treasurer including an outline budget for the following year;

to appoint for the current Financial Year auditors if required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000;

to transact any other business specified by the Constitution, or directed by the Executive Committee;

to consider any motion which has been duly submitted per the AGM Standing Orders; and

to receive nominations for any elected positions.

The Annual General Meeting may confer Honorary Life Membership of the Green Liberal Democrats for some special contribution to green politics. (Honorary Life Members have all the rights of Full or Associate Members, without the payment of a subscription, according to their membership, or not, of the Liberal Democrats.)

The AGM (or Special General Meeting) of GLD at which this Constitution is adopted, shall, by a two-thirds majority vote, adopt a set of Standing Orders. Those Standing Orders shall be amendable by a two-thirds majority vote of subsequent AGMs only.

The VC (Organisation) shall give all members at least 21 days written notice of the time and place of the AGM. Such notice shall specify all business to be conducted at the meeting.

The AGM may by a two-thirds majority agree to consider urgent or important business which has arisen since notice of the AGM was given.

A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee and shall be convened by the VC (Organisation) so as to be held within 28 days of the decision being made. At least 14 days written notice shall be given to all members of the Special General Meeting. The meeting shall only consider business stated in the notice convening it. In an emergency, the Officers may convene a meeting giving such notice as they consider sufficient in the circumstances. The quorum rules during a special General Meeting shall be the same as for an Annual General Meeting.

20 members shall form a quorum at any AGM. A quorum is not required to receive reports and accounts.

Notice and minutes of all Annual and Special General Meetings shall be sent to the Chief Executive of the Federal Liberal Democrats. Minutes shall be maintained of all proceedings of all AGMs. Notice shall be provided at least seven days before the AGM and minutes provided at most 28 days after the meeting.

6. Finances and regulatory reporting

The GLD accounting period shall be annual, ending on 31st December each year.

The Treasurer shall keep, maintain for six years, and pass to their successor accounting records which shall be available for inspection in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The Treasurer shall ensure that no donation of over £200 is accepted except from a permissible donor and shall keep records and submit donations reports to the Executive Committee and to Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

The Treasurer shall annually produce accounts which shall be approved by the Executive Committee and if required by the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 shall be audited and submitted to the Electoral Commission. A copy of the annual accounts shall be sent to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

GLD will abide by the provisions of the Liberal Democrats Financial Escalation Policy, as if it were a local Party reporting directly to the Liberal Democrat Federal Board.

GLD may maintain one or more bank or other appropriate accounts, for which the mandate for withdrawal shall require the approval of at least two Officers who shall not come solely from members of any one family. GLD may maintain further accounts for the deposit of money not required for the time being, requiring the same signatures.

GLD will at all times comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission, the Information Commissioner's Office and any other relevant legislation or regulator. As an accounting unit of the Liberal Democrats, GLD will comply with requests made of it by relevant Federal Liberal Democrat Staff and the Party Registered Treasurer.

7. Constitution and interpretation

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any duly called General Meeting. Any such amendment shall be reported to the Liberal Democrat Federal People and Development Committee or its successor(s).

Details of any proposed amendment shall be sent to all members with the notice of the General Meeting.

If the model constitution for Affiliated Organisations is amended, any provision of this constitution shall be deemed to be correspondingly amended, unless the GLD resolves at a quorate General Meeting held within six months of receiving notice of the amendment not to accept it.

Matching copies of this Constitution, updated following any amendments, must be kept by the GLD and provided as soon as it is available to the Federal Party Chief Executive.

In the event of any question of interpretation arising, or any question on which this Constitution is silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to act according to its interpretation of the Constitution, or at its discretion, subject to Article 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Party. Conflicts arising from such interpretation shall be resolved under the procedure for resolving conflicts set out in the Federal Party Constitution.

No word or construction in this Constitution shall be taken to imply any discrimination whatsoever with regard to race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender or sexual orientation or any other ground other than political belief or practice. GLD, for as long as it is an Affiliated Organisation, shall be subject to the review and Investigation procedures created under Article 9.6b of the Liberal Democrat Federal Constitution.

In the event of the dissolution or suspension of GLD the assets of GLD shall vest in the Federal Party on trust for the future reconstitution of GLD unless explicitly provided otherwise by a General Meeting.

Appendix 3
Word version of the final agreed proposed Constitution as at 16th January 2023

1. Name, Objects and Definitions

The Name of the Organisation shall be the Green Liberal Democrats – abbreviated to GLD.

"Green Liberal Democrats exist to raise awareness of the ecological and environmental crisis, support net zero, restore nature and establish a sustainable economy. We will seek to integrate these goals into all national and local Liberal Democrat actions and policies"

The Objects of GLD shall be:

- to seek to achieve the objects set forth in the Preamble to the Federal Constitution of the Liberal Democrats;
- to support, directly or indirectly, the election of Liberal Democrats as Members of Parliament and members of local and other elected public authorities;
- to admit and actively recruit new members to the Liberal Democrats, and encourage existing members to renew their membership;
- to participate in the formulation of the policy of the Liberal Democrats;
- to work with others, both within the Liberal Democrats and more widely across society to address the twin existential issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity Losses in particular
- to work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to address all issues appropriate to the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable economic development
- in LD run councils, to assist Liberal Democrat councillors implement and showcase policies that protect the environment and enable sustainable economic development

"Federal Party" shall refer to the Federal Party of the Liberal Democrats.

2. Membership

Membership of GLD shall be regulated by Membership rules and code of conduct as passed by the GLD executive committee and in agreement with the Liberal Democrat Federal People and Development Committee (or its successor(s)). Any such rules and code of conduct shall accord with the provisions that:

Membership of GLD shall be open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation;

Members of GLD must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass, or intimidate anyone; and Members of GLD must abide by the Members Codes of Conduct of the Liberal Democrats.

Only members of the Liberal Democrats, or one of its sister parties, who are members of GLD may:

hold the role of Officer, including Chair, Vice Chair(s), Treasurer and Membership Officer; sit on Federal Liberal Democrat Committees; access Liberal Democrat Party data; receive financial or sensitive political information, relating to the Liberal Democrats; or participate in elections or votes within GLD.

Associate Members of GLD, who are not members of the Liberal Democrats, shall otherwise hold the rights of Registered Supporters of the Liberal Democrats. This provision shall not apply to anyone whose membership of the Liberal Democrats is refused, revoked, or suspended, but shall apply should such sanctions be lifted. On applying, potential Associate Members must declare their membership of any other political party and acceptance of membership is subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
Any member of the GLD must agree to be subject to the Complaints Process of the Liberal Democrats in the event that a complaint is made to which they are a party. If someone refuses to accept the jurisdiction of the Complaints Process, or fails to respond to its requirements, this shall automatically revoke their membership of GLD.

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The Vice Chair (Organisation) shall not later than 2nd January and within seven days after any subsequent change notify the names and email addresses of all Officers to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party

There will be an Honorary President to be elected by the Annual General Meeting ("AGM").

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The Vice-Chairs - to chair General and Executive Committee Meetings if the Chair is unable to do so, to organise campaigns, policy formulation and to communicate the activities of GLD;

The Vice Chair (Organisation) - to handle the Affiliated Organisation's correspondence; to maintain minutes of meetings; to handle internal links within the Federal Party;

The Treasurer - to handle the Affiliated Organisation's financial business and present financial reports to Annual General Meetings; to be jointly responsible with the Chair for the Affiliated Organisation's compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and any other legal or regulatory requirements;

The Membership Officer – to receive all notices of application for membership and refer them to the Executive Committee for acceptance; to maintain a membership register; to hold and maintain all GLD data; and to ensure compliance with data protection legislation.

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1. Six Ordinary Members elected according to Section 4; and

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The Executive Committee may, by rules it determines via its Standing Orders, establish sub-committees as it deems necessary to support its work but may not delegate its decision-making authority or responsibilities.

The Executive Committee may co-opt up to three additional 'Ordinary' members, for a term expiring not later than the next following AGM. Co-opted members may speak but not vote.

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Where elections are contested, the Chair shall ensure that an independent Returning Officer is appointed. That Returning Officer must have Returning Officer, Senior Returning Officer, or Assistant Returning Officer status within the Liberal Democrats, and shall conduct the election using whatever process, subject to any necessary alterations, is currently used by the Liberal Democrats for committee elections. All contested elections under this constitution shall be by secret ballot using the Single Transferable Vote method in accordance with election rules made under the Party Constitution.

No person may be elected to hold more than one Office. Elections for Officers shall be counted in the order listed in Section 5 and for Ordinary Members after Officers. Any votes cast for candidates already elected to Office shall be transferred according to the voters' subsequent preferences.

Accidental failure to despatch notice of the AGM or a ballot paper in due time or at all to a person entitled to vote shall not invalidate an election or be treated as an irregularity unless a substantial number of persons entitled to vote have not received notices or ballot papers at all or have received them too late to make it practicable to attend the meeting or return the ballot paper in due time by first-class post.

An unsuccessful candidate who alleges that there has been or may have been an irregularity in the election may within one calendar month after the declaration of the result ask for an investigation by the Federal Liberal Democrats in accordance with the Investigation procedure. Subject to any order made after such an investigation, no irregularity shall invalidate an election.

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f) is willing to act as Treasurer;
g) is duly elected; and

h) is considered capable of the role of Treasurer, as determined by the Compliance team of the Federal Liberal Democrats ("Compliance")

the Chair shall urgently report to Compliance and, in consultation with Compliance, arrange for the Executive Committee to co-opt a Treasurer who fulfils at least criteria b-d.

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5. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be on a day appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may postpone the AGM if it would conflict with a Parliamentary Election in the Constituency, or for other urgent reasons.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall consist of all members of GLD.

The business of the AGM shall include:

a business session to which the Executive Committee shall report;

The consideration of, and if thought fit, approval of the annual accounts for the previous financial year and a report from the Treasurer including an outline budget for the following year;

to appoint for the current Financial Year auditors if required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000;

to transact any other business specified by the Constitution, or directed by the Executive Committee;

to consider any motion which has been duly submitted per the AGM Standing Orders; and

to receive nominations for any elected positions.

The Annual General Meeting may confer Honorary Life Membership of the Green Liberal Democrats for some special contribution to green politics. (Honorary Life Members have all the rights of Full or Associate Members, without the payment of a subscription, according to their membership, or not, of the Liberal Democrats.)

The AGM (or Special General Meeting) of GLD at which this Constitution is adopted, shall, by a two-thirds majority vote, adopt a set of Standing Orders. Those Standing Orders shall be amendable by a two-thirds majority vote of subsequent AGMs only.

The VC (Organisation) shall give all members at least 21 days written notice of the time and place of the AGM. Such notice shall specify all business to be conducted at the meeting.

The AGM may by a two-thirds majority agree to consider urgent or important business which has arisen since notice of the AGM was given.

A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee and shall be convened by the VC (Organisation) so as to be held within 28 days of the decision being made. At least 14 days written notice shall be given to all members of the Special General Meeting. The meeting shall only consider business stated in the notice convening it. In an emergency, the Officers may convene a meeting giving such notice as they consider sufficient in the circumstances. The quorum rules during a special General Meeting shall be the same as for an Annual General Meeting.

20 members shall form a quorum at any AGM. A quorum is not required to receive reports and accounts.

Notice and minutes of all Annual and Special General Meetings shall be sent to the Chief Executive of the Federal Liberal Democrats. Minutes shall be maintained of all proceedings of all AGMs. Notice shall be provided at least seven days before the AGM and minutes provided at most 28 days after the meeting.

6. Finances and regulatory reporting

The GLD accounting period shall be annual, ending on 31st December each year.

The Treasurer shall keep, maintain for six years, and pass to their successor accounting records which shall be available for inspection in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The Treasurer shall ensure that no donation of over £200 is accepted except from a permissible donor and shall keep records and submit donations reports to the Executive Committee and to Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

The Treasurer shall annually produce accounts which shall be approved by the Executive Committee and if required by the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 shall be audited and submitted to the Electoral Commission. A copy of the annual accounts shall be sent to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

GLD will abide by the provisions of the Liberal Democrats Financial Escalation Policy, as if it were a local Party reporting directly to the Liberal Democrat Federal Board.

GLD may maintain one or more bank or other appropriate accounts, for which the mandate for withdrawal shall require the approval of at least two Officers who shall not come solely from members of any one family. GLD may maintain further accounts for the deposit of money not required for the time being, requiring the same signatures.

GLD will at all times comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission, the Information Commissioner's Office and any other relevant legislation or regulator. As an accounting unit of the Liberal Democrats, GLD will comply with requests made of it by relevant Federal Liberal Democrat Staff and the Party Registered Treasurer.

7. Constitution and interpretation

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any duly called General Meeting. Any such amendment shall be reported to the Liberal Democrat Federal People and Development Committee or its successor(s).

Details of any proposed amendment shall be sent to all members with the notice of the General Meeting.

If the model constitution for Affiliated Organisations is amended, any provision of this constitution shall be deemed to be correspondingly amended, unless the GLD resolves at a quorate General Meeting held within six months of receiving notice of the amendment not to accept it.

Matching copies of this Constitution, updated following any amendments, must be kept by the GLD and provided as soon as it is available to the Federal Party Chief Executive.

In the event of any question of interpretation arising, or any question on which this Constitution is silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to act according to its interpretation of the Constitution, or at its discretion, subject to Article 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Party. Conflicts arising from such interpretation shall be resolved under the procedure for resolving conflicts set out in the Federal Party Constitution.

No word or construction in this Constitution shall be taken to imply any discrimination whatsoever with regard to race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender or sexual orientation or any other ground other than political belief or practice. GLD, for as long as it is an Affiliated Organisation, shall be subject to the review and Investigation procedures created under Article 9.6b of the Liberal Democrat Federal Constitution.

In the event of the dissolution or suspension of GLD the assets of GLD shall vest in the Federal Party on trust for the future reconstitution of GLD unless explicitly provided otherwise by a General Meeting.

Agreed at GLD Special General Meeting
16th January 2023
Keith Melton, Chair GLD