

# Vegan Greens AGM

03.11.25

**Chairs:** Meghan Tinsley, Prashant Kumbhat

**Minutes:** Matthew McGuire

**ERO:** Jake Welsh

**In Attendance:** Veena Aggarwal, Jamie Allenden, Eve Allsop (Birmingham), Rob Baylis (Calderdale), Caroline French (Havant), Alex Hall, Prashant Kumbhat (Manchester), Alan Little, Matthew McGuire (Sheffield), Diana Newson (Breckland), Nick Newson (Breckland), Martin Parker, Alison Seligson (Lancaster), Rae Sibbitt, Kathryn Smith, Ben Star (South West), Meghan Tinsley (Manchester), Jake Welsh (Manchester), Rebekka Yates, Colin Sylvester

**Apologies:** Rebecca Joy Dyche, AC Baker

**AGENDA** ([Agenda link here](#))

## 1. Introduction to Vegan Greens and our first AGM

Meghan explained the mission statement of the Vegan Greens, drawing from the working definition provided by the Vegan Society. Meghan noted that, with Vegan Greens now being officially recognised as a Special Interest Group (SIG) by the Green Party, the group could now hold an official Annual General Meeting (AGM) to elect its Executive Committee.

Jake Welsh from the Green Party was present as an electoral observer for the duration of the meeting, to ensure a fair and transparent process took place.

## 2. Achievements

Meghan and Prashant gave an overview of the achievements so far of the Vegan Greens, including Conference events for the 2024 and 2025 national conferences, working alongside other Special Interest Groups to raise awareness for veganism through initiatives like Veganadan, hosting a hustings for the 2024 Green Party Deputy Leadership elections, and raising money for Gaza and Sudan. A full list of achievements is presented in the agenda document [here](#).

Special thanks were given to the members of Greens for Animal Protection (GAP), which assisted in spreading awareness of Vegan Greens and in navigating some of setting-up processes required with the national party. The differences between GAP and the Vegan Greens in terms of policy focus were also laid out – that GAP focuses specifically on animal rights but that Vegan Greens encompasses a wider philosophy about fairness and exploitation.

### **3. Candidate Statements and Voting** (Candidate statements link [here](#))

Five candidate statements were submitted in advance of the meeting, and each of those candidates were invited to speak about their candidacy and qualifications for the roles. The candidates who spoke, and the roles they were seeking, are as follows:

Meghan Tinsley & Prashant Kumbhat – Co-Chairs

Matthew McGuire – Secretary

Eve Allsop – Membership Officer

Veena Aggarwal – Non Portfolio Officer

Prashant Kumbhat – Treasurer

Attendees of the meeting were also invited to put themselves forward for any role they saw fit before voting began. It was explained that the Non Portfolio Officer role was a position that would allow members to have a voice in the work of Vegan Greens whilst also allowing them to set their own agenda for what specific projects and workstreams they would lead on.

One attendee put themselves forward for a position following the invitation for members present to apply. Their name and the role they were seeking is as follows:

Rebekka Yates – Non Portfolio Officer

As no candidate statement had been submitted prior to the event, Rebekka was invited to speak and explained that she is a longstanding member who had stood as a County Councillor and has a background in communications and policy, and is currently a member of the Green Party's Health Policy Working Group. Rebekka also reflected upon how the challenges she has faced as a mother to vegan children has helped inform her views on where vegan rights need to be strengthened.

Voting results were as follows:

Position: Chair

**Meghan Tinsley & Prashant Kumbhat:** 14 votes

Reopen Nominations: 0 Votes

Position: Secretary

**Matthew McGuire:** 17 votes

Reopen Nominations: 0 Votes

Position: Membership Officer

**Eve Allsop:** 17 votes

Reopen Nominations: 0 Votes

Position: Non Portfolio Officer

**Veena Aggarwal:** 19 votes

**Rebekka Yates:** 18 votes

Reopen Nominations: 0 votes

Position: Treasurer

**Prashant Kumbhat:** 16 votes

Reopen Nominations: 0 Votes

The role of Communications Officer had no candidates put forward for, and remains vacant.

Colin noted that he does a lot of work on social media and is involved with Plant Based Health Professionals and would be willing to assist the new Executive Committee on an ad-hoc basis.

## **4. Discuss Initiatives/Upcoming Initiatives**

A discussion was held on actions members had decided on both before and during the 2025 National Conference.

Noted that work to promote plant-based treaties in local authorities would continue, but that advice should be tailored to meet the needs of the relevant local authority and that the treaties could be amended to have a better likelihood of passing dependent on the composition of the local authority in question. Also noted that

caterers must receive training on good plant-based meals as feedback has been received that poor quality meals have been prepared in certain local authorities that has undermined the credibility of vegan options.

There was a question on whether Vegan Greens should be focusing on policies that other (non-Green Party) groups and organisations are already advocating for. It was argued that as a political entity, Vegan Greens are able to provide political guidance on getting policies submitted and enacted and the trade-offs required to do this, in ways which non-political entities may not be able to.

A discussion was had on how, following the court case won by Jordi Casamitjana which enshrined veganism as a protected characteristic under UK law, the opportunity now presented itself to fully explore what this means for vegans in UK law and what other protections does it extend to. It was noted that the Green Party could be at the forefront of defining what vegan-specific rights are in the UK context.

It was raised that the Vegan Greens would need to develop a strategy for how they interact with the different policy working groups, and whether a Vegan Policy Group needed to be established.

There were also questions on how the Vegan Greens will interact with vegan groups more generally. It was noted that the Vegan Greens already have close ties to the Vegan Society and that joint work could take place.

Finally, there was discussion on whether the rights of vegan children is a policy area that could be worked upon. Veganism being a diet that is inherently halal/kosher was raised as a good basis from which to work from.

Meeting was closed at 8.20pm