



Greens of Colour Annual General Meeting

15:00, Sat 26 Nov 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

Attendees: Paul Beswick (Cardiff & Vale), Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal (Brecon & Radnor), Ekua Bayunu (Manchester), Indar Picton-Howell (Lambeth), Jenni Chan (Islington), Zack Polanski (Hackney), Kefentse Dennis (Birmingham), Hamza Egal (Redbridge), Tyrone Scott (Hackney), Ria Patel (Croydon), Lydia Hiraide (Chiltern), Virgil Bitu (Southwark), Naranee Ruthra-Rajan (West Central London), Benali Hamdache (Islington), Rosemary Palmer (Nottingham), A C Baker (Birmingham), Ashley Gunstock (Waltham Forest), Eve Allsop (Birmingham), Sam Alston (Oxford, ERO)

Apologies: Pallavi Devulapalli, Syeda Mohshin, Thirza Amina Asanga-Rae, Trish O'Shea

Chair: Kefentse Dennis, Sam Alston, Tyrone Scott
Minutes: AC Baker

1. Kefentse Dennis (outgoing Chair) Welcomes (15:00 UTC/GMT, 3pm)

2. Agree [Minutes of 2021 AGM](#)

Proposed by Paul Beswick, seconded by Kefentse Dennis, no objections, thus passed.

3. Annual Reports from Officers (15:15 UTC/GMT, 3.15pm)

a. **Mandatory roles:**

Chair (Kefentse Dennis), **Deputy Chair** (Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal), **co-Secretaries** (Paul Beswick & AC Baker), **Treasurer** (Paul Beswick), **Membership Officer** (Lydia Hiraide) (**Communications & Marketing Officer**) ~3 mins each

ACTION: Explore the impressions which GPEW is giving to new members, including Greens of Colour joining?

ACTION: Virgil Bitu to send the Gypsy, Roma, Travelling Policy Working Group draft motion to Greens of Colour.

ACTION: Paul Beswick to update Greens of Colour bank details as soon as possible.

b. **Other roles: Policy Officer** (Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal); **Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Officer, LGBT Officer, Ally Seniors Officer.**

Azzees Minott sends regards to Greens of Colour.

4. **2022-23 Committee Election Results from Sam Alston, ERO** (15:45 UTC/GMT, 3.45pm)

Despite technical problems, no instances to cause any doubt about the veracity or security of the results.

Chair: Tyrone Scott

41 votes Tyrone Scott: 54% ; Kefentse Dennis 41% ; RON: 5%

Treasurer: Paul Beswick

40 votes Paul Beswick 88% ; RON 13%

Secretary: Paul Beswick & AC Baker

40 votes Paul Beswick and AC Baker 83%; RON 18%

Membership Officer: Ferhat Nuri Altunok

40 votes Ferhat Nuri Altunok 78%; RON 23%

Deputy Chair: Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal
39 votes Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal 95%; RON 5%

5. New Committee introductions: Tyrone Scott as Chair

Ekua Bayunu standing as **Communications & Marketing Officer** to bring a wider & experienced brief to the role.

Virgil Biku: Ekua is a big win & gift to GPEW, strongly support.

15 votes in favour, none against.

Ekua Bayunu duly elected as **Communications & Marketing Officer**

6. Discussion of 2023 & beyond

a. Telephone ‘banking’

Kefentse Dennis: Continue supplementing other communications with telephoning Greens of Colour Members & Allies.

b. Liberation Groups running training for GPEW

Paul Beswick: How to include marginalised GPEW members e.g. LGBTIQ+ Greens, Jewish Greens, Migrants Rights Network, Gypsy Roma Traveller; Azzees Minott is one possible external professional educator whom GPEW could pay for their time.

c. Elected members

Ria Patel: What more Greens of Colour do to support internally & externally elected Greens of Colour. A Group Chat, template motions, quarterly meetings etc. looking about what different Local Parties can & can't offer.

Benali Hamdache: Divest from the Arms Trade
Ekua Bayunu: Windrush Motion; Housing Crisis Motion

Ekua Bayunu: In Manchester we have the challenge of being the official opposition. Yes, would be good to address the racism I'm receiving not from the GP, but ongoing from my former colleagues

d. Conference

Zack Polanski: We need a vibrant presence of Greens of Colour at Conference. Volunteers to support!

e. Supporting Local Parties in Candidate Selection

Ria Patel: How to spread emerging best practice to more Local and Regional Parties to ensure truly representative diversity of Candidates in winnable roles?

f. 'This Country' language

Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal: Wales is a different country from England. Please can we be careful about how GPEW centrally talks about 'This Country' when it should be 'these countries' perhaps?

g. Racism problems in England, Wales, & GPEW

Hamza Egal: 2022 Autumn Conference was both a shock and a wake-up call. Brexit was c. 80% about immigration, 'shot ourselves in the foot', and Minorities, and People of Colour are going to bear the brunt of the consequences. We can no longer 'go with the flow'.

Paul Beswick: This is a live issue for some time now for Greens of Colour. We are taking stock again of where we are with the new Committee. We have met with Liz Reason, then Chair of GPEx, and Dzaier Neil as EDI co-Coordinator, to talk about forms of institutionalised racism. We are not the Fire Brigade, but we are witnessing forms of institutional racism. We may be able to extricate this from the culture of GPEW. The Establishment of the UK is institutionally racist e.g. Courts, Police, Fire Service. For example, white people writing GPEW

Anti-Racism Policy would be institutional racist. Another form could be problems with how GPEW deals with the Gypsy Roma Traveller Policy, if those occur.

Tyrone Scott: We have progressive outward-facing policies, but internally the structures are reflecting of what is outside GPEW in the UK.

Ekua Bayunu: The way forward will depend upon the context in different places. Knowing that I came in upon this platforms, I made a report to Manchester Green Party for their AGM today: trust & support to ideas about bringing culturally diverse people into the Party - understand that we are the experts, and I will be putting my energy there; Allow for Black People of Colour self-organisation of people affected by colonialism & racism; reflect on challenges in a positive way - we have to address our own failings. I knew Deyika Nzeribe, who lived in my ward as Hulme, and I am speaking to his family: always ask, what are Local Parties doing?

ACTION: Ekua Bayunu to share Manchester Green Party report

Virgil Bitu: We know about the institutional racism where we live. Greens of Colour have done a lot of work in 2022 e.g. Rights & Responsibilities, and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Policy Working Groups. This is the first political organisation that I know who have actively drawn attention to Gypsy, Roma, Traveller issues (not just acknowledgement), People of Colour & white people as well as Gypsy, Roma, Traveller people.

Hamza Egal: The top of the institution is where to find out their true values. GPEW is very white, very political. We know British politics is broken, and against progressive issues. Racism is built into the founding fabric of the United Kingdom through its ongoing grip on the Global South. GPEW is progressive in some ways, but is also still in the grip of

Eurocentric ideals. What will our children, and our children's children face if this does not change quickly?

Virgil Bitu: Tyrone Scott was also Candidate for Deputy Leader, and I believe Zack Polanski does not identify as white? So I think we are on the right path.

Amerjit Kaur-Dhaliwal: I am co-Deputy Leader of Wales Green Party too.

Paul Beswick: We have to police what is done in our name, and this is why we keep Greens of Colour going.

Kefentse Dennis: Congratulations to Tyrone Scott, thanks to everyone from the 2022 Committee, here's to bigger and better achievements in 2023.

7. AOB

a. Nottingham Greens

Rosemary Palmer: I am apparently the only person in Nottingham Greens who is interested in Greens of Colour. I need guidance on attracting more people to Nottingham Greens!

Tyrone Scott: We have the same problem in Hackney, our Local Party is not representative of the people who live in this area.

Meeting closed c. 16:45.

Signed: AC Baker

Dated: 2022-11-26