

SNP : Annandale & Eskdale Branch

Minutes of Branch Meeting

Date: 11/12/2012 @7.30pm

Venue: Ravenswood House, Annan.

Present:

Fiona Jack, Lesley-Ann McLelland, Stephen Thompson, Andy Brown, Ron Welsh, Andrew Wilson, Eric Dodd, Frank McGregor, Annette Young, Drew Young, Susan Hyslop

Apologies:

Jim Mair, James Orr

Minutes

1. Ron Welsh (RW): Welcomed the members and assumed the chair. RW noted that this meeting was indeed quorate with 11 members present.
2. Minutes of previous meeting were proposed by RW and seconded by Susan Hyslop (SH)
3. RW: Election of new Treasurer
 - a. A new Treasurer was required for the branch as Andy Nichol had resigned.
 - b. Fiona Jack offered to stand for the post of Treasurer.
 - c. There were no other candidates and Fiona Jack was duly elected as Treasurer.
4. Matters Arising
 - a. Annette Young (AY): AY reported on the recent Yes campaign launch in Dumfries at the Easterbrook Hall. Approximatley 80 people were there, and AY signed up for more information. All those who had gone had felt that it had been a worthwhile event.
 - b. Vice Convenor: RW raised this from the last meeting which had not been quorate. RW thought there was a need to get a settled executive team to keep the branch moving forward with improved communication. To that end a Vice-Convenor would be appropriate. Frank McGregor(FMcG) suggested we have a Vice-Convenor that would then have the experience to become a Convenor. RW proposed that Stephen Thompson (ST) be Vice-Convenor. FMcG seconded. All were in agreement so ST duly elected as Vice-Convenor of the Annandale & Eskdale Branch.

5. Constituency Association (C.A.) Delegate. RW relayed that we needed to elect a C.A. Delegate following the resignation of Andy Nichol.
 - a. RW: Took the opportunity of the C.A. delegate election to relay the matters that were ongoing in Dumfries Branch with a proposal to create a new Lochar Branch. Currently Dumfries and Annandale & Eskdale are the only two branches in the C.A. Prior to this there was only the Constituency Association in Dumfries. RW is the Convenor of the C.A. and there are 3 meetings a year.
 - b. Election of C.A. delegate: Drew Young (DY) was proposed by Andrew Brown (AB) and seconded by Andrew Wilson (AW)
6. By-Election Report: There was a detailed discussion on the recent local council By-Election in Annandale North which was fought for the SNP by Frank McGregor (FM)
 - a. ST was Franks election agent and Stephen and Frank gave us an in-depth account of the campaign. ST noted that we had significant support from Dumfries Branch not least in the leafleting campaign. ST noted that information was now building up and leaflet runs had been developed. DY mentioned that it was a difficult election with the victorious Tory candidate being well known in the town.
 - b. ST relayed that turnout had been 37%. It had been estimated that 70% of the postal vote had been for the Tories. RW noted that the Labour and the Tories had a big push on in this election and both had brought significant resources in from outside the locality. Frank said he had enjoyed the campaign and that it will provide good foundations for the coming Yes campaign provided we can get members out to assist with campaigning. Eric Dodd (ED) noted that funding will be restricted in the forthcoming Yes campaign.
 - c. Looking forward, the need to get young people more involved in our campaign for Independence was discussed at length. ST suggested getting a marked register from the count, and to investigate whether we could send new voters packs to those turning 18.
7. Yes Campaign: The Yes campaign was discussed at various points.
 - a. There was some general discussion on the Yes campaign and it was noted that the official SNP Yes campaign had not yet started. There was some general discussion on the Yes campaign and how it was proving able to reach out to non-SNP voters. RW relayed that leafleting would hopefully commence in the Spring.
8. AOCB:
 - a. AB relayed that we had received forms from Headquarters for the nomination of delegates to Conference and also for any Resolutions. Lesley-Anne McLelland (LMcL) suggested the ominous development of Fracking which was being explored locally as a possible Conference resolution. There was some discussion

of Fracking (exploiting rocks for natural gas with high pressure water), and that it had been linked to earth tremors in the United States. Conference will be discussed at the next meeting and Conference Delegates elected.

- b. Next meeting will be on the 29th of January at 7.30pm, Kings Arms Hotel, Lockerbie.

Meeting closed at 10pm.