

Daventry Constituency Conservative Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Friday 23rd March 2018

The Abbey Centre, Daventry, NN11 4XG

MINUTES

1. President's opening remarks

Gina King welcomed the room. She expressed her regret that it had been a bad year for Conservatives locally with the tough circumstances at Northamptonshire County Council. A minutes silence was held to remember the members we lost this year, these are: Mrs Pamela White, Mr Robert C Wilson, Mrs Joan E Lee, Ms Frances S White, Mrs Betty Vickers, Mr John Haynes, Mr Trevor M Chown, Mr Gordon A Sapstead.

2. Apologies for absence

Rupert Mathews, Trevor Sherman, Hugh Lowther, Gladys and David Jeyes, Colin Morgan, Ian Robinson, Michael and Sally Savage, Brian and Mary Price, Peter Fair, Ian and Linda Negus, Rupert Frost, Anne Ford, Lynn Moralee, Peter Morrall, Annett Dunn, Gloria Edwards-Davidson.

3. Minutes of the last AGM on Friday 17TH March 2017

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Keith Mason and seconded by David James. From a show of hands all members were in favour.

4. To receive and adopt a report on the work of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2017, from the Constituency Chairman, Mr Michael Orton-Jones

Michael Orton-Jones presented the report included in Annex A. The report was proposed by Chris Millar and seconded by Wayne Howard. From a show of hands all members were in favour.

5. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017, presented by the Treasurer, Mr John Stephenson

John Stephenson presented the accounts included in Annex B. The accounts were proposed by David James and seconded by Audrey Mason. From a show of hands all members were in favour.

6. To elect the officers for the ensuing year:

Daisy Peck reported that she had received nominations for the following statutory officers, duly proposed and seconded:

President – Mr Michael Orton-Jones

Chairman – Mr John Stephenson

Deputy Chairman (Political) – Cllr Jo Gilford

Deputy Chairman (Membership & Fundraising) – Mrs Wendy Amos

Honorary Treasurer – Cllr John Shephard

As there had been no other nominations for these four posts the AGM voted to adopt them en bloc. This was proposed by Adam Brown and seconded by Cecile Irving-Swift. From a show of hands all members were in favour.

Additional Officers

The following nominations were received;

Continuing members: Anne Donaldson, Adam Brown, David James, Colin Morgan

New Additions: Scott Brown, Rose Freeman and Fabienne Fraser-Allen As there is no limit to the number of additional officers who can support the management team it was put to the members that all seven are adopted en bloc. This was proposed by Richard Auger and seconded by Amy Howard. From a show of hands all members were in favour.

7. To appoint auditors or such other persons who may be qualified to certify the accounts

John Stephenson reported that Aileen Major had kindly volunteered to certify the accounts for us this again year. This was proposed by John Stephenson and seconded by Adam Brown. From a show of hands all members were in favour.

8. To elect Vice Presidents for the ensuing year

Daisy reported there had been one new nomination for Vice President this year for Ann Donaldson. The current Vice Presidents were Lord Boswell of Aynho, Lady Catherine Morton, Mrs Gina King, Mr Robin Brown, Mr Brian Price, Cllr Alan Hills and Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift. The members were asked to vote to approve all 8 as Vice Presidents en bloc. This was proposed by Clive Brown and seconded by Joan Kirkbride. From a show of hands all bar one were in favour. Cllr Colin Poole was against. The motion was passed.

9. To receive a report from the MP, Mr Chris Heaton-Harris

Chris updated the members on his Parliamentary work over the last year, a written report for which is included in Annex C. He also particularly thanked Michael Orton-Jones for his time as Chairman and the Association Officers for all their hard work over the last year. Chris then took 10 minutes of questions from the members.

10. Party Chairman Award

John Stephenson present the Party Chairman's awarded to Michael Orton Jones for his decades of service to the association. John reported that Michael had held almost every role possible in the association over more than 50 years as an active member of the association. John reported that he continued to be the backbone of the Association from taking on a second term as Chairman, hosting the management meetings and more recently setting up a discussion group with young conservatives. The whole meeting joined John in thanking Michael for everything he has done for the association.

11. Closure of the meeting

- END -

Annex A

Chairman's Annual Report for Daventry Constituency Conservative Association for the year ending December 2017

Background

The Chairman's Annual Report 2017 on the work of the Constituency is combined with our Financial Statement 2017, as required by the PPER Act 2000. This Act requires the Association to collect and declare all financial information and results from branches (and anyone else) within this constituency that raises funds in the name of the Conservative Party.

The Constituency is referred to by the Electoral Commission as the Accounting Unit. This report will be submitted to the Party Compliance Officer at Conservative Central Office, who will in turn submit the report to the Electoral Commission along with those from all other constituencies. For the purposes of the Act, the Constituency Chairman is the "Treasurer" or Constituency Compliance Officer, and is responsible in law for ensuring that the Act is complied with.

This Annual Report contains all the information sent to the Electoral Commission, but has been expanded to include the more usual information given in an Annual Report.

This statement of Accounts provides a report on the political and financial activities of the Daventry Constituency Conservative Association. The Association's registered address is:

78 St. George's Avenue
Northampton
NN2 6JF
Tel: 01604 859721
E-mail: agent@wnc.uk.com

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000 Mr Michael Orton-Jones is deemed to be Treasurer of the Association.

DCCA Chairman's Report year ending 2017

What a challenging year it has been! We certainly live in "interesting times" reminiscent of the old Chinese curse perhaps, or is it a time of new opportunities depending on your point of view?

West Northamptonshire Conservative Association

We share our offices and our Agent, Daisy Peck, with South Northamptonshire Conservative Association. This allows us to split the costs of running an active campaign office and enables us to support our activities financially. During the snap General Election we also shared our resources with Northampton North Conservatives and were reimbursed for their share of the costs.

The offices are located at 78 St Georges Avenue Northampton and are convenient and well enough appointed. We are in close touch with the trustees of the building which is owned equally between Northampton North and South and believe we shall be able to remain there for the reasonably foreseeable future.

Elections

We were faced with an unforeseen and, for some, unwelcome General Election on 8th June which resulted, unexpectedly for most of us, in a reduced Conservative majority which has made life difficult for Theresa May and her Government.

Our Member of Parliament Christopher Heaton-Harris increased his majority to 21,734, and his share of the vote rose against the national trend. Our Association gave substantial help to neighbouring constituencies particularly Northampton North. Daisy Peck our agent and others contributed very considerably to the success of Michael Ellis MP.

Congratulations to Chris on becoming a member of the Government. He is now Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household.

We were incredibly successful in the Northamptonshire County Council elections holding everything and winning back our last seat from UKIP – thanks in particular to the hard work of Richard Auger and the two University Students, Jemma Harris and Stephanie Amos, who joined us for the duration of the campaign. We now have 100% Conservative County Councillors in Daventry Constituency.

Conservatives continue to dominate the Daventry District Council. Congratulations to Chris Millar and his team. We look forward to them running a very positive campaign in their 2018 elections.

We have made heavy weather of the selection of candidates for the Daventry District Council Elections in May 2018, partly as a result of rule changes which have made difficulties for us and also perhaps an abundance of good candidates. We have learned lessons and hope we can manage the process better in future.

Finances

John Stephenson our Treasurer has kept us in financial good order through a challenging period, but our fundraising from branches and events only just keeps us afloat with little to spare. John also gives his expertise to other neighbouring associations and clubs for which we are most grateful. Working together with others has been one of our prime objectives.

Staff

Daisy Peck is still our sole employee and very stretched, Rose Freeman helps as a volunteer every Thursday. We have enjoyed the services of Peter Holley, a trainee campaign manager for two months but he leaves us on Monday. We would like to thank him for his help during in his time working under Daisy and hope he has found it a beneficial experience.

Fundraising and Social Events

Highlights of the year apart from numerous excellent branch events were:

Christmas Drinks at Flore Fields which is always a great success, a gathering at Teeton Hall courtesy of Joan Tice when Richard Tice of 'Leave Means Leave' spoke most ably, and of course the Long Buckby Dinner.

Membership decreased largely as a result of a new Central Office initiative to collect membership subscriptions centrally but we are working with them to develop the system and iron out the problems. This has proved most tiresome but Daisy is on the warpath and we have made our feelings very clear. Our good branches prefer to collect subscriptions locally to maintain contact with members but there are other constituencies where this duty has been sadly neglected and overall the decision has been made to collect subscriptions nationally. We in the East Midlands are the guinea pigs to trial the scheme.

Branch activity

We have a small number of active and well managed branches which hold most enjoyable and successful fundraising events. Flore and Nether Heyford Branches have held breakfast events which have been sell outs. Kislingbury Annual Dinner, Summer Lunch, Christmas Market and Theatre Club have been an example of how to run successful fundraising and social occasions. Long Buckby, Annual Dinner is always an occasion not to be missed. Knightley Branch were pro-active with their support during the snap general election. Staverton, Hellidon & Catesby Branch also held a successful Quiz Night.

Business Breakfast Club

Meetings continued at Whilton Mill generously hosted by Roger Ashby. This is a great opportunity to share ideas and canvass our MP. We could do with more members but have a project planned.

Patrons' Club

Thanks as always to Michael Savage for organising the Patrons' Club which is run jointly with South Northants and raises very useful money. The events are always high quality and enjoyable. New members are most welcome.

Ladies Luncheon Club

Another well attended year. A donation of £500 was made to the general election fighting fund. New members will be made very welcome and should apply via the Office.

Conservative Future

We have started a new initiative for young people interested in politics and have held three discussion evenings with more to come. The enthusiasm and intelligent political thinking of those who have attended is most impressive. The ages range from seventeen upwards. They are the future of the Party. This is a most exciting and promising project which I hope will be fully supported. We need new young enthusiasts with new ideas and energy.

A group of 24 young Conservatives from across Northamptonshire also went on a tour of the European Parliament in March which was organised by Daisy and sponsored by Andrew Lewer MEP (before he became a member of Parliament). This is was a great educational trip but also helped to encourage more to get involved. Sadly we will not be able to run any more of these trips.

Northamptonshire

There have been meetings of the Northamptonshire Conservative Area when the chairmen and officers from the seven Northamptonshire constituency associations have discussed matters of mutual interest. I am pleased to report that relations between Daventry and South Northants are most harmonious, as they are with the Associations of Northampton North and South and the other County associations.

Conclusion: This will be my final report as your Association chairman. I undertook the role on a temporary basis and it is time for new blood to take over. Thanks to everyone for their support and patience!

Michael Orton-Jones

Daventry Constituency Conservative Association Chairman

Annex B

DAVENTRY CONSTITUENCY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Membership	10,478		11,631	
Patrons' Club	2,415		3,728	
Donations	100		2,123	
Fighting Fund	5,840		465	
Branch income				
DCC Group	1,800		1,800	
Kislingbury	1,925		1,780	
Flore	2,003		660	
Heyfords	540		1,468	
Knighthly	300		1,930	
Staverton	<u>1,525</u>	8,093	<u>1,600</u>	9,238
Raffles		439		821
Teeton Hall		1,627		
Christmas party at Flore Fields		1,595		2,448
Long Buckby dinner		1,511		2,175
Ladies Luncheon Club		500		
Boris Johnson dinner				10,914
Guildsborough Court				825
Hog Roast				439
Breakfast club		1,005		190
Members' Handbook				423
Contribution from Northampton North		2,125		-
Miscellaneous income		<u>1,674</u>		<u>619</u>
Total income			37,402	46,039
Expenditure				
Office costs				
Telephone		1,440		1,626
Printing & stationery		2,394		2,468
Postage		968		1,582
Insurance		305		298
Equipment lease		317		317
Computer costs		148		
Website costs		300		300
Staff expenses		2,040		2,121
Cleaning		355		
Staff costs				
Salaries		18,174		17,741
Pension contributions		63		
Bank charges		827		767
Election expenses		11,710		1,605
Contribution to CCO				1,243
Refund of overpaid donation				2,250
Miscellaneous		<u>211</u>		<u>443</u>
Total expenditure			<u>39,252</u>	<u>32,761</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus of income over expenditure			<u>£(1,851)</u>	<u>£13,278</u>

Annex C

Chris Heaton-Harris MP – Parliamentary Work DCCA Annual General Meeting

23rd March 2018

Please find below my report for the Executive Council meeting on Friday 23rd March, 2018. This year has been a particularly busy one, both here and in Westminster we have seen great change. This report will touch on some key moments in the year, but as always, if you have any questions, please just ask.

General Election

I would be lying if I said that I wasn't stunned by the election result. No one in politics expected the evening to turn out like it did and it was a sobering moment for the Conservative Party. That being said, in spite of a poorly received national campaign, I was delighted with the result locally and it was an honour and a privilege to be re-elected for a third consecutive time as your Member of Parliament. Daventry had its highest turnout in a General Election since 1992 - in the top 13% of the country. I was fortunate enough to receive the highest percentage of the vote and the biggest vote increase in Northamptonshire. For that especially, I am extremely grateful to everyone who turned out and voted for me.

Comptroller of HM Household

Since I last spoke to you all my position in the Whip's Office has changed yet again. I now hold the rather glamorous (and long) title of 'Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household', a role which dates back to the 14th century. As part of this, I am now the Whip in charge of the Cabinet and it is my job to make sure that the Secretaries of State are towing the line. Obviously the easiest of jobs...

I also continue to accompany Her Majesty and other members of the Royal family to certain diplomatic and social events, as is the privilege of members of the Royal Household. I have been told that I am also in charge of auditing the Queen's accounts! (all ceremonial, fortunately). However on a day-to-day basis, what I do is pretty similar to before – making sure that Government business passes seamlessly (as possible) through the Commons, with enough people in Chamber when it really counts. With the margins so tight I can assure you this is no mean feat, but it is one I am really enjoying. Whenever I discuss my role in the Whip's Office with constituents I think it is important to point out that although I am unable to participate in the parliamentary process like I once was, my commitment to my constituents is unchanged and I will always bang the drum for 'Daventry' and common sense in Westminster.

Brexit

Our impending departure from the European Union is often overcomplicated in the media. I am not suggesting it will be easy, but the mechanism as to how we leave is relatively simple. We are not seeking partial membership, associate membership, or anything that leaves us half-in, half-out. We will not seek to adopt a model already enjoyed by other countries or hold on to bits of membership as we leave. Instead we will seek to form a new and equal partnership – between an independent, self-governing, Global Britain and our friends and allies in the EU. I truly believe our future to be more prosperous outside of the European Union and my Conservative colleagues and I will make sure we get the best deal possible for this country. I am now sending out monthly updates to constituents regarding Brexit, if you would like to receive these please just let me know.

Online VAT evasion

You might recall from last year's meeting that I have been working hard to help identify this insidious fraud, which is forcing a huge number of small British businesses into the red. I recently received confirmation from HMRC that the measures I put forward and which were subsequently adopted into law has resulted in 25,000 more VAT registrations from online non-EU based businesses and are expected to raise just under **£1 billion** pounds for the Treasury by 2023. Not only is this great news for the Exchequer it will come as a welcome relief to those small British businesses who have felt the far reaching effects of online VAT evasion. This year I will continue to work hard in this area and I hope to build on the successes of last year.

County Council Elections

This was a great day to be a Conservative in Northamptonshire! Of the 57 seats we contested, we took 43, compared to the 36 we won back in 2013. On a county level the Conservative Party got 45.54% of the vote, higher than the national project vote share which stands at 38%. A huge congratulations to everyone who took part and helped out. With a massive thanks going to Daisy for her continued hard work and organisation.

County Council Finances

Sadly, our electoral success has not translated in to political success and Northamptonshire County Council has had a tough time of late. There can be no doubt that in recent years, local authorities, like all of government, have been presented with challenging financial circumstances. Since becoming Daventry's MP I have been lobbying for fairer funding, but I seriously doubt if this changed it would solve NCC's problems in itself. Most local authorities have coped with the pressures better than ours. I'm afraid to say that NCC has found it more difficult than every other Council in the country to meet that challenge.

The seven Conservative Members of Parliament for Northamptonshire recently released a joint statement outlining these concerns. Our primary concern is ensuring the best outcome for our constituents and that the services they value are preserved and enhanced and I will always call out poor practise and bad management if I believe it necessary. The 'Best Value Inspection' report will be released later this month and I look forward to us moving forwards together as a county and putting this behind us.

I would like to end this report by saying how grateful I am for the support of the Association. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below if I can be of any assistance to you.

Yours,



CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

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Letter from Emma McClarkin MEP

Dear Michael,

I am emailing further to my letter to you of 19 February in your capacity as Chair of Daventry Conservative Association, prior to your upcoming Annual General Meeting. I would be grateful if you would circulate a copy of my letter during the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your branch for your work over the course of 2017. In the County Council Elections last spring, the Conservatives held Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, and became the largest party in Nottinghamshire. I was pleased that the Party also gained control of Derbyshire County Council once again.

During the General Election that followed, I was deeply sorry to lose my friends Amanda Solloway in Derby North, Andrew Bingham in High Peak and Karl McCartney in Lincoln. With that said however, I was delighted that the party gained Members of Parliament in both Mansfield and North East Derbyshire. I know that both Ben Bradley and Lee Rowley have been doing sterling work since their election. They are an asset to the East Midlands.

As the Conservative lead on International Trade and Chair of the Commonwealth Forum here in Brussels, I have been working hard to promote an ambitious UK trade agenda; ensuring the UK is open for business and a world-renowned destination for trade. To this end, I have led trade delegations to Australia, New Zealand, the WTO Conference in Argentina and across Asia. I have also been working closely with our negotiators to secure the best deal for the UK that delivers on the referendum result and ensures the UK is a fairer and more prosperous country than it has ever been before.

Following Andrew Lewer's election as MP for Northampton South, I have been working closely with my new Colleague Rupert Matthews MEP. Together we have been campaigning to deliver on the issues the East Midlands cares about.

Our newsletters and contact with our constituents, members and supporters is a key part of our day-to-day work. My team and I strive to offer the very best support. If you feel I might be able to offer further support to your association or your events, please do not hesitate to contact David Surtees in my Market Harborough Office on 01858 419709 or via an email to: emma.mcclarkin@eastmidsmeps.co.uk

Thank you again for all your hard work in 2017. We must be ready for the elections ahead to fight and beat Jeremy Corbyn's dire Labour. Strength and fortitude!

Yours sincerely,

Emma



Miss Emma McClarkin MEP
Conservative Member for the East Midlands

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Rupert Matthews MEP – Association Report

I have been your MEP since June 2017, when Andrew Lewer became a Member of Parliament, meaning that I was then the next person on the list to take their seat at the European Parliament.

Since joining, I have been working hard to firstly understand the complexities of the Parliament and its workings, but more importantly to ensure that I am properly representing constituents across the East Midlands.

I have been leading on several campaigns which cover Brexit, trade and culture.

I launched Projekt Hansa in January, which is a group of MEPs from across Northern Europe, looking at our trade, tourism and cultural links and seeing how best we can all work together. This will be vital following Brexit and the group is based on the old Hansiatic League. You can follow Projekt Hansa on; www.projekthansa.org or on twitter @HansaProjekt

My War Memorials campaign will be launching in May. I am encouraging local communities across the East Midlands to apply for funding to repair their memorials. This is especially important this year, as it is the centenary of World War One and November also marks the end of the funding for such repairs.

Finally, I have been working with local food producers across the East Midlands to discuss protected foods once we leave the EU. I shall be working with the Government to ensure that those foods that have protected status will continue to do so after Brexit, as well as championing the producers of quality foods and drinks across the East Midlands. We have many fantastic producers here in the region.

If you would like to get involved with any of my campaigns, or just want to get in touch, I can be contacted at the following. I also send out a monthly newsletter, which you can sign up for through my website:

www.rupertmatthews.org.uk

Rupert.matthews@europarl.europa.eu

Twitter: @RMatthewsMEP