

LAMBETH PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Minutes of AGM March 2014.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the guest speakers Dot Gibson NPC, General Secretary and Jon Rogers, Unison Branch Secretary.

Apologies

Gilbert Bell., Patricia Moberly, Penny Savage.

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Accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

1. Website: .Being updated by Secretary Penny Savage.
2. Membership: Seeing a steady increase.

Guest speakers

Dot Gibson.

Dot told the meeting that a time of the impact of Austerity on the lives of the community and threats to the Welfare State, public services, it was crucial that we built pro-active campaign groups and worked towards intergenerational cohesion. 14 months before the general elections we needed to think of the lives pensioners many of whom suffer pensioner and fuel poverty. We needed to strengthen our campaign for a state pension of £176 and above poverty level and for the retention of universal benefits both of which are rights not privileges.

The NPC campaigned for a social care system free at the point of delivery and funded through general taxation It was important that we joined the unions in the defence of jobs, the living wage, pensions and that we recognised the leadership of other campaign organisations. The NPC will be asking that Parties in the forthcoming elections commit to the pensioners Manifesto if to be elected.

Jon Rogers

Jon reiterated the fact that we did not cause the present financial crisis and refuted the argument that there was no money. Whole communities were being punished because of the Government's Austerity measures. On a local level Lambeth Council was asked to approve £25.4m of cuts in the council's spending in 2014 – 2015 when people in Lambeth have already suffered 20% cuts in services resulting in job cuts, reduced services, and social care., The funding cuts meant potentially tragic circumstances for employees, an increased workload for those still in work and worsening services for Lambeth residents. No one wanted to anyone to be impoverished in old age. Every one deserved a good pension. Unison will strengthen their **NO CUTS** campaign and ensure workers' rights to a living wage,

decent pensions and work conditions. Moreover, it will conduct branch- wide consultation for strike action against the cuts.

Reports

Chairman

The Chairman reported on the impact of the Austerity measures on the Lambeth community young and old, cuts to public services i.e. police, fire services, post offices and on the crisis in care and the privatisation of the NHS. She outlined the campaign activities and actions of the group as the voice of the voiceless and our commitment to working towards achieving dignity and respect in our later years.

Secretary.

In her report the secretary mapped out and covered the numbers and topics of the meetings across the year where we provided a platform for older people to debate issues of interest and concern, to be informed of policies and practices which impact on the lives and need for change

Membership Secretary

Bene reported that the paid up membership stood at 143 which was an increase from the previous year. We had enlisted 21 new members.

Treasurer

The balance though healthy, showed that we needed to embark on initiatives to save on expenditure and to fundraise.

Elections: The following members were elected to the committee

President: Cllr Daphne Marchant was re-turned as president Of LAMPAG

Officers

Chairman:	Ellen Lebethe
Secretary:	Penny Savage
Vice secretary:	Solomon Ghadebo
Members' secretary	Benedita Whitehouse
Treasurer:	Pat Prendergast

Committee

Gloria Blackwood
Valerie Collin
Irene Dike
Ted Knight
Victoria Osibegun
Ron Reid

Motions

In the absence of sufficient time to discuss and move the motions these were to be deferred.

The chairman congratulated members on being elected to the committee and said that she looked forward to working with them as a team to drive forward the LAMPAG agenda. In the coming year.

