

## **BO** Branch Reserves Policy (update)

Proposer: Edinburgh Green Party

### **Motion text**

- 1 Insert into EGP Constitution, Section 4 (after "As at 2020, the reserves would
- 2 be set at £3000 for one year's running costs or £6000 for two years"):
- 3 To make a payment which will reduce the branch reserves to below the equivalent
- 4 of two years' running costs, the Treasurer will need the agreement of the Branch
- 5 Committee. To make a payment which will reduce the branch reserves to below the
- 6 equivalent of one year's running costs, the Treasurer will need the agreement
- 7 (by simple majority) of the branch at a branch meeting.

### **Reason**

The reserves policy was agreed at the 2020 Edinburgh Green Party AGM. During the discussion, a question was raised about who would have the power to decide to use some of the branch reserves. It was requested that an additional part of the motion would be brought to the 2021 AGM.

## **B1 Saving Comiston Farmhouse**

Proposer: Janet Woolley

### **Motion text**

- 1 This motion instructs the Edinburgh Branch Committee to support the bid by
- 2 CHOISS Edinburgh (Cohousing in Southern Scotland) to purchase Comiston Farmhouse
- 3 from the City of Edinburgh Council, either by Community Asset Transfer or via
- 4 the usual sale process, in order to establish a cohousing community.

### **Reason**

We - CHOISS, seek to avoid the sale of this property to a developer/the highest bidder. Instead we seek to establish an intentional community who will refurbish the farmhouse to high environmental standards as well as some new buildings both for residential and community use. Further information about cohousing and our proposals can be provided on request

### **Supporters**

David Somervell

## B2 Edinburgh Radical Independence Campaign

Proposer: Nick Gotts

### Motion text

1 Edinburgh Greens welcomes the decision of Edinburgh Radical Independence  
2 Campaign (RIC) to continue campaigning for Scottish self determination based on  
3 the sovereignty of the people and RIC's 5 principles:

- 4 • For a social alternative to austerity and privatisation
- 5 • Green and environmentally sustainable
- 6 • A modern republic for real democracy
- 7 • Committed to equality and opposition to discrimination on any grounds
- 8 • Internationalist and opposed to war, NATO and Trident

9 We further urge The Scottish Green Party at a national level to affiliate to and  
10 engage with the Radical Independence Campaign, following its recent conference  
11 on the theme "Why Scottish Independence is a Vehicle for Radical Change".

### Reason

RIC, both nationally and in Edinburgh, shares many aims with Scottish Greens, and there is significant overlap in membership, but it has a complementary role as a non-party organization. Despite some reports, RIC is continuing to operate and campaign. I believe we should maintain close links.

### Supporters

Dithe Fisher

## B3 Forming a South Edinburgh Greens sub-branch

Proposer: Susan Logie (slo17286)

### Motion text

1 This motion establishes a sub-branch of the Edinburgh Green Party, South  
2 Edinburgh Greens. The sub-branch is formed of members of the Morningside and  
3 Fairmilehead / Colinton local teams. The sub-branch is established under §4 of  
4 the branch standing orders and elects the following as its officers:

5 Co-Convenors: Emma Willson & Frances Guy

6 Secretaries: Susan Logie & Helen McCabe

7 Emma Willson will act as liaison with the Edinburgh branch committee under  
8 §4.7.1 of the branch standing orders.

### Reason

Members from Morningside ward and Fairmilehead/Colinton ward met for an EGM on 10th June 2021 to discuss forming a sub-branch, South Edinburgh Greens. The EGM voted in favour of forming the sub-branch with support from both Morningside and Fairmilehead/Colinton members. This motion accepts the formation of the sub-branch.

### Supporters

Ian Campbell (ica17277)

## B4 Reviewing the relationship between branch and elected representatives

Proposer: Alison Neathey (ane3894)

### Motion text

- 1 Edinburgh Branch to set up working group to review the relationship between the
- 2 branch and elected reps and to draw up proposals for change, if required

### Reason

Edinburgh Branch's Holyrood 2021 campaign was an unprecedented success. However, the campaign team and co-convenors had to contend with two lead candidates leaving the party unexpectedly - Andy Wightman six months before the election, and Alison Johnstone after the election to take up the post of Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament.

These events caused considerable extra work and stress for volunteers and raise questions around the relationship of the branch to its elected reps. For example: Is there enough accountability between elected reps and the branch? Should the branch have a role in disputes between the party and elected reps?

As the party grows in influence and we elect more MSPs and councillors, it's more likely that there will be tensions, so it's important that structures are in place that support both branch volunteers and elected reps.

### Supporters

John Nichol (jni4037)