

A26 Change to recording attendance at branch meetings

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders, replace:
- 2 1.4.8 The minutes shall include a record of attendance.
- 3 With:
- 4 1.4.8 The minutes shall include a record of the number of members attending
- 5 Ordinary Meetings and a record of attendance for General Meetings.

Reason

To aid simplification of minute taking and reflect current practice.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A27 Emergency motions deadline

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders, replace:
- 2 1.5.5 Where possible an Emergency Motion shall be submitted to the Convenors
- 3 days before the General Meeting. Only where it relates to events occurring after
- 4 that, may it be submitted to the Branch Committee at the General Meeting.
- 5 With:
- 6 1.5.5 Where possible an Emergency Motion shall be submitted to the Convenors 5
- 7 days before the General Meeting. Only where it relates to events occurring after
- 8 that, may it be submitted to the Branch Committee at the General Meeting.

Reason

No number is given in the current text. 5 days is in line with the deadline for amendments.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A28 Accepting nominations at the AGM

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders, replace:
- 2 2.4.2 Nominations for posts on the Branch Committee shall be made to the Chair
- 3 before the start of the General Meeting.
- 4 With:
- 5 2.4.2 Nominations for posts on the Branch Committee should be made to the Co-
- 6 convenors before the start of the General Meeting but may be accepted by the
- 7 chair during the meeting, for any positions that remain vacant.

Reason

To allow for accepting nominations during the AGM.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A29 Dispensation process for nomination of new members to branch committee

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

1 In the Standing Orders,replace:

2 2.4.5. Nominees for Co-Convenor, Treasurer, Welfare and Conduct Officer and
3 other office bearers or official posts which involve unsupervised access to
4 membership or other confidential data, must normally have been members of the
5 Party continuously for one year immediately prior to the date of the AGM at
6 which they wish to be elected. If a member who has not been a member for a year
7 wishes to stand for these positions and is elected, special dispensation can be
8 sought from the Scottish Green Party Operations Committee, via the Branch
9 Committee Co-Convenors.

10 With:

11 2.4.5. Nominees for Co-Convenor, Treasurer, Welfare and Conduct Officer and
12 other office bearers or official posts which involve unsupervised access to
13 membership or other confidential data, must normally have been members of the
14 Party continuously for one year immediately prior to the date of the AGM at
15 which they wish to be elected. If a member who has not been a member for a year
16 wishes to stand for these positions and is elected, special dispensation can be
17 sought from the Scottish Green Party Executive, via the Branch Co-Convenors.

Reason

Replace “Operations Committee” with “Executive”. Replace “Branch Committee Co-Convenors” with “Branch Co-Convenors” to reflect current terms.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A30 Voting rights for Ordinary Members of working groups

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders, replace:
- 2 2.5.6 Co-opted Branch Committee members, ex-officio members and observers do not
- 3 have voting rights at Branch Committee meetings.
- 4 With:
- 5 2.5.6 Co-opted Branch Committee members, working group ordinary members (unless
- 6 standing in for an officer), ex-officio members and observers do not have voting
- 7 rights at Branch Committee meetings.

Reason

To clarify rights of working group ordinary members.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A31 Sub-branch responsibilities

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders section on sub-branch responsibilities, delete:
- 2 3.4.5 Attend local community meetings, including Community Council meetings, on
- 3 behalf of the Branch.
- 4 and renumber accordingly.

Reason

Currently reads as a responsibility but is not being carried out or being expected of sub-branches

Supporters

Anne Scott

A32 Sub-branch minutes

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders, replace:
- 2 3.6.3 Sub-Branches shall copy agenda and minutes of each meeting to the Branch
- 3 Convenors.
- 4 With:
- 5 3.6.3 Sub-Branches shall make agendas and minutes of each meeting available to
- 6 members and, if requested, to the Branch Co-convenors.

Reason

To reduce administrative requirements and bring SO in line with current practice.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A33 Sub-branch budgets

Proposer: Zoe Clelland

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders section on allocating a proportion of branch funds to
- 2 sub-branches, replace:
- 3 3.8.3 These proportions will be decided at a Branch Meeting.
- 4 With:
- 5 3.8.3 These proportions or amounts will be decided at a Branch Committee
- 6 Meeting.

Reason

To reflect current practice where this is agreed by the committee as part of branch budget setting.

Supporters

Anne Scott

A34 Removal of requirement to select candidates a year in advance

Proposer: Rob Gowans

Motion text

- 1 Delete 7.2 of the Constitution and renumber accordingly.
- 2 This removes this clause:
- 3 7.2 Candidates will be selected and announced for all constituencies and wards
- 4 at least one year in advance of any scheduled election. Except where a candidate
- 5 can no longer stand, in which case a new candidate will be selected as soon as
- 6 practicable. Other than in the case of a by-election, or where a candidate can
- 7 no longer stand, all candidates for a given election cycle will be selected at
- 8 the same time as part of a single process.

Reason

This time constraint of 1 year is unnecessarily restrictive.

Supporters

Zoe Clelland

A35 Quorum for West Lothian selection meetings

Proposer: Rob Gowans

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders, replace:
- 2 1.4.11. To be quorate, any General Meeting of the Branch must have at least 2%
- 3 of the membership, or five members, whichever is greater, present. Any normal
- 4 meeting (including a selection meeting) must have at least 1% of the membership
- 5 present.
- 6 With:
- 7 1.4.11. To be quorate, any General Meeting of the Branch must have at least 2%
- 8 of the membership, or five members, whichever is greater, present. Any normal
- 9 meeting (including a selection meeting) must have at least 1% of the membership
- 10 present.
- 11 1.4.12. For a selection meeting in West Lothian, open only to West Lothian
- 12 members, to be quorate, the selection meeting must have at least 1% of the
- 13 membership who live in West Lothian present.
- 14 Renumber accordingly.

Reason

It is fine in the national party constitution for these to be open to WL members only. However, in the branch SOs, it only refers to a quorum for selection meetings in terms of % of branch membership, so is ambiguous. This is aimed at addressing that.

Supporters

Zoe Clelland

A36 Removing need for repeat selection for by-election held shortly after another

Proposer: Rob Gowans

Motion text

- 1 That the branch formally supports the following motion to Party Conference:
- 2 In the SGP Selections Procedure, insert –
- 3 "2.14 In the event of a by-election being held less than six months after a
- 4 previous election in the same ward or constituency, the candidate from the
- 5 previous election may be automatically selected for the by-election without the
- 6 need to repeat the selection process."

Reason

This year has seen two by-elections caused by the resignation or disqualification of a councillor less than a week after a previous by-election in the same ward (Colinton/Fairmilehead in Edinburgh and North East in Glasgow). This has forced a repeat selection to be held, which provoked questions from members about why the previous candidate could not automatically continue.

This motion would amend the party Selections Procedure so that if a by-election is held less than six months after a previous election in the same ward/constituency, the previous candidate could be automatically selected without the need to hold another selection.

This motion seeks to formally get the support of Edinburgh branch to submit to Party Conference. This would give it higher priority in the order of motions at Conference.

Supporters

Kate Nevens

A37 Prioritising Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and anti-oppression approaches in the Scottish Green Party

Proposer: Kate Nevens (Edinburgh Greens (Access and Inclusion Officer))

Motion text

That the branch formally supports the following motion to Party Conference:

Motion

The party agrees to establish an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) National Committee.

While this committee is being established, the existing elected EDI officer should be given a voting role at Executive and a standing invitation to attend Council.

Our suggestion is that this committee is formed of:

- Two co-convenors (including our current EDI officer(s)) (gender balanced, encouraging of people with lived experience of inequalities to come forward)
- Two ordinary members (gender balanced)
- Representatives from each of the party's Representative Groups and relevant Special Interest Groups
- Representatives from Branch Committees (for example, Edinburgh's Access and Inclusion Officer)

Our suggested remit of the committee is as follows, though we envisage this to be re-imagined by the committee once established:

- Collaborate with and across the representative groups to develop a party-wide EDI strategy and ensure EDI represented within core party documents, such as the party strategy and election strategies;
- Send a voting delegate to Party Executive;
- Contribute to the development of the SGP's party policy and internal processes to become more equitable and inclusive;
- Working closely across other national committees and branches to support the mainstreaming of EDI and anti-oppression principles across our work;
- In collaboration with party Representative Groups and others, organising anti-oppression EDI training sessions and events;
- Exploring areas relating to marginalised communities within the party, with particular reference to members who experience multiple, overlapping inequalities.

As per the party constitution, the first act of the Committee would be to create a set of standing orders to be approved by Standing Orders Committee.

Reason

Preamble – Edinburgh Branch AGM

The above motion is intended for Autumn Conference, initially drafted by Kate Nevens, Edinburgh Branch Access and Inclusion Officer from 2023-present.

I (Kate) am bringing this to Edinburgh branch AGM to seek support from the branch, so that we can potentially bring this to Autumn Conference under the branch's name.

So far, this proposal has been shared with Edinburgh Branch Committee, the national party's current and previous EDI officers, and at least one Co-Convenor of each of our party Rep Groups. A small number of comments were received and incorporated so far. Following the Edinburgh Branch AGM, I will aim to share this on the party's national policy forum for wider comment.

Preamble for SGP Conference Motion

It is vitally important that the Scottish Green Party puts Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at the heart of our party's structure and operations, and seeks to take an anti-oppression and justice lens to all that we do.

We currently have one elected EDI officer who sits adjacent to our Membership Committee, who does not have a vote at either Executive or Council, has not generally been proactively invited to attend these meetings, and has not been actively represented by Membership Committee. The role has not been adequately supported by the party and has been unintentionally siloed from party activities.

Over the past year, it has been clear during meetings that the party lacks a clear voice on EDI and anti-oppression in many of our decision-making spaces, and we have not always been able to prioritise these issues as we should. While our Representative groups have been fantastic on this, a lot has fallen on their shoulders as individuals.

We believe that it is of urgent importance to have a greater emphasis on EDI and anti-oppression in the party, and believe that forming a national committee would be a step forward in this direction.

Relevant sections of the constitution:

<https://members.greens.scot/file/sgp-constitution-oct-2024pdf>

3.3.7 SGP Executive will consist of:

- a. The Co-Leaders of the SGP;
- b. The Co-Convenors of the SGP Council;
- c. The Co-Chairs of the SGP Executive;
- d. One Clerk of the SGP;
- e. The Treasurer of the SGP;
- f. A delegate from the SGP Standing Orders Committee;
- g. A delegate from the SGP Conduct and Complaints Committee;
- h. One delegate from each other SGP National CommitteesCommittee established by a General Meeting or SGP Council;
- i. One delegate from each active SGP Representative Group;

- j. One delegate from the SGP Parliamentary Group;
- k. One delegate from the SGP Local Authorities Group;
- l. One delegate from the SGP Trade Union Group;
- m. The senior member of SGP Staff, possessing no voting rights;
- n. Additional members as defined by the Standing Orders for SGP Executive, possessing no voting rights.

3.6 Other SGP National Committees

3.6.1 A General Meeting or SGP Council may create such other SGP National Committees as they deem necessary to fulfil specific functions.

3.6.2 SGP National Committees created in this way will be accountable to SGP Executive unless otherwise specified by a General Meeting.

3.6.3 Standing orders must be produced for an SGP National Committee created in this way to be validly constituted. These Standing Orders must specify: a. The responsibilities of the committee; b. Any specific powers delegated to the committee; c. The composition of the committee and all voting rights; d. All rules and procedures pertinent to the committee; e. That all committee meetings must be minuted, and minutes made available to the membership with redactions as appropriate.

3.6.4 The Standing Orders for the committee must be approved by a simple majority vote of SGP Standing Orders Committee for the committee to be validly constituted. A current copy of the Standing Orders will be provided to SGP Standing Orders Committee. 3.6.5 The committee will maintain its Standing Orders and ensure their full and proper application. Amendments to these Standing Orders must be approved by a simple majority vote of SGP Standing Orders Committee.

3.6.6 SGP National Committees created in this way must be reviewed and approved at the subsequent annual General Meeting, after which point it will be fully constituted until such time as it is disbanded by a two thirds majority vote of a duly convened and quorate General Meeting.

Relevant section of Internal Elections Role Descriptions:

<https://members.greens.scot/2400-internal-elections-committee-and-role-descriptions-2024>

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer

The responsibilities of this role are:

Monitoring issues of equality, diversity and inclusion within the party, tracking progress, and recommending improvements;

- Suggesting and shaping possible EDI training sessions and events;
- Exploring areas relating to marginalised communities within the party;
- Contribute to the development of the SGP's party policy and internal processes to become more equitable and inclusive.

Expectations & Time Commitments:

- Attendance at monthly meetings of the Membership Committee (2 hrs/month)
- Allocating time to work on tasks in between meetings.
- Regular engagement with representative and special interest groups.

Things to note:

- This role currently sits adjacent to the Membership Committee, but the scope and workload can be informed by the office bearer and the SGP membership;
- This is a voluntary position and therefore, each individual has a responsibility to
- volunteer for the tasks and time that are manageable for their unique situations.

Committees & Working Relationships

- Work broadly with the Committees and Representative Groups;
- Work closely with the SGP Staff Events Officer to ensure events prioritise EDI;
- Work with relevant SGP Working Groups and the general membership.

Skills & Training Suggestions

- It is important that the office bearer acknowledges privilege and implicit bias;
- A good understanding of intersectional identities and barriers to access;
- A willingness to amplify the voices of underrepresented groups;

Supporters

Anne Scott (Edinburgh Greens (Co-Convenor)

A38 Branch - Councillor Group M.O.U Updates

Proposer: Kayleigh O'Neill

Motion text

- 1 Update the Memorandum of Understanding between branch and the councillor group
- 2 as follows:
- 3 a) Paragraph 2, points of contact – to be updated with the email addresses of
- 4 the councillor group co-convenors Cllr Kayleigh Kinross-O'Neill
- 5 <Cllr.Kayleigh.Kinross-
- 6 O'Neill@edinburgh.gov.uk> and Cllr Chas Booth <Chas.Booth@edinburgh.gov.uk>
- 7 b) Insert new paragraph 14 as follows:
- 8 “14. Appendix B, setting out a process for dealing with complaints against green
- 9 group councillors, and appendix C, setting out a process for dealing with
- 10 councillors who are long-term sick, will be added in due course and are to be
- 11 taken as part of this MoU.”

Reason

At the councillor group AGM a motion to update the Memorandum of Understanding between the councillor group and branch was unanimously agreed, subject to branch agreement. This motion seeks the branch agreement to these changes.

Supporters

Claire Miller

A39 Branch position on Executive paper to Additional Council meeting (01 Jul)

Proposer: Boyan Karabaliev (bka237542)

Motion text

- 1 This is a placeholder motion.

Reason

An additional meeting of SGP Council has been called for 1 July to discuss a paper by SGP Executive:

<https://members.greens.scot/file/sgp-exec-additional-council-meeting-paper-sgp-councildocx>

The meeting was called on the same day as the AGM motions deadline.

This placeholder motion will allow members the time to propose how the Branch votes on this paper at Council, by submitting amendments to this motion.

Supporters

Q Manivannan (qma418015)