## Draft Minutes of the Oxford & District Executive Committee, 14 September 2017

**Present:** Jamila Azad, Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman, Lotte Boumelha, Nigel Chapman, Jane Darke (Chair), Jonathan Harty, Tom Hayes, Dan Iley-Williamson, Felicity Irwin, Mark Ladbrooke, Stephen Marks, John Stansby, Jane Stockton, John Tanner, Marie Tidball

**Apologies**: Erica Davis, Ian Flintoff, Damian Haywood, Alex Hollingsworth, Dan Iley-Williamson, Dawn Oliver, Ed Turner, Tom Zagoria

1. Executive committee minutes, 19 July 2017. These were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising.

(a) **2(a) Executive committee membership**. The minutes of the Abingdon branch meeting on 31 July were noted. Eight members were present, together with Dan and Jane S, and actions included co-ordinating attendance at O&DLP executive meetings.

(b) **5 Oxford West & Abingdon**. Notes of a meeting of the action group on 3 August had been circulated. Priorities were to build on Marie’s general election campaign, and specifically to identify target seats for the May 2018 elections. Marie would speak at the next North & St Margaret’s branch meeting. It was agreed that OxWAb campaigning should be fully integrated into the campaign committee rather than tacked on at the end of the agenda.

(c) **9 Social media**. Jonathan had incorporated amendments proposed by executive members into the Oxford Labour website. Rosemary Preston had submitted a detailed review of the site, and it was agreed that a working group should take this forward with the organiser. Felicity, Nigel and Ann volunteered, and Rosemary would also be invited.

3. Urgent business / other business.

(a) **Education and the River Learning Trust**. Following the motion on comprehensive education agreed at the all-member meeting in June, the Summertown and Wolvercote branch had met with Paul James, the CEO of the River Learning Trust. Jane S presented her notes of the discussion. Marie would be meeting Paul in her city council capacity, and the county Labour group would put it on the agenda of the scrutiny committee. There were concerns about focusing on one school rather than the whole picture, and questions about how much influence the county council has in this area. It was agreed to make the notes available to any member who asked for them, and to consider a discussion on education at a future all-member meeting. Council strategy for young people was being refreshed, and November could be a suitable date.

(b) **Conference.** The September all-member meeting had voted not to debate rule changes, and to leave all decisions to the delegates. Future pre-conference meetings would decide each year whether or not to advise delegates on how to vote.

(c) **National action day, Saturday 30 September**. Jonathan had ordered free material for street stalls, and mass doorstep canvassing sessions would also be held. Themes would be announced following Jeremy Corbyn’s conference speech, but it was agreed that health should feature in our campaigning. Branches would be encouraged to organise their own events as well.

4. Finance and fundraising. Alex sent apologies, but said that there was little to add to his report in June. Suggested dinner speakers included Keir Starmer (Jonathan and Anneliese to contact) and Debbie Abrahams (Ann to contact. [*NB she is no longer minister for disabled people, but for work and pensions*]). Angela Rayner was visiting Witney, and this would be advertised to Oxford members.

5. Organiser. Jonathan would be leaving at the end of September for a new job as an organiser in Camden. The executive thanked him warmly for all his work over the last two years. Interviews for his successor would be held on Thursday 5 October by a panel including Anneliese and two or three others drawn from Ann, Jane, Alex and Ed. Before leaving, Jonathan would prepare a month’s supply of VID sheets and canvassing questionnaires. He asked for forthcoming events to be sent to him in advance for the members’ newsletter, and it was suggested that Dan should be given access to add events. Tom Hayes would give his phone number as a contact instead of Jonathan’s.

6. Forthcoming elections

(a) **Oxford city council, 3 May 2018**. Five current councillors [*now six*] were not standing again. A list of new candidates was noted, with two more applicants to be interviewed. Holywell, Cowley Marsh and Rose Hill & Iffley would select women candidates, with all other wards open. The scrutineers’ instructions were discussed, and it was agreed to change the order of selections in South West Central so that Hinksey Park selected before Holywell and Carfax.

Marie outlined good practice for scrutineers in conducting selections and making reasonable adjustments for candidates with disabilities. These were entitlements, and not subject to the views of the meeting. Marie was congratulated on bringing in so many talented and active disabled members, and the project should serve as a model for involving more women, more lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender candidates and more candidates from ethnic minorities. Jane and Jonathan would run a half-day training session for candidates on Sunday 24 September.

. (b) **Cherwell district council**. John S reported that Kidlington & Yarnton would be selecting candidates on Tuesday 19 September. Both known candidates were former councillors and, in line with Banbury practice, the executive agreed that there was no need for panel interviews. If they were selected, their names would come to the next executive meeting for endorsement.

(c) **Council elections, 2 May 2019**. Jonathan would provide statistics to help in identifying target wards within Oxford West & Abingdon. Vale of White Horse wards in Botley and Abingdon wished to select early, and it was agreed to start seeking applicants in December for selection early in 2018. Kidlington also had elections in 2018, and the Vale would have all-out elections in 2019.

(d) **Campaign committee**. The next meeting would be on Saturday 7 October 2017.

(e) **Oxford City manifesto**. Ann would ask John Tanner as secretary of the Labour group to organise a special meeting on the manifesto early in the New Year.

7. Complaints. It was agreed to defer this item.

8. Women’s involvement and diversity. Tom H, Marie, Jamila and Sally would arrange to meet and discuss how to involve more LGBT, disabled and ethnic minority members, and how to increase the number of women holding branch officer posts.

9. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) engagement. Jamila said that the Temple Cowley pool, HMOs and taxi licensing were major concerns within the community. The absence of any BAME councillors on the city council’s executive board was regretted. Ann would invite Dr Ruth Martin of the equality and human rights commission to speak at an all-member meeting, at Jamila’s suggestion.

10. Membership. Including those up to six months in arrears, Oxford East had 2,480 members (down 35) and Oxford West & Abingdon had 1,587 (also down 35). Jane S reported that those who joined in the most recent surge were coming up for renewal and we should try to retain them. Some branches had the capacity to do this themselves, others less so, and she and Dan would oversee the effort.

11. All-member meetings.

(a) **Friday 13 October**, Rose Hill community centre. Agreed to feature updates from the city Labour group and the county Labour group, together with reportbacks from annual conference and Anneliese’s report.

(b) **Thursday 9 / Friday 10 November**. Ann would ask Sue Ledwith to book the Summertown church hall, with a preference for the Thursday [*unfortunately it is only available on Friday, so the meeting will be on Friday 10 November*]. Speaker / topic to be arranged.

(c)  **Friday 8 / Thursday 14 December 2017.** Ann would try to book the Rose Hill community centre, for a short meeting followed by refreshments.

(d) **Thursday 11 / Friday 12 January 2018, Thursday 8 / Friday 9 February, Friday 9 March** (AGM). Dates, venues and topics to be arranged.

Current suggestions for speakers and topics include Dr Ruth Martin, programme lead with the Equality and Human Rights Commission; USDAW; speaker from the Labour Assembly Against Austerity; discussion on education policy, with speakers and focus to be decided; Simon Wren-Lewis, professor of economic policy at the Blavatnik school of government.

12. Executive committee. 7 – 9 p.m. Wednesday 18 October, 7 – 9 p.m. Wednesday 22 November, both in the Regal community centre.