**Draft Minutes of Oxford and District Labour Party All Member Meeting**

**7.30 p.m. on 8 December 2017, Richard Benson Church Hall**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present*:*** Farida Anwar, Lubna Arshad, Jamila Azad, Shaista Aziz, Manuel Bedrum, Jana Bek, Nadine Bely-Summers, Ann Black, David Blackman, John Bond, Peter Cann, Nigel Chapman, Tiago Corais, Jane Darke (Chair), Roy Darke,Anneliese Dodds MP,Nick Eyre, Tom Eyre, Deborah Gill,Julio Gonzales, Pauline Hamilton, Alex Hollingsworth, Beverley Humberstone, Dan Iley-Williamson, Felicity Irwin (minutes), Emma Jones, Rabyah Khan, Gordon Kennedy, Sarah Lasenby, Peter Leary, Anne Lyons,Michael March,Stephen Marks, ? Marriott,Caroline Morrell, Peter Nowland, Simon Ottino,D. Preston, Rosemary Preston, John Puney, Andrew Rimmer, Linda Smith, Jane Stockton, Martin Stott, James Tarlton,Keith Taylor, Sian Taylor,Ed Turner, Nick Walker, Janet Warren, Pete Willsman

**Apologies:**  Luke Akehurst, Avril Alexander, Susan Brown, Marieke Clarke, David Emeny, Deirdre Flintoff, Ian Flintoff, Damian Haywood, Sebastian Johnson, Pat Kennedy, Cherry Mosteshar, Pol O Ceallaigh, Liz Peretz, Anthony Phillips, Bob Price, Hannah Riley, Chris Robins, Andrew Smith, Jenny Stanton, John Tanner, Sue Tanner

1. **Jennifer Pegg** The meeting paid tribute to our comrade and friend. Cllr Jennifer Pegg’s funeral will be at the Oxford crematorium on Monday 11th December at 9am. This will be followed by a reception at 11am at the Town Hall for the mourners after the funeral.

Members spoke briefly about their memories of Jennifer, a good friend and a very effective councillor. She was a tireless campaigner and will be tremendously missed.

1. **Agreement of agenda and timings** These were agreed.
2. **Minutes of the all member meeting on 10 November 2017**

These were agreed as a correct record

1. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Urgent business, including any other business**
2. Emergency motion – President Trump and Jerusalem, proposed by Rose Hill, Littlemore & Cowley branch

“This meeting condemns President Trump’s decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and to move the US Embassy to that city. The decision is in breach of international law and turns back the clock even further for any solution to the deadlock which lies at the heart of the Middle East, namely a just solution for the Palestinians.  As Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Palestinians, made clear on Wednesday 6 December 2017, Trump's actions mean that the US has forfeited any role it has had until now as a mediator to this conflict. Where now for hopes of peace? Only two states have supported the US action - the Philippines and the Czech Republic. The rest of the world has condemned it, including the UN Secretary-General and the Pope.

This was proposed by Peter Cann, Rose Hill branch and seconded by Jamila Azad.

Stephen Marks proposed adding after the first sentence:

“We welcome the statements to this effect from Jeremy Corbyn and Emily Thornberry.”

and this was accepted by the movers. The amended motion was unanimously passed.

1. **Executive committee**

The draft minutes of the meeting on 22 November 2017 and the review of the campaign committee (see EC minute 9) have been circulated to members. These were noted.

1. **Motion – Cotuit development** proposed by Greater Marston branch

"This meeting believes that allowing the application by Education First for development of the former Cotuit hall site (Pullens Lane) as a sixth form college for 300 pupils will inflict further damage on the Headington Hill Conservation Area, already endangered by institutional development.

This meeting regrets the call-in of the decision by the November meeting of East Area Planning Committee to reject the application. The decision by EAPC has been called-in to Planning Review Committee by 12 members of City Council (allowable under the Constitution / Orders of the Council)."

Roy Darke moved and Andrew Rimmer seconded the motion. Alex Hollingsworth spoke against the motion and asked the mover to withdraw the motion. Following a discussion, the meeting voted not to take the motion.

1. **Oxford City Council - Ed Turner**

A consultation budget will be published in just under a week’s time. Key measures will include housing and homelessness. Level of funding has been maintained. Decision made to substantially increase support for homeless, in view of recent increase in homelessness in Oxford, and decision by Oxfordshire county council to cut all funding for hostels. Secondly, investment in new housing, around East Oxford community centre site, proposing to build council housing. Work to keep up our recycling rate. Decision taken to continue with full grants benefit, council tax benefit, progressing decision to set up trading company. Reluctant to increase park and ride prices, so will increase city centre parking charges.

Ann Black

Reports in paper about putting homeless people in a converted bus. Why did Labour vote against this?

Jane Darke

Congratulations to the council, Mike Rowley was on the local news about an initiative to provide emergency beds in cold weather.

Ed Turner replies to both

Severe weather protocol kicks in when the temperatures drop.

Green Party have exploited this issue and is wilful misrepresentation. Green Party requested £50,000 to give to an organisation without proper process in place. We were advised that this might be a counterproductive measure, and certainly less effective than measures supported by the Labour budget.

Caroline Morrell

What extra provision is going to be provided now?

Nigel Chapman

Support what Ed said about this. What is required is a holistic approach to address complex needs, not a bus.

Sian Taylor

Voted against bus proposal, because there were no facilities expected to be on the bus.

Emma Jones

Interesting to hear rationale behind the bus. Understood that the bus was proposed to help newly arrived people who do not have a local connection. What can be done to help those people in the future.

Ed Turner replies to all

My understanding is that the extra provision is available now. Hostels make available their spaces, and in addition churches make spaces available.

Helping people without a local connection – the council is restricted in many ways, some people do not have recourse to public funds. We do need to work harder to help people with no local connection. We do offer to help reconnect them with places where they do come from, and we cannot be the only place that offers support to anyone. We need to look at this more closely.

It requires people with specific skills to work in these shelters, and we need to be really careful about how places are run.

Sarah Lasenby

The churches ran a training programme recently, seven central churches have showers and each day a different church will be available. Agree with complexity of task and training required.

Roy Darke

Grenfell – are there financial implications following the repercussions of Grenfell.

Jamila Azad

St Clements Family Centre is available in East Oxford.

Lubna Arshad

What about homeless people with pets.

Ed Turner replies to all

We need as much social housing as possible. A room in a shared house will often not be the right place. Need more, smaller units of accommodation. Pets is a difficult issue - I understand they are not excluded from severe weather provision.

Grenfell has serious financial implications. Taking down and putting up cladding is an expensive process.

1. **Fundraising collection** £128 was collected.
2. **Parliamentary Report – Anneliese Dodds MP**

Anneliese’s written report was circulated. This is our last meeting of the year. Would like to thank everyone for incredibly hard work throughout the year. We are in stronger position than have been for long time, excellent national and local election results. Excellent group of council candidates for next year’s elections.

We are in difficult political position nationally – sitting in Westminster is a surreal experience. It is a shambles. Impact assessments of leaving EU – it appears there may not have been any. What is worrying is we seem to have a situation where we are in a post-truth political situation, politicians do not feel they need to be accountable at all. Damian Green, Minister who was investigated by police for passing information illegally to police, is now regularly filling in for the Prime Minister.

Government is holding public service in contempt. At same time, are trying to give themselves more power – with previous and current finance bills. We need to stop this situation where services for children are being cut, and banking levy is being reduced. There are not the strong green measures that we wanted to see in this finance bill. They have changed the rules on stamp duty for cooperatives to make them pay more now than if they were not cooperatives. We are trying to force the government to allow us to have meaningful vote on the withdrawal bill. Also working on impact of Brexit on science and industry, continuing to work on universal credit, and how people can get help with their claim.

Bike share schemes – Oxford is experimenting with this, although there are problems with abandoned bikes blocking pavements.

Questions

Sarah Lasenby

Nobel prize will be given to campaign against nuclear weapons this weekend. This was not on the news.

Peter Leary

Brexit discussions. Keir Starmer seemed to adopt the same position as Tories and DUP, insisting there can only be a single UK-wide arrangement. This looks like an attempt to use the Irish situation rather than to find a way to protect the Good Friday Agreement. The North of Ireland is not as British as Finchley, nor Scotland or London. The issue is not resolved in any sense. The Tories’ aim of hard Brexit is incompatible with avoiding a hard border, unless there is a special arrangement for the North of Ireland.

Ann Black

Brexit – which of the amendments is the Labour Party supporting.

Jamie Tarlton

EU position of UK staying in single market.

Nadine Bely-Summers

Rights of EU nationals.

David Blackman

Agree with points that have been made. Housing cooperatives?

Anneliese Dodds replying to all

To Sarah – agree that very few people know what has happened on non-proliferation treaty.

On today’s deal on the question of the border in Ireland, there are different elements of this. This is not a solution that will work for many people involved in this, including the North of Ireland. Many pressures coming from Scotland, and cities about why there can’t be different treatment for Scotland or cities also. It will be difficult for the government to come to any sort of solution on this.

Around debates where there was contention – at a recent public meeting, on the issue of the customs union – the Labour front bench amendment hadn’t been chosen, a backbench amendment called for government to be allowed to levy tariffs but not to apply those charges to EU countries. If we leave according to World Trade Organisation rules, you cannot apply specific rules to one country (or the EU), and not apply them to all. Labour cannot say yet whether or not we will support certain amendments or not. Often we are only told in the morning which amendments will be voted on.

Labour position on single market – we want to keep all options open.

Do not have enough clarity about arrangements for existing EU nationals who are already in the UK. Will be looking at future arrangements very closely.

1. **Future meetings.** These were noted as **Friday 12 January 2018** (Dean Court, Botley, speaker from Labour Assembly Against Austerity)**, Friday 9 February 2018** (St Clements Family Centre, discussion on Brexit with Giampi Alhadeff, Chair of the Labour Movement for Europe)**, Friday 9 March 2018** (Rose Hill community centre, AGM and, provisionally, discussion of the party democracy review), **Thursday 10 May** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, review of elections), **Thursday 14 June** (Abingdon United Football Club, topic to be arranged), **Thursday 12 / Friday 13 July 2018** (venue and topic to be arranged), **Thursday 6 / Friday 7 September 2018** (first Thursday / Friday to meet deadline for conference motions, venue to be arranged).

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m. so the hall could be used as an emergency shelter for homeless people.