**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Oxford and District Labour Party held at 7.30pm on Friday 10 March 2017 at the Rose Hill Community Centre**

**Present:** Luke Akehurst, Farida Anwar, Ali Avci, Jamila Azad, Philip Barber, Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman, Chris Bond, Philip Bonnier, Lotte Boumelha, Martin Broderick, Patricia Brown, Susan Brown, Rip Bulkeley, Caroline Bullock, Madeline Burke, Paul Burton, Nigel Chapman, Michaela Collord, Tiago Corais, Pete Cranston, Stephen Curran, Jane Darke (Chair), Roy Darke, Jake Davies, Anneliese Dodds, Helen Evans, Thomas Eyre, Emily Flashman, Nigel Fletcher, Deirdre Flintoff, Ian Flintoff, Linda Forrest, Andrew Forse, Josephine French, Julio Gonzalez, Julia Goodwin, Julia Hamilton, Pauline Hamilton, Farah Hamirani, Dorian Hancock, Hester Hand, Ray Hand, Damian Haywood, Alex Hollingsworth, Izzy Hollingsworth, Daniel Iley-Williamson, Felicity Irwin, Rebecca Jones, Sally Joss, Pat Kennedy, Mohammed Afzal Khan, Ivan Klimes, Richard Knowles, Mark Ladbrooke, Peter Leary, Sue Ledwith, Anne Lyons, Bill Mackeith, Stephen Marks, Deborah Mcilveen, Chris Michael, Rivka Micklethwaite, Cherry Mosteshar, Matt Myers, Bobbie Nichols, Peter Nowland, Pol O Ceallaigh, James O'Donoghue, Katie Oldham, Wiktor Ostasz, Simon Ottino, Rhys Owens, Jennifer Pegg, Liz Peretz, Mark Phillipo, Caroline Pinder, Edward Pope, Imran Qureshi, Caroline Raine, Caroline Russell, George Ryall, Sarah Shoraka, Omar Shweiki, Christine Simm, Linda Smith, Phyllis Starkey, Alfie Steer, Jane Stockton, Edward Surridge, John Tanner, Sue Tanner, Geoffrey Taylor, Hannah Taylor, Keith Taylor, Sian Taylor, Marie Tidball, Emma Turnbull, Ed Turner, Marie Vickers, Anna Wagstaff, Nick Walker, Janet Warren, Pete Willsman, Alex Wood, Barry Wooding, Aliya Yule, Thomas Zagoria; Bob Challis, Jesse Erlam, Rae Humberstone, Jason Hussain, Hosnieh Marbini, Joan Pringle, Andrew Smith, Janet Warren, S?U?; Sayedul Haque, Finn McGoldrick

**Apologies**: Bridget Anderson, Emma Bausch, Jana Bek, Neil Browning, Jane Caplan, Marieke Clarke, Bob Colenutt, Harold Carter, Erica Davis, David Emeny, Nekisa Gholami-Babaahmady, Mark Hathaway, Bev Humberstone, Gordon Kennedy, Matthew Leigh, Rob Lemkin, John Lenny, Michael March, Caroline Morrell, Susanna Pressel, Rosemary Preston, Bob Price, Chris Robins, Jennie Stanton

1. **Minutes of the AGM of the Oxford and District Labour Party of 11 March 2016.** These were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
2. **Urgent business**
3. Oxford Bus Company dispute. Mark Ladbrooke reported that after two successful strike days, significant progress had been made. Further strikes were suspended and Unite had resumed discussion with management. The meeting agreed to send a message of support to the workers.
4. **All-member meetings on 10 February and 22 February 2017**. The minutes would go to the next regular all-member meeting in May. In the meantime the resolution agreed at the special meeting on 22 February, Oxford Labour’s letter to the chief executive of the county council, and his reply, were noted.
5. **Treasurer’s report and accounts**. Alex Hollingsworth presented a summary of the year. Expenditure was slightly greater than income, with membership subscriptions and collections at meetings up, other donations down, and fundraising dinners still short of target. In answer to a question he confirmed that Oxford had the resources to contest general elections whenever they were called. Members approved the accounts and the budget, and recorded thanks to Alex for his stewardship.
6. **Officers’ Reports**. Written reports had been circulated from the co-chairs Jane Darke and Emma Bausch, the secretary Ann Black, the membership secretary Luke Akehurst, the women’s officer Sally Copley, the disability officer Marie Tidball, the LGBT officer Tom Hayes, and the ethnic minorities officer Jamila Azad. Jane thanked her fellow-officers, and said that whatever our views on local government organisation we must all come together to fight the Tories, whose candidates indicated a shift to the right. The tensions around the leadership contest, exacerbated by not being allowed to meet during the summer, should be put behind us. Jane stressed that increasing diversity among branch and constituency officers was the responsibility of all members, not just the dedicated officers, and the executive committee would be taking this forward. She thanked Ann for her work on the NEC as well as in Oxford, Andrew Smith for his constant loyalty, and Jonathan for his support with organising party activities as well as voter ID and campaigning.

Jane particularly regretted that her co-chair Emma Bausch might have to leave the country and return to the United States, under Tory rules which set a minimum salary for residents from abroad. Andrew confirmed that there was little discretion under the law. The meeting expressed its personal support for Emma and its general outrage that hardworking taxpayers from other countries were forced to leave.

1. **Amendments to rules and standing orders**. Ann Black proposed four amendments on behalf of the executive committee. The meeting voted overwhelmingly to agree changes which
2. added the MP / MPs as voting delegates to the general committee
3. allowed more flexibility for scheduling all-member meetings
4. allowed more flexibility for scheduling executive committee meetings
5. revised procedures for debating motions to cut speaking time to three minutes for movers of motions and amendments, two minutes for everyone else; require amendments to be submitted 48 hours before the meeting; clarify the order of speakers, particularly regarding the right of reply which may be exercised immediately before the vote on an amendment, or immediately before the final vote on the motion.
6. **Fundraising collection** raised £300.61
7. **Election of officers**.

(a) the following officers were unopposed, and endorsed overwhelmingly in a secret ballot:

Chair Jane Darke

Secretary Ann Black

Treasurer Alex Hollingsworth

Vice-chairs Nigel Chapman, Stephen Marks

Women's officer Sally Copley

Youth & student officer Lotte Boumelha

Disability officer Marie Tidball

LGBT officer Tom Hayes

Trade union liaison officer Mark Ladbrooke

Assistant secretary Felicity Irwin

1. The following positions were contested, and candidates were elected as below:
2. Membership secretary:

Jane Stockton/Dan Iley-Williamson (jobshare) 65 votes Elected

Luke Akehurst 43 votes

1 spoilt paper

1. Ethnic minorities officer:

Jamila Azad 90 votes Elected

Nekisa Gholami-Babaahmady 11 votes

6 spoilt papers

1. Deputy treasurer

Jennifer Pegg 95 votes Elected

Dorian Hancock 6 votes

(Ed Surridge – withdrew)

7 spoilt papers

(c) the following additional members of the Executive Committee were noted:

Party branches not already represented on the EC:

Ian Flintoff (Rose Hill / Littlemore / Cowley)

John Stansby (Kidlington & Yarnton)

Damian Haywood (The Leys)

Vacancies (Abingdon, Botley & District – to be notified)

Trade unions: Barry Wooding, four vacancies including one for USDAW

Co-operative party David Blackman

Oxford University Labour Club Thomas Zagoria

Brookes University Labour Club -

Oxford City Labour Group John Tanner, Ed Turner

Vale of White Horse LG -

Oxfordshire County Labour Group Liz Brighouse

(c) Observers to the Oxfordshire County Labour Group were unopposed:

Oxford East - Damian Haywood, Sally Joss

Oxford West & Abingdon – Chris Robins, one vacancy

1. **Conference delegates**.

(a) Oxford East: Lotte Boumelha received 43 votes, Christine Simm 26 votes, with one spoilt paper. Lotte was therefore elected.

1. Oxford West & Abingdon: Cherry Mosteshar withdrew, and Barry Wooding was elected unopposed.

1. **Campaign Committee**. The list of current members was circulated with the agenda and is copied below, with the addition of Sarah Margetts and Jane Stockton. Andrew would contact them to check that they wished to continue, and any others interested in joining are invited to contact Ed Turner.

Mohammed Abbasi Pat Kennedy

Luke Akehurst Sarah Margetts

Catharine Arakelian Omar Shweiki

Emma Bausch Jonathan Harty

Ann Black Saj Malik

Liz Brighouse Joe Ottaway

Sally Copley Marco Pontecorvi

Van Coulter Andrew Smith

Steve Curran Jennifer Pegg

Roy Darke Bob Price

Anneliese Dodds Mike Rowley

James Fry Caroline Russell

Alex Hollingsworth Mark Stake

Gregory Holyoke Tom Hayes

Jamila Azad Ed Turner

Jane Stockton

1. **National Committees**.
2. Conference arrangements committee. Ballots were held within each constituency. The results were:

**For Oxford East:**

Michael Cashman 27 votes

Seema Chandwani 42 votes Nominated

Gloria De Piero 29 votes

Billy Hayes 37 votes Nominated

**For Oxford West & Abingdon:**

Michael Cashman 14 votes

Seema Chandwani 21 votes Nominated

Gloria De Piero 15 votes

Billy Hayes 21 votes Nominated

1. National constitutional committee. Ballots were held within each constituency. The results were:

**For Oxford East:**

Rose Burley 24 votes

Anna Dyer 35 votes Nominated

Kevin Hepworth 21 votes

Emine Ibrahim 40 votes Nominated

**For Oxford West & Abingdon:**

Rose Burley 13 votes

Anna Dyer 22 votes Nominated

Kevin Hepworth 9 votes

Emine Ibrahim 19 votes Nominated

1. **Oxford city Labour**. Ed Turner’s budget speech was noted. He said that Labour had again managed to avoid cuts to frontline services.
2. **Oxfordshire county Labour.** The manifesto summary was noted. Ed thanked Jonathan as organiser, and all our excellent candidates for the May elections. Two assistant organisers had been appointed.
3. **Parliamentary report**. Andrew Smith’s written report was circulated. He said that these were challenging times, and unity in the party and the country had never been more important. He was deeply concerned about the government’s hard Brexit approach, but it was also important to go beyond the process and think about a progressive role for the UK outside the European Union, through a re-energised policy-making process. The recent budget failed people on health and social care, living standards and fairness, with real wages still below 2008 pre-crash levels. Labour needed credible alternatives which would grab the public imagination, for instance a dedicated tax to support health and social care. Locally new student accommodation was being built, but young people not at university also deserved good accommodation. The last year showed how little trust people had in political and business elites, and the remedy was all-year-round doorstep work, listening and rebuilding trust.

Questions and comments included (with Andrew’s response in brackets):

1. (Ed Surridge): Labour was still struggling with unity. Peter Mandelson’s and Tony Blair’s anti-Corbyn messages had not been challenged by the PLP. How could this be addressed? (s*hared frustration about unhelpful comments by former ministers. However if MPs reacted publicly this risked amplifying the remarks and keeping the story going*);
2. (John Tanner): one in eight Europeans living in Oxford are not British, and listening to Theresa May worries them (Tiago Corais): spoke to many Portuguese people who were also concerned (*agreed. Polish people asked him if they could go on holiday and still be able to return, and some EU number-plates on cars had been vandalised. We should stand together with all EU citizens*);
3. (?): how could Labour use Jeremy Corbyn’s ten principles to counter-attack the mainstream media? (*Labour needed a smart, co-ordinated professional media operation promoting Jeremy Corbyn’s ideas, in the same way that Alastair Campbell and Peter Mandelson promoted Tony Blair*);
4. (Omar Shweiki): there were several major anniversaries this year for the Palestinian people, including the centenary of the Balfour declaration, and hoped for Andrew’s continued support (*agreed that the anniversaries should mark the continuing suffering of the Palestinians*).
5. **European report**. Anneliese commented that this had not been a good year, but we found out what solidarity meant when our backs were against the wall. Her priorities for Oxford were protecting BMW, science and the environment and countering the waves of hate against “foreigners”. In the European parliament she was leading for the Socialists and Democrats group on financial regulation. She was also working with US Democrats against Trump, and on the Panama papers, though government ministers were unwilling to engage. On CETA, the trade deal with Canada, she had not followed the government line or the EPLP whip because she felt there were insufficient assurances. She continued work on animal welfare and human rights, including the case of Nazanin Ratcliffe, held in solitary confinement in Iran, and chaired a delegation to Montenegro. She represented MEPs on the national policy forum and the economic policy commission, and was liaising with the GMB union and Sadiq Khan to gain proper employment rights for Uber workers. Finally she thanked the regional Labour party team, working across an area the size of Austria, and her office staff. The meeting warmly applauded Anneliese for all her work and her continuing commitment in difficult times.
6. **Future meetings**. These would be held on **Friday 12 May** (Richard Benson church hall, Cowley Road, Oxford, review of elections)**, Thursday 8/Friday 9 June, Thursday 13/Friday 14 July 2017, Friday 8 September, Thursday 12 / Friday 13 October 2017**. Dates, venues and topics to be arranged from June onwards.