## Draft Minutes of the Oxford & District Executive Committee, 21 February 2018

**Present:** Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman, Joe Conroy, Jane Darke (Chair), Erica Davis, Ian Flintoff, Damian Haywood, Alex Hollingsworth, Dan Iley-Williamson, Felicity Irwin, Mark Ladbrooke, Stephen Marks, Hannah Riley, Andrew Smith, John Stansby, Jane Stockton, Marie Tidball. Tom Zagoria

**Apologies**: Jamila Azad, Nigel Chapman, Tom Hayes, John Tanner

1. Executive committee minutes, 18 January 2018. With the addition of Felicity Irwin to those present, the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising. None.

3. Urgent business / other business.

(a) **UCU pensions strike**. It was agreed to take the Oxford Labour banner to the picket lines.

4. Campaigning and forthcoming elections

(a) **Campaign committee 17 February 2018**. Andrew presented the notes of the meeting. It was agreed to advertise for an assistant organiser starting in early March. Hannah circulated a draft of a leaflet on housing and homelessness for general use.

(b) **Oxford city candidates**. The Northfield Brook selection would be re-run on 24 February because of an issue with membership. Stronger guidance on checking eligibility was reguested. Jane D suggested that panel interviews could be held less frequently, and with the next city elections in 2020, candidates approved this year should not need re-interview in the event of any by-elections.

(c) **OxWAb elections**. John S reported that leaflets for Kidlington were sorted, and Andrew confirmed that Kidlington was integrated into overall campaigning activity. Joe from Abingdon was welcomed, and other wards in OxWAb would be picked up by Andrew, Jane D, Alex and Hannah before the campaign committee meeting on 9 June.

(d) **Organise**. Hannah reported that this is a new volunteer management platform which will replace NationBuilder, and we will be taking it up in June.

5. Annual general meeting.

(a) **Officers’ reports**. Officers’ reports sent to Ann by Monday 26 February would be circulated with the papers, and the city and county Labour groups had also been asked for reports.

(b) **Constituency officers**. Ann circulated a list of nominations. There were possible elections for ethnic minorities officer, youth and student officer, and trade union officer. Regarding youth and student officer Ann would clarify (a) whether students of any age are eligible [*no, and the post should be retitled as youth officer*] and (b) the date when the age limit of 27 applied [*at the date of election, so anyone under 27 at 9 March 2018 is eligible*]. All nominees would be invited to submit a statement of 100 words, and nominees for contested positions could speak for two minutes.

(c) **Conference delegates**. Nominees would be invited to submit 100 words and to speak for two minutes. The party had not yet decided delegate entitlement for the women’s conference, so our delegates would have to be elected from within the annual conference delegates at a later meeting.

(d) **Nominations for national committees**. It was agreed that general committee delegates would be invited to submit 100 words in support of nominees for the NEC (nine places), national policy forum (four general places plus one youth, under 23 at 22 September), and national constitutional committee (one place). There would be no speeches, but after discussion the committee agreed that literature could be brought to the meeting subject to being tidied up afterwards.

(e) **Delegates from trade unions**. Trade unions and other affiliates were entitled to appoint delegates to the general committee from any branch affiliated by 31 December 2017. There were five Unite delegates to Oxford East, three Unite delegates to OxWAb, and four Co-op delegates. An additional GMB branch was in the process of affiliating, and wished to appoint Mohamed Fadlalla as their delegate. Although not eligible as a GC delegate, it was agreed to invite Mohamed to take up one of the four trade union places on the executive committee.

(f) **Rule changes**

(i) Campaign committee. The regional director had accepted the definitions of the remit and membership of the campaign committee included in Andrew’s review, but rejected an additional proposal that the campaign co-ordinator and the election agent should be elected by the GC or all-member meetings. The executive agreed to amend the rule change so that the organiser was entitled to attend but did not have a vote, and to take this to the AGM.

(ii) Deputy treasurer. The regional director had advised that this post should be deleted, as although Oxford was initially allowed an exemption, it no longer existed in the rulebook or on MemberCentre, and the Chair was registered as the deputy treasurer with the electoral commission. Because of uncertainty after Jennifer’s death, branches were not asked to make nominations although two had written in names for an assistant treasurer. It was agreed that the executive should have a wider discussion of what position might replace it, with fund-raising, collections and cash-handling, and supporting the treasurer suggested. Jennifer had also acted as treasurer for Oxford Labour Women, and this role should be decided by OLW.

6. Organiser’s report. Hannah was trying out Promote in key wards. Most calling cards were now ready. She planned a campaign launch after Easter. Jane S suggested combining this with a social, perhaps with Andrew Gwynne. Thanks were recorded to Nick Walker for his help with making video clips.

7. Party democracy review. It was proving difficult to fit discussion into the all-member meetings. The deadline for submissions on building a mass movement was 23 March, and this could be aligned with a members’ event which Jane S and Dan were planning, and with canvassing. Eriica suggested that the next OxWAb action group meeting could also consider this. A separate meeting could be held after the local elections to discuss policy-making and electing the leadership, for which the deadline was 28 June. The executive agreed that as long as all members were invited, submissions from these consultations could be submitted directly rather than waiting for formal approval by another meeting.

8. Complaints procedure. Jane D introduced the paper, stressing that it was not intended to remove members’ rights to pursue complaints at national level, but rather to facilitate timely local resolution of issues where possible. The meeting agreed that it would be better to assign appropriate individuals to particular cases than to have a fixed panel, as any of us might be the object of a complaint. Damian said that the school where he is a governor has a procedure which could be a model, and offered to suggest amendments to Jane’s draft. This was agreed.

9. Equalities

(a) **Disability officer**. Marie reported that the three candidates from her group were canvassing regularly and appealed for more support in St Mary’s and St Margaret’s. She had also organised a workshop on extending the use of social media.

(b) **Young Labour**. Tom Z reported from their meeting on 18 January, where it was agreed that more young trade unionists and non-students were needed to be fully representative. They were campaigning on homelessness. Ann commented that it would be helpful for Young Labour groups to be integrated into CLPs rather than being approved separately through the regional office. Andrew was planning to write to schools offering speakers, with the letters to Oxford East schools signed by Anneliese and those in Oxford West & Abingdon signed by Ann. Erica recalled that MPs used to send birthday cards to young people turning 18, and suggested looking into reviving this. Stephen drew attention to the inspiring leadership shown by American school students following the latest mass shooting.

10. Class. It was argued that this should be separate from equalities strands because it is not a self-organised group, though people from working-class backgrounds are under-represented at every level of the party including elected office, and this is a key issue for the NEC. Damian offered to bring a report to the next executive meeting. Mark said that Labour’s policies on housing, the living wage and exemption from council tax were all relevant to this group and that engagement with members of affiliated unions and their integration at every level of the party was essential.”

11. Finance and fundraising.

(a) **Treasurer’s report**. Alex circulated accounts for 2017 and a budget for 2018, and these were endorsed for presentation at the AGM.

(b) **Fundraising**. Hannah reported that 115 tickets had been sold for the Keir Starmer dinner.

(c) **USDAW**. Anneliese and Ann were thanked for preparing the annual report to USDAW, and USDAW were thanked for continuing to support Oxford through a £2,000 annual development plan.

12. Oxford city council boundary review. Alex reported that the Labour group’s proposals for the new boundaries for 2020 had been adopted by the city council, and the meeting agreed that the Oxford & District Labour Party should also endorse them. The meeting recorded thanks to Alex for a huge amount of detailed work.

13. All-member meetings.

(a) **Friday 9 February 2018**. St Clements family centre was agreed to be a good venue and we should use it again. Some members had questioned whether urgent business at several recent meetings was really urgent business, and members should be mindful of this.

(a) **Friday 9 March 2018**. Rose Hill community centre, AGM. Damian offered to bring the projector from the office, and Ann would ask Rose Hill for the use of their PA system. Alex would find the receipt for the local party’s PA system so that we could take it back to the shop and ask why it doesn’t work.

(b) **Thursday 10 May 2018**. Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, review of elections and a speaker from Oxford Co-Housing on community-led and affordable housing.

(c) **Thursday 14 June 2018**. Abingdon United Football Club, Mary Southcott from the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform.

(d) **Thursday 12 / Friday 13 July 2018**. Venue and topic to be arranged.

(e) **Thursday 6 / Friday 7 September 2018**. NB first Thursday / Friday to meet deadline for conference motions. Venue to be arranged.

(f) **Thursday 11 / Friday 12 October 2018**. Conference reportback, and member Jamie Tarleton on his experiences on the EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

For future meetings Andrew suggested inviting James Fry to speak on sustainability and food security in the post-Brexit era, and Mark proposed a speaker on the living wage.

14. Executive committee. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Thursday 15 March 2018, Court Room, Oxford Town Hall