**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Oxford and District Labour Party held at 7.30pm on Friday 9 March 2018 at the Rose Hill Community Centre**

**Present:** Farheen Ahmed, Luke Akehurst, B Anderson,Jamila Azad,Shaista Aziz, Esmail Babaahmady, Luke Barbanneau, Nadine Bely-Summers, Marie-Claire Berthelson, Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman,Becky Boumelha*,* Martin Broderick,Adam Brodie, Patricia Brown, Susan Brown, Rip Bulkeley, Caroline Bullock,Madeline Burke, Paul Burton,Nigel Chapman, Katy Cockram, Michaela Collord, Tiago Corais,Alejandra Crosta, Stephen Curran, Jane Darke (Chair), Roy Darke, Jake Davies, Erica Davis, Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Anneliese Dodds, Ibrahim El-Hendi, Helen Evans,Mohamed Fadlalla, Anisha Faruk, Paul Flather, Nigel Fletcher,Andrew Forse,Simon Garrood, Nekisa Gholami-Babaahmady, Deborah Giles, Deborah Gill, Julio Gonzalez,Julia Goodwin, James Grover, Julia Hamilton, Keith Hamilton,Pauline Hamilton,Dorian Hancock,Hester Hand, Ray Hand,Tom Hayes, Damian Haywood, David Henwood, Noriko Henwood, David Hillman, Joe Hollies, Alex Hollingsworth, Izzy Hollingsworth, Richard Howlett, Mark Hull, Beverley Humberstone, Rae Humberstone, Stephen Hyde, Oscar Idle, Daniel Iley-Williamson, Felicity Irwin,Steve Jewitt, Emma Jones, Rebecca Jones, Sally Joss,Jack Kelly, Gordon Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Rabyah Khan, Richard Knowles,Tonya Kocharova, Alex Kumar, Mark Ladbrooke,Marina Lambrakis, Sarah Lasenby, Peter Leary, Sue Ledwith,Robert Lemkin, Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan, Anne Lyons*,* Bill Mackeith,Donal McCay, Christopher MacMackin, Zaid Marham, Alex Markham, Stephen Marks, Nikki Marriott, Deborah Mcilveen, Chris Milton(?), Cherry Mosteshar,Jabu Nala-Hartley, Ailsa Naumann, Simon Neumaier, Bobbie Nichols, Peter Nowland, Pol O Ceallaigh,James O'Donoghue, Chukwudi Okeke, Wiktor Ostasz, Simon Ottino,Liz Peretz, Glynis Phillips, Caroline Pinder*,* Edward Pope,Susanna Pressel, David Preston, Rosemary Preston, Bob Price, Caroline Raine, Hugo Raine, Andy Rimmer, Mike Rowley*,* Caroline Russell,Sarah Shoraka*,* Andrew Smith, Linda Smith, Phyllis Starkey,Rosie Sourbut, Jane Stockton,Martin Stott,John Tanner, Sue Tanner,Geoffrey Taylor, Hannah Taylor,Keith Taylor, Sian Taylor,Marie Tidball, Emma Turnbull*,* Ed Turner*,* Anna Wagstaff, Nick Walker,Janet Warren, Ray Williams,Martin Wykes,Thomas Zagoria, Clement Claret

**Apologies**: Avril Alexander, Jana Bek, Maggie Black, Pete Cann, Marieke Clarke, Pete Cranston, David Emeny, Deirdre Flintoff, Ian Flintoff, Michael March, Caroline Morrell, Anthony Phillips, Dai Richards, Chris Robins, Gill Sanders, John Sanders

1. **Minutes of the AGM of the Oxford and District Labour Party of 10 March 2017.** These were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
2. **Urgent business**. None.
3. **Appointment of tellers**. David Blackman, Nigel Chapman, Izzy Hollingsworth, Caroline Raine, Andrew Smith and Nick Walker were agreed.
4. **Nominations for national committees**. Ballot papers were distributed and collected for nine NEC representatives, four general and one youth NPF representatives, and one NCC representative. At the end of the meeting the results were announced as

NEC Oxford East. 81 ballot papers issued, 80 returned. **Nominated**: Ann Black (66 votes), Peter Willsman (53), Yasmine Dar (43), Claudia Webbe (43), Nav Mishra (42), Huda Elmi (41), Rachel Garnham (41), Ann Henderson (40), Jon Lansman (39). **Not nominated**: Luke Akehurst (30), Johanna Baxter (24), Michael Payne (19), Jasmin Beckett (18), Heather Peto (18), Gurinder Singh Josan (18), Eda Cazimoglu (18), Mary Wimbury (17), Jamila Azad (15)

NEC Oxford West & Abingdon. 43 ballot papers issued, 42 returned. **Nominated**: Peter Willsman (32 votes), Ann Black (31), Yasmine Dar (28), Huda Elmi (27), Ann Henderson (27), Nav Mishra (27), Rachel Garnham (26), Claudia Webbe (25), Jon Lansman (22). **Not nominated**: Luke Akehurst (14), Johanna Baxter (13), Michael Payne (8), Mary Wimbury (8), Gurinder Singh Josan (8), Eda Cazimoglu (7), Heather Peto (7), Jasmin Beckett (6).

NPF Oxford East. 81 ballot papers issued, 80 returned. **Nominated**: Alex Chapman (45), Joy Gough (42), Joyce Still (41). Dan Dobson and Tom Hayes tied at 39 votes each, and because of shortage of time it was agreed to hold the run-off immediately before the May all-member meeting. **Not nominated**: Caroline Harris (18), Sharon Mintoff (17), Jonathan Hawkes (15), Daniel O’Loughlin (5).

NPF Oxford West & Abingdon. 43 ballot papers issued, 42 returned. **Nominated**: Joy Gough (27), Joyce Still (27), Alex Chapman (26), Dan Dobson (25). **Not nominated**: Tom Hayes (18), Caroline Harris (9), Jonathan Hawkes (8), Sharon Mintoff (7), Daniel O’Loughlin (1).

NPF Youth Oxford East. 81 ballot papers issued, 80 returned, 34 spoilt. Gemma Bolton was nominated with 43 Yes votes, 3 No votes.

NPF Youth Oxford West & Abingdon. 43 ballot papers issued, 42 returned, 16 spoilt. Gemma Bolton was nominated with 22 Yes votes, 4 No votes.

NCC Oxford East. 81 ballot papers issued, 80 returned, 15 spoilt. **No nomination**: 31 Yes, 34 No for Kate Dearden.

NCC Oxford West & Abingdon. 43 ballot papers issued, 41 returned, 7 spoilt. **No nomination**: 14 Yes, 20 No for Kate Dearden.

1. **Treasurer’s report and accounts**. Alex Hollingsworth presented a summary of 2017 and a budget for 2018. Both income and expenditure were significantly up against the budget due to the surprise general election. The surplus for the year was mainly due to one-off donations, including £7,000 from Unite, an increase in the proportion of membership subscriptions returned to CLPs, and gaps between organisers. Fundraising events were £6,000 short of target. For 2018 the budget for conferences had been doubled to allow both constituencies to send two delegates each, and an assistant organiser for the elections would be funded by an additional donation from the city Labour group. Delegates formally approved the accounts and the budget, and thanked Alex for his stewardship.
2. **Officers’ Reports**. Written reports had been circulated from the Chair Jane Darke, the secretary Ann Black, the membership secretaries Jane Stockton and Dan Iley-Williamson, the ethnic minorities officer Jamila Azad, the LGBT officer Tom Hayes, and the trade union officer Mark Ladbrooke. Jane said that it had been a delight to fight a general election on a proper socialist platform. She thanked all her fellow-officers, Anneliese as our MP, Ann for her work on the NEC as well as in Oxford, and Bob Price, retiring as city Labour group leader and from the council, for his decades of service.
3. **Amendments to rules and standing orders**. On behalf of the executive committee Ann Black proposed an amendment which spelled out the remit and the membership of the campaign committee. This was agreed nem con. Rule VI.7 now reads:

“There shall be established a campaign committee to co-ordinate the public activity of this party in all electoral areas wholly or partly within the constituencies.

A. The campaign committee shall comprise:

1. **Ex officio**: Chair, secretary, treasurer, membership secretary, BAME officer, disability officer, LGBT officer, trade union liaison officer, women’s officer, MP(s), parliamentary candidate(s), leader of Oxford city Labour group, leader of Oxfordshire county Labour group, local election agent, parliamentary agents for Oxford East and Oxford West & Abingdon constituencies,
2. **Branch and other representatives**: a representative from each party branch and university Labour club / society, Young Labour and the Co-op Party, who may be someone otherwise a member ex officio, and who may send a substitute if unable to attend a meeting.
3. **Local organiser**
4. **Ward organisers** who wish to attend.
5. **Campaign activists** who wish to attend. Invitations will be issued at each AGM

B. The members of the campaign committee in A(i) and A(ii) above shall elect a campaign co-ordinator who shall co-ordinate constituency-wide campaigns; liaise with Head Office and the south-east regional office and with affiliated organisations in the promotion of the party’s campaigns; and liaise with other election agents as appropriate over the election campaign strategy for elections and referendums taking place wholly or partly within the area of this party, at parish, district, county, police authority, Westminster, parliamentary and European level.

C. Where the campaign co-ordinator is not the election agent, the campaign committee shall ensure that an election agent is appointed to be responsible for all local elections within relevant parts of these constituencies, and that all election materials are signed off by the appropriate agent. Where local authority areas extend beyond the constituencies, the agent shall liaise with other agents in order to ensure a unified and co-ordinated campaign. For national elections the committee should seek to appoint an election agent at the earliest opportunity in consultation with the prospective candidate and appropriate regional director and this appointment shall be subject to the approval of the NEC. Any member not otherwise disbarred from being an election agent may be considered for appointment.

D. The remit of the campaign committee shall be to oversee and make recommendations to the executive committee on:

1. campaigning to win support and elections for Labour
2. national campaign days
3. campaigning on specific issues
4. training of activists
5. supporting and facilitating branch campaign activities
6. campaigning infrastructure, including use of social media and digital advertising / promotion
7. advancing equalities in representation and campaigning
8. development work in wards where support or activism have been weaker
9. training members
10. fundraising at a strategic level
11. election of Chair to act as campaign co-ordinator

E. The campaign committee shall normally meet three times each year, with additional meetings where required.

1. **Fundraising collection** raised £345.
2. **Election of officers**

(a) after some candidates had withdrawn and others agreed to jobshare the following were unopposed, and endorsed nem con

Co-chairs Jane Darke / Rabyah Khan

Secretary Ann Black

Treasurer Alex Hollingsworth

Vice-chairs Nigel Chapman, Stephen Marks

Membership secretary Jane Stockton / Dan Iley-Williamson

Women's officer Shaista Aziz / Helen Evans

Youth & student officer Michaela Collord / Andrew Peak

Disability officer Luke Barbanneau / Marie Tidball

LGBT officer Tom Hayes

Trade union liaison officer Mark Ladbrooke / Peter Nowland

Assistant secretary Felicity Irwin

Deputy treasurer Cherry Mosteshar

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

Party branches not already represented on the EC:

Joe Conroy / Ray Hand (Abingdon)

Erica Davis / Dawn Oliver (Botley & District)

Ian Flintoff (Rose Hill / Littlemore / Cowley)

John Stansby (Kidlington & Yarnton)

Trade unions: Mo Fadlalla (GMB)

Co-operative party David Blackman

Oxford University Labour Club Anisha Faruk

Brookes University Labour Club -

Oxford City Labour Group Susan Brown, Linda Smith / 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 – Farheen Ahmed, Steve Curran

Oxford West & Abingdon – Chris Robins, one vacancy

1. **Conference delegates**. Candidates addressed the meeting. Ballot papers were distributed, and at the end of the meeting the results were as follows:

(a) Oxford East: 81 ballot papers issued, 71 returned. First round Becky Boumelha, Dan Iley-Williamson, Marie Tidball all tied on 41 votes, Emma Turnbull 27, Andy Rimmer 3. Second round: Becky 41, Dan and Marie tied on 37 each. Third round, Dan and Marie tied on 35 votes each. The meeting agreed, exceptionally, to send three delegates from Oxford East, with Becky, Dan and Marie **elected**.

1. Oxford West & Abingdon: 43 ballot papers issued, 42 returned. **Elected**: Jane Stockton (34), Erica Davis (29). **Not elected**:Donal McCay (11) Joe Conroy (8).

1. **Campaign Committee**. The list of current members had been circulated to delegates and is copied below. Following the rule change some are members ex officio because they have been elected as CLP officers. Ann would write to branches asking them to elect representatives

Luke Akehurst Jamila Azad

Ann Black Becky Boumelha

Liz Brighouse Susan Brown

Sally Copley Jane Darke

Anneliese Dodds James Fry

Damian Haywood Tom Hayes

Alex Hollingsworth Andrew Hornsby-Smith

Dan Iley-Williamson Gordon Kennedy

Pat Kennedy Saj Malik

Sarah Margetts Bob Price

Hannah Riley Andy Rimmer

Mike Rowley Andrew Smith

Jane Stockton John Tanner

Geoff Taylor Ed Turner

Nick Walker

1. **Oxford City Labour Group**. Council leader Susan Brown’s report had been circulated with the agenda. There were no questions.
2. **Oxfordshire County Labour Group.** Glynis Phillips reported that the Labour group had managed to bring an extra £500,000 into the budget for homelessness. The group voted against the Tory decision to give each of the 63 councillors £15,000 to spend as they wished, because it took money away from priorities, but they lost. It was noted with pleasure that 11 of the 14 Labour councillors were women.
3. **Parliamentary report**. Anneliese Dodds’ written report was circulated. She was aware of concerns about Oxfam and the allegations of sexual exploitation, but Oxfam itself had acknowledged failures in safeguarding and were committed to tackling them. Some on the right were using this to argue against all foreign aid and against charities who campaign on the causes of poverty as well as working to alleviate its impact. Lessons were being learned across the sector, and across other sectors as well, around the risks of abuse wherever there was an imbalance of power. On Brexit, Jeremy Corbyn was now committed to fighting for continued membership of a customs union. Labour was also resisting government attempts to grab more powers for itself, and to water down sanctions on money-laundering and corruption. The chancellor Philip Hammond said that there would be no announcements in the spring statement, but Labour would challenge him on starving councils of funds while reducing the banking levy and corporation tax. Councils were faced with appalling decisions on adult social care and other statutory services.

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

1. (John Tanner): pleased about customs union, can we stay in the single market as well? (*had discussed with Keir Starmer. Some Labour MPs felt that we could not be in the single market while outside the EU, and we would end up as rule-takers but not rule-makers. But that might happen anyway*);
2. (Bobbie Nichols): several councils facing bankruptcy, including Northamptonshire, were run by Tories. Would that increase the pressure?(*yes, Surrey is also struggling. The danger is that the Tory government will just tell councils to increase council tax. Only 30 councils, including Oxford city, maintain full council tax relief for low-income residents, so mostly it is the poorest who pay*);
3. (Lucas Bertholdi-Saad): there was a homelessness crisis in Oxford, understand that a bill is going through parliament? (*Theresa May was pathetic on housing, and the balance of power needed to shift. Market solutions would not work for non-market issues. There was a bill to repeal the vagrancy act, and Labour was considering its response*);
4. (Farheen Ahmed): could Anneliese comment on the UCU (college lecturers) strike? (*it was regrettable that the universities superannuation scheme was no longer an ethically-invested and well-managed scheme, and industrial action was justified. As a frontbench spokesperson she could only sign early day motions if instructed by the whips*);
5. (Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini): NHS staff were being offered a 6.5% pay rise, but over three years and only if they gave up a day’s annual leave. What pressure could be exerted on Oxford’s hospitals? (*agree that 2% per year is still below inflation, and when the police were offered a pay rise over the 1% cap the money had to be found from within existing budgets. She was meeting the local clinical commissioning group, but acknowledged that they were working within national government constraints*);
6. (Nadine Bely-Summers): the offer is unfair because it doesn’t recognise that NHS staff work many unpaid extra hours (*agree, the NHS is running on goodwill*).

15. Motions

15.1 **Eastern Ghouta** proposed by the East Oxford branch

This meeting notes with dismay

* That the indiscriminate bombing of civilians and deliberate targeting of essential infrastructure like hospitals are being carried on unabated by the forces of President Assad and their Russian allies, with reports of chemical attacks emerging
* That leading news organizations are reporting the verifiable deaths of 500 people this week alone (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-43155105>), with the figures set to climb drastically in the coming days
* That a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate end to the massacre and the opening of humanitarian corridors is being ignored by the key players involved in the conflict

This meeting wishes to confirm the British Labour Party’s commitment to

* The International Rules of Conflict and in particular, the Geneva Conventions
* UN declaration of Universal Human Rights
* Anti-imperialism and anti-sectarianism and all forms of discriminations based on race, gender and/or religious beliefs

This meeting therefore asks

* The Labour leadership to immediately and unequivocally condemn the actions of the forces of Presidents Assad and Putin in Eastern Ghouta
* The Labour Party to pressure the British government into demanding immediate ceasefire and securing of humanitarian corridors in Eastern Ghouta, and then to facilitate the delivery of emergency aid to the zone.

The motion was moved and seconded. Speakers against felt that the motion could encourage Boris Johnson and Donald Trump to start more wars, and was unbalanced in not condemning Al Qaeda as well as Russia and Syria. Speakers in favour argued that president Assad had murdered tens of thousands, the motion called for a ceasefire not for military intervention, and it would be appalling not to support the suffering civilians.

The motion was carried by a large majority, with 12 against and about 20 abstentions. [*It has been sent to Jeremy Corbyn and Emily Thornberry and posted at*

<https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/eastern-ghouta>]

15.2 **NHS** proposed by Summertown & Wolvercote branch

This meeting notes:

a) that overwhelmingly agreed 2017 Labour Party Conference policy commits all sections of the Party to actively oppose the government’s Five Year Forward View. This includes the vehicles for this known as Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships, alongside the Accountable Care Systems being brought in as undemocratic replacements of a single English NHS. Current Conference policy commits the next Labour government to restoring our NHS along its founding principles as per the NHS (Reinstatement) Bill.

b) this meeting further notes Shadow Health Secretary Jon Ashworth’s words: “we’ve committed to halting STPs and at our Annual Conference we made clear our opposition as a Party to American style so-called Accountable Care Organisations which will see an expansion of private providers in the delivery of care”.

This meeting resolves to take this commitment forward and to take every step necessary to ensure that Conference policy informs Labour party, Labour councils’ and trade union campaigns in aiming to stall and stop current government policy. This action also constitutes preparation for implementing Conference policy for the restoration of our fully publicly-funded, publicly-provided, comprehensive, universal NHS by the next Labour government.

This meeting calls on the 2 CLPs

a) to campaign actively on the Labour Party Conference NHS policy from now on;

b) to call upon CLP representatives on the relevant Policy Forum to take these policies forward and ensure they are fed into the next Labour Party manifesto;

c) to call upon our MPs to publicly support the NHS Bill, and/or sign up to the #NHSTakeBack pledge;

d)  to call upon Oxford City Council, Labour councillors on the County Council, and our local Trades Unions to do everything in their power to implement the Conference decision to prevent the replacement of our national NHS with new unaccountable bodies and their models of private-public partnership.

The motion was proposed by Jane Stockton and seconded, and after a brief debate was carried nem con.

[*It has been posted at* [https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/health/nhs-five-year-forward-view](file:///C:\Users\Ann\AppData\Roaming\Pegasus%20Mail\ImageCache\Admin\%20https:\policyforum.labour.org.uk\commissions\health\nhs-five-year-forward-view)]

15.3. **Immigration** proposed by Greater Headington branch

The Greater Headington Branch notes:

* the wide ranging and constructive discussion which we had on immigration on the 4th October 2017; and
* the consensus of the meeting on the 4th October 2017 that the Labour Party needs to develop an immigration policy that recognises that there are considerable differences between preferences for reducing specific groups of immigrants.

The public debate on immigration unfortunately polarises into a pro or anti stance which closes down discussion and of itself deters many immigrants from coming to the UK and growing our economy.

Labour Party policy is made democratically, through discussion and consultation with members, trade unions, experts, the public, and civil society groups. Policies that respond to uncorroborated assumptions that there is an overall public preference for reduced immigration without taking account of the nuanced differences on the 5 types of immigration[[1]](#footnote-1) and of the overall benefits of immigration may reduce immigration in ways that a majority of the public does not support.

We need to better understand which groups of people should be encouraged to settle in our country and who should not. There is much work to do to clarify a fair, coherent acceptable policy, and this should be done away from the glare of the media. Any policy will need to establish what level of immigration will result from it and what needs to be done to support that level of immigration with respect to housing, services, employment policy, foreign policy, education, wages etc.

This meeting instructs:

the Oxford & District Labour Party to support the call for the Labour Party’s Justice and Home Affairs Policy Commission[[2]](#footnote-2) to examine Labour Party thinking on the issue of immigration and asylum in 2018. We need to develop an immigration policy that is evidenced based, consistent with our socialist values and good for the country.

The Commission should aim to consciously introduce humanity and compassion back in to the language and practice of immigration law and break down the misinformation that has been allowed to take hold concerning immigration by showcasing a socialist immigration policy.

Furthermore we call on the National Policy Forum (or any successor organisation)[[3]](#footnote-3) to consider the output from the policy commission and produce a report on immigration policy for the Party Conference in 2019. Conference will be able to accept the report in full, reject it or delete part of a policy without rejecting the whole policy[[4]](#footnote-4).

The motion was proposed by Martin Broderick and seconded. Some speakers expressed reservations about an apparent emphasis on what was good for the country rather than what was good for migrants themselves, and argued for completely open borders. John Tanner proposed referring the motion back to the branch for further thought, and that was agreed.

16. **Employment Rights**. Mo Fadlalla updated the meeting on his tribunal case against 001 Taxis. The GMB were supporting his argument that he was an employee, required to wear a uniform and to work as and when instructed. The company claimed that he was self-employed and therefore had no employment rights. Mark Ladbrooke circulated details of a benefit social on 23 March in the Mitre pub.

17. **Executive committee report**. The minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2018 were noted.

18. **Future meetings**. These would be held on **Thursday 10 May** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, review of elections), **Thursday 14 June** (Abingdon United Football Club, speaker from the Labour campaign for electoral reform), **Friday 13 July** (St Clements family centre, topic to be arranged), **Thursday 6 / Friday 7 September 2018**. (NB first Thursday / Friday to meet deadline for conference motions. Venue to be arranged.) **Thursday 11 / Friday 12 October 2018** (conference reportback, and member Jamie Tarlton on his experiences on the EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel)).

1. Work, joining family, study, asylum and other [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Labour Party** **Policy Commissions** : The Labour Party sets up policy commissions whose membership is drawn from the National Policy Forum, the Shadow Cabinet and the National Executive Committee. Its membership reflects all parts of our movement, including Labour party members, affiliated organisations and elected politicians. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The National Policy Forum (NPF) is currently the body responsible for overseeing the development of Party Policy. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Labour Party June 2017 Election Manifesto policy on immigration :** [Labour](http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/labour) promises **“fair rules and reasonable management of migration”** and rejects “bogus” immigration targets. **A new migration system** will be based on the UK's economic needs, identifying specific labour and skill shortages in consultation with business and unions. A Labour administration would take action to end exploitation of migrant workers, stop overseas-only recruitment packages and increase prosecutions for paying below the minimum wage. Labour would reinstate a Migrant Impact Fund to mitigate strains on public services in areas with high numbers of incomers. It would remove international students from immigration statistics. Income thresholds for visas would be replaced by a ban on accessing public funds. Indefinite detention of migrants would be ended. Britain would take in its “fair share” of refugees. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)