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

**7.30 p.m. on 10 May 2018, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present*:*** Luke Akehurst,Avril Alexander, Lubna Arshad,Linet Arthur, Jamila Azad, Shaista Aziz,Jana Bek, Nadine Bely-Summers,Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman, Chris Bond,Becky Boumelha, Adam Brodie, Susan Brown,Rip Bulkeley, Peter Cann, Nigel Chapman, David Clensey, Michaela Collard,Tiago Corais,Jane Darke, Roy Darke,Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Anneliese Dodds, Tony Eaude, Jesse Erlam,Jacqui Ferguson,Simon Garrood,Deborah Gill,James Grover, Tom Hayes, Stephanie Hobson, Alex Hollingsworth, Richard Howlett,Mark Hull*,* Bev Humberstone, Rae Humberstone,Steve Hyde,Dan Iley-Williamson,Steve Jewitt, Joel Kaye, Pat Kennedy, Rabyah Khan (Chair), Ryan Kidd, Yohann Koshy, Alex Kumar, Mark Ladbrooke, Sue Ledwith,Rob Lemkin, Anne Lyons, Chris MacMackin,Michael March, Stephen Marks,Nikki Marriott, Deborah McIlveen,Adam Zulqarnain Mohd Said, Caroline Morrell, Cherry Mosteshar,Peter Nowland, Pol O’Ceallaigh, Liesl Osman, Simon Ottino*,* Liz Peretz, Caroline Pinder, Rodrigo Pracana, Bob Price, Caroline Raine,Chris Robins,Mike Rowley, Caroline Russell,Andrew SmithLinda Smith,Miriam Stewart, Jane Stockton,Martin Stott, John Tanner, Geoff Taylor, Keith Taylor, Sian Taylor, Geoffrey Tickner,Emma Turnbull, Louise Upton,Nick Walker,Barry Wooding, James Higginbottom, Atticus Stonestorm

**Apologies:**  Maggie Black, John Bond, Paul Burton, Marieke Clarke, Erica Davis, David Emeny, Paul Flather, Julia Goodwin, Pat Hicks, Felicity Irwin, Bill Mackeith, Bobbie Nichols, Anthony Phillips. David Preston, Rosemary Preston, Sue Tanner, Janet Warren

1. Agreement of agenda and timings. The meeting agreed to defer the motion on anti-semitism to the June meeting to allow the movers of the motion and of the five amendments submitted to discuss compositing common elements. With this change the timings were agreed.
2. Minutes of the all member meeting on 9 February 2018. These were agreed as a correct record subject to amending “England” to “Britain” and “Keith Hill” to “Keith Taylor” in questions to Giampi.
3. Matters arising. None.
4. AGM, 9 March 2018. The draft minutes were noted. They would be formally agreed at the 2019 AGM.
5. Urgent business, including any other business
6. **Trade union demonstration, London, 30 June**. Pol O’Ceallaigh announced that UNISON was offering free coach transport.
7. **Grenfell Tower**. Rip Bulkeley had copies of a book by 16 poets expressing solidarity with the Grenfell victims. Profits from sales would go to the Grenfell foundation, and benefit the local community. Further events would be held through the summer and autumn.
8. Local elections. Andrew Smith as Chair of the campaign committee introduced the discussion. Labour achieved its highest-ever representation in Oxford city, though with the sad loss of Dee Sinclair in Quarry & Risinghurst. Our share of the vote was the highest in council elections since the present wards were set up in 2002, both across the City as a whole, and in Oxford East. He thanked all candidates and activists for their work, and for moving to the most marginal wards on polling day. Overall our core vote was solid, and Labour gained among green and young voters, though Brexit seemed to benefit the LibDems in more affluent areas. Labour was third in both Kidlington seats, with a swing to Labour in Kidlingon East, and against us in Kidlington West. Labour had more new candidates and campaigned in more wards than ever before, talking with more than 25,000 voters in 2018 alone. He thanked everyone, mentioning Nick Walker for help with candidate videos and their promotioni, assistant organisers Caitin and Miriam, who stepped in after Caitlin’s bike accident, and organiser Hannah Riley. Following discussion with CLP officers Hannah was offered a permanent contract, and had accepted. Comments and questions included:

(Susan Brown): thanked Andrew and everyone who had contributed. She looked forward to working with all the new councillors as well as those who were re-elected.

(Sue Ledwith): what was the gender / diversity breakdown of the Labour group? (*Susan: the number of women had not increased, but there were more disabled and ethnic minority councillors*);

(Peter Cann): suggested distributing posters to all party members at the start of the campaign;

(Chris Robins): the disappointing results in Kidlington were partly due to a deal between the Greens and the LibDems. Housing was a big issue: the Greens opposed building more houses anywhere in the green belt full-stop, while Labour’s more nuanced approach was harder to sell;

(Cherry Mosteshar): OxWAb wards were not lost causes: she had stood and lost in North ward many times, but now it was a Labour seat. We had to counter LibDem lies;

(Pol O’Ceallaigh): a colleague in Yarnton said this was the first time he had been canvassed by Labour. We needed to build on this;

(? from OxWAb): our leaflets were over-long and not as pithy and high-quality as our opponents. In North ward even the Tories were promising to build more homes. We should explain to voters why we ask for their numbers at polling stations;

(Jane Darke): lots of useful points. In 2019 there will be no city elections, and all efforts should go into Kidlington and the Vale. In 2020 all city councillors will be up for election on new boundaries;

(Jesse Erlam): agree that some opponents’ leaflets were glossier and must have been expensive;

(Mark Ladbrooke): councillors must go out and argue the case for social housing. Even Nimbies have children and friends who need somewhere to live. Cleaners, shopworkers, hospital catering staff need local homes.

(Alex Hollingsworth): we have to be brave and distinctive in our housing policies, as opposed to the opportunism of other parties. Next year we will need 21 candidates in the Vale, and additional candidates for parish and town councils;

(Caroline Russell): the LibDem Quarry & Risinghurst campaign had been effective, on issues such as dog poo. On literature, quality did matter;

(Nigel Chapman): agreed on the importance of quality as well as content.

Andrew thanked everyone for their contributions. The campaign committee would be discussing these further on 9 June, together with responses from members, organisers and candidates, who were being asked for feedback. Labour put significant effort into all 26 wards, while the LibDems and Greens could concentrate their resources on a few target seats. We need to expose the Greens hypocrisy on housing, as evident in their Kidlington leaflets. We need to build campaign capacity in the areas where we are not so strong. With a big central effort Labour had gained a seat in Abingdon in 2011, but when the councillor, moved away the momentum was not sustained. On leaflet quality, the Risograph was on its last legs, having produced more than 250,000 copies in this campaign alone. It should be replaced, together with discussion of how far we could afford to shift the balance further towards more external printing.

1. National policy forum nominations. In a run-off ballot for Oxford East’s fourth nomination, general committee delegates nominated Tom Hayes with 26 votes. Dan Dobson received 13, and there was one spoiled paper.
2. Anneliese Dodds MP. Anneliese found the chancellor’s spring statement deeply worrying. Productivity growth was down, and the longest squeeze in living standards in living memory continued. The banking levy should be invested in children’s services and not returned to the profiteering banks. One-third of all councillors said that their council could not even deliver their statutory services, and the government was hypocritical in advising councils to raise council tax and then criticising them when they did, though people in Labour areas paid £300 less on average. Oxford was one of very few to continue meeting the cost of council tax for the least well-off. Cutting stamp duty was wrong, as it simply fuelled rises in house prices. Shadow housing minister John Healey had drawn up plans for housing for the many, not the few. Sarah Wollaston was the only Tory MP to support Labour in opposing the way that universal credit was being implemented.

Parliament had voted to bring in tax transparency for overseas territories. On Brexit, a vote to stay in the customs union was carried nem con, with the Tories staying away rather than risk defeat. John Redwood thought that border problems, including in Ireland, could be dealt with by fancy electronics, but didn’t understand that for companies like BMW, components and products cross the border in and out of the EU many times. On Windrush Anneliese had helped one woman threatened with deportation, and anyone else in this situation should contact her. She was also trying to find out how this situation had arisen in the first place.

In the run-up to summer the treasury team was drawing up plans for government and campaigning in key marginals, and she congratulated the councillors who had been elected, and commiserated with Dee and others who were not successful this time.

Comments and questions, with Anneliese’s responses in brackets included:

1. (David Blackman): unusually, supported the government on maintaining the nuclear deal with Iran. Should we look at an alternative currency to petro-dollars, in co-operation with France, Russia, Germany and China? (*Emily Thornberry had spoken for Labour on Iran. Donald Trump was complaining about things not in the deal, and the agreement was a lever for change. In the current situation there might be useful lessons from Europe’s approach to the US blockade of Cuba*);
2. (Mark Hull): was Any Questions terrifying? (*actually very friendly, and the questions were unexpected – nothing about Syria*);
3. (?): question about Labour’s sovereign policy-making body and the national policy forum (*there was a conference on the state of the economy on 18 May. Ann Black also responded*);
4. (Jamila Azad): reports of children being refused school dinners because their parents were denied access to public funds where their immigration status was not clear (*would discuss with Jamila. The government was changing the rules*);
5. (Rip Bulkeley): how was Labour marking the anniversary of Grenfell? (*this was under discussion. The government still wouldn’t accept the need to change fire regulations*);
6. (Joel Kaye): the Windrush scandal stank of racism. What compensation was being offered and what did compensation mean? A performance at the Old Fire Station reinforced the perception of Afro-Caribbean people as victims (*David Lammy, Diane Abbott, Shabana Mahmood all made powerful speeches in parliament. The government was consulting on principles for compensation but it was clearly about more than money – families were affected, and people lost their jobs and had to move house. Also, how did we let this happen? The situation was only fully exposed by a small group of investigative journalists, and though Amber Rudd had resigned, she was just the scapegoat*).
7. Fundraising collection. £235 was collected.
8. Party democracy review.
9. **Phase 2**.Notes of a meeting open to all members held on 19 March 2018 were circulated with the papers, and submitted on behalf of the O&DLP. They would be referred to the executive committee for local consideration and action where appropriate.
10. **Phase 3**. The meeting split into groups to discuss rules and procedures around electing the party leadership, after which the whole meeting voted on their preferred options. The results are attached as appendix A and will be submitted on behalf of the O&DLP.
11. Motions - Trans women and all-women shortlists. John Tanner proposed the following motion on behalf of the south west central branch:

“This meeting resolves to support the current Labour Party policy of allowing trans women to be included in all-women shortlists.”

Liz Peretz seconded, stressing the need for action and not just words. Shaista Aziz reported that trans women were subjected to the highest levels of abuse, and should be respected and valued. The motion was carried unanimously.

1. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 15 March 2018 were accepted.
2. Future meetings. Noted as **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 September** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, conference motions and possible speaker), **Thursday 11 / Friday 12 October 2018**. Conference reports, and member Jamie Tarlton on his experiences on the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

**Appendix A – Electing our Leadership**

Following discussion in groups, the meeting voted on the options within each question. The results are shown below, and will be submitted to the party democracy review:

1. How should we elect our party leader?

1. one person one vote
2. an electoral college of some form, involving members, MPs, affiliates, as separate sections

**(a) was supported with eight against. Members were unsure about the position of trade union levy-payers who are not party members – currently these can only vote if they register individually as affiliated supporters – but felt that they should be involved in some way**

2. How many nominations should candidates need to get on the ballot paper for leader or deputy leader?.

1. 10% of MPs (as now) – 8 votes
2. 5% of MPs – 2 votes
3. a percentage of MPs or a percentage of CLPs – 28 votes
4. a percentage of MPs and a percentage of CLPs – **36 votes**

3. Registered supporters pay a one-off fee to vote in one leadership election. In 2015 the fee was £3, in 2016 it was £25.

1. should registered supporters continue to have a say, or should voting be limited to party members?
2. if registered supporters can vote, how much should they pay? £3, £15, £25?

**On (a), 24 voted in favour of registered supporters having a vote, 33 voted against. (b) was therefore not applicable**.

4. To vote in choosing candidates for local elections, and for parliament, members must have joined six months before a set date (the “freeze date”) to participate. For the leadership and deputy leadership elections in 2007, 2010 and 2015 this qualifying period was waived and members could join up to the last minute. For 2016 it was set at six months before the date when the timetable was agreed. In future, should members have

1. six months’ membership when the timetable is set – 3 votes
2. three months’ membership when the timetable is set - 6 votes
3. no qualifying period – members can join right up to the start of the ballot – 19 votes
4. joined by the date when a leadership election is called – **39 votes**