Minutes of South West Central branch on 19th June 2018

1. Present: Harm-Jan Fricke, Roger Howe, Pol O Ceallaigh (chair), Rosemary & David Preston, Susanna Pressel, Nadine Bely-Summers, Chris MacMackin, Richard Howlett, Alex Donnelly, John Tanner, Bob Price, Stephen Marks & Anne Lyons. Apologies: Colin Cook, Felicity Irwin, Wendy Mantle, Sue Tanner, Gina Ullman, Richard Shallard, Bruce McClaren, Pat & Gordon Kennedy, Marie Tidball, Emma Turnbull, Liz Peretz and Bill MacKeith.
2. Minutes: Minutes of 22nd May were agreed.
3. School Funding:
   1. Harm-Jan circulated a paper and spoke about funding for local schools. St Barnabas and St Ebbes were not facing cutbacks but West Oxford and New Hinksey were. Private schools spend more than twice as much as the public sector on each pupil. In discussion it was stated that school funding was not keeping pace with rising costs.
   2. **Susanna will raise school funding at the County’s Teachers Joint Consultative Committee. Bob will arrange a meeting with Gawain Little of the local National Union of Teachers. Harm-Jan, Richard Howlett and possible Emma Turnbull would like to attend.**
4. Energy Policy: Chris circulated a paper and spoke about energy policy. Margaret Thatcher had created an artificial energy market. Labour is committed to renationalising the transmission grid and to local government supply companies. The need for electricity is increasing. Labour should advocate a public monopoly of both generation and supply. This was followed by questions and discussion.
5. NHS Campaigning:
   1. Nadine argued that the Labour Party locally should be more prominent in campaigning for the National Health Service. She had spoken for Labour at the demonstration the previous weekend but there was no Oxford Labour Party banner.
   2. **Stephen will raise the issue at the Oxford Party’s executive committee. Susanna will raise the issue of local pay weighting for nurses at the Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee.**
6. Councillor Reports: We now have 10 Labour councillors in the branch. **Agreed that up to three councillors could report at each meeting.** 
   1. Nadine is starting student surgeries and will chair the City Council’s Scrutiny Panel on rough sleeping.
   2. Richard has started a surgery for homeless people at the Gatehouse. He meets regularly with the City Centre Manager. He was asked to raise issues with her about cycling in Cornmarket, empty shops and dockless bikes.
   3. Susanna said the County is to spend money on cycling and is working with the Police to tackle drugs. They are looking at Workplace Parking Levy or Congestion Charge.
7. Other Reports:
   1. The treasurer reports £363.18 in the bank.
   2. Stephen reported on the All Members Meeting in Abingdon where there was a speaker on Electoral Reform, which was supported in a resolution. Motions on Anti-semitism and on Gaza had also been agreed.
8. Members’ Concerns: Bob said Voter ID in Hinksey Park needs more support.
9. Headington by-election: Daily canvassing meeting at junction of Lime Walk/London Road.
10. Next Meeting: **Stephen to invite Dana Mills to speak about radical women in history. Agreed to meet informally in a pub in August.**

John Tanner, Secretary 20/6/18 **Decisions in bold**. Version 2