## Draft Minutes of the Oxford & District Executive Committee, 28 June 2018

**Present:** Shaista Aziz, Luke Barbanneau, Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman, Becky Boumelha, Nigel Chapman, Jane Darke (Chair), Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Dan Iley-Williamson, Rabyah Khan, Mark Ladbrooke, Stephen Marks, Cherry Mosteshar, Peter Nowland, Hannah Riley, Linda Smith, Jane Stockton

**Apologies**: Susan Brown, Michaela Collord, Joe Conroy, Erica Davis, Ray Hand, Tom Hayes, Alex Hollingsworth, Felicity Irwin, Marie Tidball

1. Executive committee minutes, 16 May 2018. These were agreed as a correct record with the addition of the following sentence to 7(c): Jane D, Rabyah and Luke were asked to meet and draw up proposals for increasing diversity and inclusivity in selecting candidates for 2020.

2. Matters arising.

(a) **5 Stand Up To Trump**. Shaista updated members on plans for the national demonstration on Friday 13 July in London. In addition he might be dining at Blenheim Palace on Thursday 12 July. The Oxford Labour Muslim Network were calling on the city and county councils to make clear that he was not welcome. It was agreed that the banner should be taken. **Action**: Shaista to send time, place, details of demonstrations in Oxfordshire and London to Hannah by Monday 9 July for the members’ newsletter, Linda to speak to Susan regarding the city council’s position.

(b) **9 Women’s Conference**. The meeting noted that it was now too late to draw up motions for agreement by members. However all delegates were now registered.

3. Executive committee minutes, 30 May 2018. These were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

4. Urgent business / other business.

(a) **Banner**. Many executive members were concerned that John Tanner and others took the CLP banner to the People’s Vote march on 23 June without seeking approval. Local party policy was not clear. In March 2017 the executive supported taking the banner on an anti-Brexit march, but at an all-member meeting in February 2018 a clause calling for another referendum was withdrawn from a motion on Brexit without a vote for or against. Where a situation is ambiguous the procedure is that the executive committee decides, in person if there is time, and by email if not. In this case a majority of executive members were opposed, and so the banner should not have been taken to the march.

To avoid this happening again it was agreed that Ann would maintain a diary of requests for the banner, and be responsible for consulting executive members on any request which might be contentious. This should also help to ensure that the banner was taken to appropriate events, for instance the NHS march. The banner could stay in the Labour group rooms, but Ann would remind all councillors of this policy. **Action**: Ann

It was also agreed that rules should apply consistently. All members should respect procedures and behave appropriately towards each other in person and on social media at all times.

5. Campaign committee. The notes of the meeting on 9 June 2018 were accepted. Ann had reminded branches of their right to elect a representative to the committee.

6. Elections

(a) **Headington by-election, 19 July 2018**. Members were urged to help our candidate Simon Ottino.

(b) **Council elections, May 2019**. Jane S drew attention to the minutes of 16 May, which suggested speakers from Witney, Didcot or Chipping Norton could be invited to events to draw in new candidates. She had also raised this at campaign committee, but was only able to do so at the very end of the meeting, and stressed the need to involve branches in contacting members. Andrew Smith and Hannah were now arranging a session on Saturday 14 July, with John Tanner as a councillor, and members had been invited. Jane S agreed to liaise with Jon Bounds on booking a room, but felt that OxWAb were again being sidelined. She suggested establishing a formal OxWAb subcommittee. Ann asked for clarity on how this differed from the informal OxWAb action group, whose notes were always circulated to EC members when provided. In addition OxWAb wards within the city would be subject to the same timetables and procedures as OxEast wards for council elections, though separate from OxEast for Westminster elections. Finally the parliamentary boundary review, if it happened, would absorb more OxWAb city wards into OxEast. **Actions**: Ann to add action points to minutes to make clear who had agreed to do what, Linda to invite an OxWAb councillor for 14 July, Jane S to convene further meetings of branches in OxWAb and send Ann the notes for circulation to the executive, and return with more details if necessary.

(c) **Oxford city elections, May 2020**. The meeting agreed to adopt the campaign committee recommendation and plan to interview candidates during summer 2019 and select in September / October with a freeze date of 1 September 2019. This would allow newly-interested people to join the party and gain sufficient campaigning experience to be considered for selection. Selecting in order of marginality was agreed in principle, as long as it did not mean branches holding too many separate meetings. At some point branches would need to reorganise along the new boundaries, and this would be an opportunity to look at whether they were of appropriate size. **Actions**: Ann to draw up timelines for re-forming branches.

(d) **Diversity and inclusivity in selecting candidates**. The committee welcomed the paper drawn up by Jane D, Rabyah and Luke. Members raised the importance of working-class candidates; the role of trade unions in assisting with this; intersectionality and the need for gender balance within, for instance, disabled candidates; the need to consider all dimensions of BAME representation rather than treating this as a monolithic category; and the value of linking in with tenants’ and residents’ associations. Ann said that the law allowed measures which promoted candidates from under-represented groups, but except for women, restricting candidates to those belonging to a particular group was not legal except for women. Dan believed that it was lawful to have all-disabled shortlists. The executive committee agreed that we should go as far as the law permitted in making further progress. **Action**: Dan and Ann to provide legal clarification.

7. Finance

(a) **Treasurer’s report**. Alex sent apologies, but noted that the budget for conferences was overspent by £600 before considering regional conference. This emphasised the need for fund-raising.

(b) **Fundraising**. Danny Dorling would speak at a fish-and-chip supper in Kidlington on Friday 2 November, with tickets at £15 (£10 for concessions). Jane S felt that it was an excellent location. Anneliese was approaching Diane Abbott for a large-scale autumn dinner.

(c) **Other events**. Cherry reported that the picnic on 17 June was enjoyable, though affected by rain and not visible from the mela. The stall at the Eid extravaganza was popular, and Becky made many converts to Labour. Cherry, Erica and Shaista would put together a calendar of cultural celebrations. **Action**: Cherry, Erica, Shaista

(d) **Economics dayschool**. Stephen reported that around 40 people attended for part or all of the day. Gwynne Reddick filmed the event, and the recording would be posted online. £164 was collected towards the cost of £300. Stephen suggested a future session on economics for activists, modelled on a series of talks in Greenwich, which could be useful on the doorstep.

8. South-east regional conference, 3/4 November 2018, Southampton. Given the overspend noted at 7(a) it was agreed (i) to pay the fee of £65 for one delegate from each CLP (ii) to encourage delegates and visitors to travel in shared cars, as cheaper than train fare and overnight accommodation (iii) to consider on an individual basis any situation where a delegate would be excluded for financial reasons. Branches would be asked to nominate delegates at their July meetings, with general committee delegates at the all-member meeting on 6 September electing regional conference delegates and nominating for the regional board and the national policy forum. **Action**: Ann to inform branches.

9. Local campaigning. On the rail action day on 25 June, there were three members at Oxford Parkway and Anneliese at Oxford station. For the NHS 70th birthday, street stalls had been organised with leaflets and birthday cards. Linda reported that the Leys festival was on the same day and a Labour presence was essential. Jane D agreed to retrieve the Oxford banner so that Mark could take it on the national demonstration on 30 June. **Action**: Jane D. Discussion on use of social media was postponed to the next meeting, to include publicity for events through the Oxford Labour account, and guidelines for branches, councillors, candidates, officers and networks regarding their own Facebook and Twitter presence. **Action**: Ann to circulate national guidelines on the use of social media.

10. All-member meetings.

(a) **Friday 13 July 2018**. St Clements family centre, Mark and Peter to lead on the living wage.

(b) **Thursday 6 September 2018**. Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, conference resolutions and speaker from Oxford Co-Housing.

(c) **Friday 12 October 2018**. Rose Hill community centre, conference reports and Jamie Tarlton on his experiences in Palestine and Israel.

(d) **Friday 9 November 2018**. Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health, venue to be arranged. **Action**: Ann to book.

(f) **Thursday 13/Friday 14 December**. Short meeting with refreshments. **Action**: Ann to book.

11. Executive committee meetings. Wednesday 25 July, 8 – 10 p.m., East Oxford community centre. [NB moved from Wednesday 18 July because of the Headington by-election.