## Draft Minutes of the Oxford & District Executive Committee, 25 July 2018

**Present:** Ann Black (minutes), David Blackman, Becky Boumelha, Liz Brighouse, Susan Brown, Nigel Chapman, Jane Darke, Erica Davis, Anisha Faruk, Tom Hayes, Alex Hollingsworth, Felicity Irwin, Rabyah Khan (Chair), Mark Ladbrooke, Stephen Marks, Cherry Mosteshar, Peter Nowland, Caroline Raine, Linda Smith, Jane Stockton, Marie Tidball

**Apologies**: Shaista Aziz, Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Hannah Riley, Andrew Smith, John Stansby, Marie Tidball, Ed Turner

1. Executive committee minutes, 28 June 2018. These were agreed as a correct record with the amendment / clarification at 4(a) that the banner would live in Jane and Roy’s garage when not in use, rather than the Labour group rooms.

2. Matters arising.

(a) **8 South East Regional Conference**. Ann Black reported that nominations had been received from branches for delegates and representatives.

3. Urgent business / other business.

(a) **Oxford city council**. The leader Susan Brown reported on her written and verbal responses to the secretary of state for local government regarding signing up to the IHRA definition of anti-semitism. Both are available on the council website. She also updated the meeting on an individual issue, and expressed dissatisfaction with the way this had been handled by the national party’s complaints procedure. **Action:** Ann to pass on our concerns.

.

4. Finance

(a) **Treasurer’s report**. Alex reported that spending and income were broadly as predicted as long as we held another major fundraising event by the end of the year, as per the budget agreed at the AGM. Diane Abbott was being approached. Members discussed the need to be inclusive, especially reaching out to BAME and working-class communities, as well as the need to raise money for campaigning. Four low-priced events such as Danny Dorling in Kidlington would be required to raise the same amount as one big-ticket dinner. It was suggested that Diane might be willing to meet members to discuss policy before the meal, while others felt that this would reinforce two-tier status if some went on to the dinner and others just went home. Eventually most agreed to £40 as the basic ticket price, with a limited number available at £20 (i.e. cost price) for first-time attenders, solidarity tickets with a clear process for applying, and contributions sought from members unable to attend. **Action:** Alex to offer dates to Diane Abbott via Anneliese.

(b) **Cultural calendar**. Cherry would bring a report to the September meeting. **Action:** Cherry.

(c) **Conference rooms**. Ann had booked four hotel rooms in Liverpool before Christmas at a cost of £880, to avoid repetition of 2017 when we paid £850 for one room due to late delegate changes. However two Oxford delegates notified Ann that they would be sharing with relatives or partners, and their rooms had now been “sub-let”. The other two delegates then also decided to make their own arrangements. The executive committee agreed that they would be reimbursed for alternative accommodation if and when occupants could be found for their rooms as well.

5. Elections. The executive committee received a paper from Andrew Smith, noted the reports and endorsed all the recommendations. These are covered in (a) to (c) below.

(a) **Headington by-election**. Mark Ladbrooke thanked members for their support in the by-election, where the LibDems retained the seat.

(b) **Council elections, May 2019**. The briefing meeting on 14 July attracted five members, with two further expressions of interest. Jane S stressed the need to work with branches in contacting members between now and September, aiming for a full slate of candidates, including town and parish councils. **Action:** Jane S / Andrew. Panel interviews should be held at the end of August / early September for these seats and any other vacancies, with branches selecting from September onwards. **Action:** Andrew to co-ordinate panels. The meeting endorsed Andrew’s recommendations on target seats.

(c) **Oxford city elections, May 2020**. New city council ward boundaries would not be implemented until December 2019, so arrangements for selecting candidates in autumn 2019 would need to involve some movement of members for selection meetings. Alex could provide Jane S with postcodes for the new wards. It was suggested that reorganisation from the start of 2020 would provide an opportunity to review the branch structure, with some branches currently much larger than others. This would be considered further in summer 2019, by which time there may be new parliamentary constituency boundaries as well if the Conservative government has its way.

(d) **Diversity and inclusivity in selecting candidates**. Ann was still awaiting guidance on whether it was lawful to have all-disabled / BAME shortlists. Mark, Peter and Linda would do further work on including socio-economic status in the paper drawn up by Jane D, Rabyah and Luke, with the aim of increasing representation of low-paid and working-class communities. **Action:** Mark, Peter, Linda.

6. Membership. Jane S reported little change, with 2,324 members in Oxford East and 1,471 in OxWAb. Three of the nine new members in East live in Northfield Brook. The welcome booklet was broadly still current except for officers and councillors, and annual updating was needed after AGMs and local elections. It was agreed to explore whether Hannah could do this at the same time as updating the website. **Action**: Ann / Hannah. A members’ social at the East Oxford community centre was being planned for September. Peter was working to get more carers involved in trade unions.

7. Social media and local campaigning. Branches, councillors, candidates, networks and individuals were increasingly setting up their own online presence. Ann would circulate the party’s social media guidelines more widely, stressing that all references to Labour would be associated with the Labour party, locally and nationally, and all members should keep this in mind. **Action:** Ann. The committee agreed that a working group including Emma Turnbull, Rabyah, Nigel Chapman, Anneliese and Andrew should work with Hannah to discuss ways of ensuring continuous coverage of local activities on Facebook and Twitter, updating the website and producing the weekly newsletter while maintaining strict control of content and standards. **Action:** Rabyah to convene.

8. All-member meetings.

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

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

(c) **Friday 9 November 2018**. Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health, St Clements family centre.

(d) **Thursday 13/Friday 14 December 2018**. Short meeting with refreshments. **Action**: Ann to book.

9. Executive committee meetings. Wednesday 12 September, 8 – 10 p.m., East Oxford community centre, Wednesday 17 October, venue to be arranged.