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

**7.30 p.m. on 6 September 2018, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present:** Avril Alexander, Bridget Anderson, Linet Arthur, Jana Bek,Marie-Claire Berthelson, Ann Black (minutes), Maggie Black,David Blackman,John Bond, Jo Borden, Adam Brodie, Rip Bulkeley, Caroline Bullock, Sue Bulmer, Paul Burton, Averil Cameron, Peter Cann, Tak Wing Chan, Nigel Chapman, Tali Chilson, Michaela Collord, Erica Davis,Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Anneliese Dodds, Alex Donnelly,Joy Doswell, Jesse Erlam, Mohamed Fadlalla,Nick Fahy, Andy Forse, Simon Garrood, Deborah Gill, Julia Goodwin, Colin Gordon, James Grover,Pauline Hamilton, Tom Hayes,Damian Haywood, David Hillman, Joseph Hollies,Roger Howe,Richard Howlett, Mark Hull,Jason Hussain, Stephen Hyde, Dan Iley-Willamson, Steve Jewitt, Becky Jones, Emma Jones, Sally Joss, Rabyah Khan (Chair*),* Fergus Kinghan, Ivan Klimes, Mary Lacey, Mark Ladbrooke, D Lawrence-Wilson, Paul Leach, Peter Ledwith, Sue Ledwith,Matthew Leigh, Rob Lemkin.Simon Lowles, Mark Lygo, Anne Lyons, Sarah McCloughry, Alexander McColl, Eoin McMahon,Michael March, Zaid Marham,Stephen Marks,Chris Michael, Caroline Morrell, Cherry Mosteshar, Philip Mountford, Alisa Naumann, Steve Newman, Sarah North,Peter Nowland,Dawn Oliver, Wiktor Ostasz, Simon Ottino, Liz Peretz,David Preston, Rosemary Preston, Bob Price, Caroline Raine,Andrew Rathmer, Jo Richard, Chris Robins, Mike Rowley, Chris Saltmarsh, Liam Shaw, Dee Sinclair, Linda Smith,Jane Stockton, Richard Tamplin, John Tanner, Sue Tanner,Geoff Taylor, Emma Turnbull, Marie Vickers, Anna Wagstaff, Alex Wood, Sarah Wookey,

**Apologies:**  Lubna Arshad, Jamila Azad, Becky Boumelha, Jane Caplan, Steve Curran, Jane Darke, Roy Darke, Paul Flather, Linda Forrest, Chris Hall, Steph Hobson, Joanna Hodge, Alex Hollingsworth, Bev Humberstone, Rae Humberstone, Joel Kaye, Gordon Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Beth Knowles, Richard Knowles, Felicity Leary, Bill Mackeith, Pol O Ceallaigh, Jim O’Donoghue, Anthony Phillips, Caroline Pinder, Andrew Smith, Teresa Smith, Janet Warren, Peter Willsman, Sarah Wookey

1. Agenda and timings. These were agreed
2. Minutes of the all member meeting on 13 July 2018. With the addition of Cherry Mosteshar’s apologies these were agreed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising.

(a) **10 Motions** The motion on Gaza had been posted at <https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/gaza-motion-1> and the motion on the national policy forum had been sent to the general secretary for the attention of the NEC.

1. Urgent business, including any other business
2. **Oxford North development.**  Jane Stockton urged members to comment on planning proposals, in particular the lack of commitment to affordable housing, by the deadline of 3 October, .
3. **Ruskin.** Sue Ledwith reported on the recent cancellation of the course on community development and youth work, and the threat of merger, and asked Anneliese what could be done.
4. **Oxford Co-Housing.** Sarah Westcott and Fran Ryan addressed the meeting. Sarah said that unlike Cambridge, Oxford did not yet have any co-housing schemes. Their aim was to help to ease housing pressures and to enable people to live in a neighbourly fashion, with 20-40 separate homes but common spaces, shared activities and looking out for each other. Developments would typically have an equal mix of social, owner-occupied and mixed-tenure housing and would ideally remain permanently affordable, if the threat of right-to-buy could be avoided. Members should be from different generations, not just “old people”, and would establish their own internal governance structures. The Oxford group had put in a bid for a local site, but was not successful. Fran provided further information, summarised at appendix A which includes links to relevant sites. Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Avril Alexander – who manages the housing? (Fran: the city council would have been involved in the affordable housing had the bid been successful);

Sally Joss – has the city council stopped right-to-buy? (Fran: they would like to, but do not have the power. Mike Rowley: yes, and the government can enforce RTB on housing associations as well);

Caroline Morrell – why has Cambridge succeeded where Oxford has not? (Fran: Cambridge city council owns some land which has been made available for co-housing);

Stephen Marks - is there any national or regional agency for co-housing which could bundle bids together and seek funding from regional investment banks? (Fran: a great idea, but no-one has yet worked out how to do it).

Fran added that the next meeting of their group was on 6 October in Florence Park community centre, but at this point their over-riding need was for land to put schemes into effect.

1. Parliamentary Report. Anneliese Dodds MP.

Anneliese’s written report was circulated. She gave an update on.

Brexit – the government had released some additional papers but alarmingly Dominic Raab seemed to think that a no-deal outcome was an opportunity, not a threat. She spoke in parliament on the impact of Brexit on science – there was no clarity from government, and they were weak on ambition, waiting to see what the EU offered rather than actively seeking strong collaborative links. For those EU citizens already here, it was possible that the government would apply the same income thresholds as for people from outside the EU. In the run-up to the crunch meeting with the EU27, they still didn’t recognise the problems of the Northern Ireland border if there was no customs union. She hoped that the “meaningful vote” would indeed be meaningful, and would lead to a general election.

Treasury – Anneliese was touring HMRC tax offices which were being closed, despite the extra demands as we head towards an increasingly chaotic regime. Jobs were being lost in the most economically deprived regions, and instead money should be reinvested into public services and support for those struggling to get by. The government’s public sector pay deals were not matching the cost of living, especially in expensive areas like Oxford.

Ruskin – shared Sue Ledwith’s concerns. The way to deal with their difficulties was through embracing their historical emancipatory mission. New forms of collaboration might be needed, but moves towards a purely further education college should be resisted. Relations with the trade unions needed rebuilding, and John Prescott was becoming involved.

Summer – now that the NEC had made decisions on tackling anti-semitism, Labour should unite and get on with campaigning for a genuinely transformative government and fighting against racism. She appreciated discussions conducted in a comradely manner, and was grateful to the local Jewish community for willingness to engage in discussion.

Iffley Fields & St Mary’s – she paid tribute to Helen Evans, standing down as a county councillor for personal reasons. She hoped that everyone would join her on the doorstep to elect a worthy successor, talking directly to voters rather than through the media.

Questions and comments (responses in brackets)

John Tanner – concerned about the 20% of Oxford residents who were from other EU countries, and whether they would have to provide proof of residence in the same way as the Windrush immigrants. {*Yes this is genuinely a concern; government has released some details of new regime but others still unclear]*

Matthew Leigh – how could Labour become a genuinely transformative government at the same time as going back and forth to Brussels seeking to negotiate a better deal? [*Agree that this would impose huge costs; question is what to do at this stage – will keep pushing against an extreme, ideological Brexit*]

Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini – as one of the city council representatives on the Ruskin board, surprised not to have been invited to any meetings. Did Anneliese have confidence in their governance structures?

Sue Ledwith – the governing council was changed in June, so that trustees were selected by the management rather than elected by trade unions and others. [*Anneliese: college has had financial difficulties; need now is for those who support Ruskin to work together*]

Also raised the plight of a local man of Indian origin, told that he could not stay. [*requirements to leave sometimes seem arbitrary. People should consult her office in case of mistakes or to access advice. The Windrush people were treated appallingly, and the government did not follow its own rules* ]

Tom Hayes – contacts in the MINI plant were worried about the Brexit process [*tries to act as a constructive friend. It’s easier to raise issues with ministers if companies will express their concerns publicly – it was therefore good that BMW had gone public on its concerns. There would be adverse impacts on the BMW supply chain, and on their workforce – sometimes they need people from Germany for a few months to train workers in using new machinery. The head of the plant is Swiss, and may have problems if Britain is outside the EEA.* ]

1. Fundraising collection £318 was collected.
2. South-east regional conference, 3/4 November 2018
3. Becky Boumelha was unanimously endorsed by Oxford East general committee delegates as the delegate from Oxford East.
4. Adam Brodie and Alex Donnelly addressed the meeting, and Adam was elected by Oxford West & Abingdon delegates as the delegate from Oxford West & Abingdon by 13 votes to 9.
5. Ann Black and Michaela Collord were nominated for the regional board by Oxford East delegates.
6. Ann Black was nominated for the regional board by OxWAb delegates
7. Carol Hayton was nominated for the regional national policy forum section by Oxford East delegates
8. Carol Hayton and Sue Ledwith were nominated for the national policy forum by OxWAb delegates.
9. Annual conference
10. **Motions**

1. **Electoral Reform**

"Conference applauds the attention properly given to the party's own democratic procedures in the democracy review, published for debate in September 2018, and believes that it is also time to address how our democracy serves the interests of all in our country.

Conference believes that first past the post is a fundamental barrier to addressing what is looking increasingly like a failed state.  We need a properly representative and transparent electoral system where no vote is wasted and all votes count.  We need to change to a form of proportional representation for all our elections.  In the national context this should be one which allows MPs to keep a local constituency link.

Conference therefore proposes that electoral reform should be in the Party's manifesto for the next general election, with the declared intent that a new electoral system be in place for the following general election."

Noted that this was existing policy agreed in June 2018 and did not need debate

(ii) **Ending the 'hostile environment' - justice for Windrush and Beyond**

Conference notes:

1. The *Guardian* (10 August) reports that dozens of Commonwealth citizens who came to the UK before 1973 (the 'Windrush generation') and were wrongly targeted over their immigration status still await resolution of their cases.

2. On 9 August, 20 church representatives called on the Home Secretary to dismantle 'inhumane hostile environment' policies that cause 'racist discrimination' and erect barriers to basic public services for 'people who do not look or sound "British"'.

Conference condemns this policy that treats British citizens, and others entitled to be here, as illegal immigrants, and deplores Theresa May's role in its creation.

Conference notes that, beyond Windrush, this 'hostile environment' threatens hundreds of thousands of long-term residents including up to 200,000 children/young adults brought up in UK but not born here or born here to non-UK citizen parents. It also affects over 400,000 EU citizens and their children whose status is threatened by Brexit.

Conference supports:

1. Labour's policies to end the 'hostile environment' policy; close some detention centres, end indefinite detention and the deportation of former child asylum seekers; fully compensate Windrush victims; and to demand Government makes immediate interim payments.

2. The incoming Labour government repealing the Immigration Acts of 2014 and 2016 which enshrine in law the 'hostile environment'.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to set up an urgent task force to consult and consider a regularisation [or amnesty] for all those resident in the UK for 5 years or more.

The motion was proposed by Rob Lemkin and seconded by Emma Jones. After debate it was carried unanimously.

(iii) **Social care**

On 18th August, the children’s commissioner, responding to a Social Market Foundation report, was concerned that, despite improving standards, more than 13,000 children had unacceptable levels of support from the care system.

Older people’s social services, mental health services, and all disability services are also in crisis, with devastating impact on those with acute and longer term social needs, and carers.

Conference agrees that social care in England is underfunded, de-professionalised and privatised and no longer exists as a coherent service .

Social care is a Health issue; without social support where it is needed acute care of all patients is compromised in A&E and hospital wards.

Social care policy is an equalities issue: women comprise a majority of social care staff and family carers.  It relies on low pay and zero-hour contracts, with minimal training and support.

The Women’s Budget Group shows investment in care services invests in social infrastructure. 2%\* of GDP would generate 1.5million jobs across the UK and provide a significant boost to GDP.

Privatisation has undermined quality and with companies going bankrupt, vulnerable people are at risk.

  We call on the Party to commit to:

* developing a professional, skilled, user-responsive service meeting the needs of the population, publicly funded through progressive taxation, publicly provided and free at the point of use.
* increasing funding to the sector by at least 2%\*
* ending privatisation and bringing contracts back into public ownership.

The motion was proposed by Liz Peretz and seconded by Jane Stockton. After debate it was carried unanimously.

(iv) **Brexit**

Recent polling, notably the YouGov poll published in the Observer on 12 August 2018, indicates that even in strongly pro Brexit areas voters are recognising that leaving the European Union is not the way forward for this country.

1. Conference recognises that Brexit represents a grave threat to the economy and unity of the United Kingdom.

2. Conference supports a radical Corbyn Labour government to transform the social and economic conditions that led many voters to support Brexit, but we must be honest with voters that leaving the EU will make the situation considerably worse.

3. Conference therefore urges that in the immediate term the Labour Party in parliament should:

  i) work to bring about a General Election,

ii) oppose any Tory Brexit and call for a People's Vote on whether to accept the negotiated terms.

iii) reassert Labour's 2016 Remain campaign for membership of a reformed EU.

The motion was proposed by John Tanner and seconded by Paul Leach. After debate it was carried by 50 votes for, 36 against and a few abstentions.

(v) **Labour Movement Against Brexit**

Conference notes YouGov's 12 August figures showing a major shift of public opinion against Brexit, particularly in Labour heartlands in South Wales, the North, North-East, West Midlands and outer London - with over a hundred constituencies switching to Remain. These figures show, in the event of a No Deal Brexit, a 2-1 majority (including most Leavers) wanting a public vote on whether to remain. With a deal, a clear majority want one.

The deal being pursued by May threatens jobs and workers' rights, free movement, environmental protections, peace in Northern Ireland and the NHS.

We must commit to defending existing workers' rights, freedom of movement, environmental protections - and go further. A movement fighting to shift power from the rich to the working class can and should stop Brexit - counterposing a radical Labour government which taxes the rich to rebuild services, provides massive public investment, reverses privatisation and expands public ownership, abolishes the anti-union laws and strengthens workers' rights.

We want this vision extended across Europe and beyond. We need international alliances to fight for levelling-up of living standards, rights and services; and democratisation of European institutions.

We must challenge the idea that free movement or immigration are responsible for falling wages, insecurity, the housing crisis and collapsing services. The government, employers and the rich are responsible. To turn the tide workers must stand together in solidarity, regardless of origin.

We commit to  
- Campaigning against Brexit on this basis.  
- A public vote on Brexit, with an option to remain.

The motion was proposed by Andy Forse and seconded. After debate it was carried by a similar margin to motion (iv).

The meeting then voted on which two motions to send to annual conference. Andy Forse withdrew motion (v) in favour of motion (iv), and those agreed were Social Care (60 votes) and Brexit (50 votes) with Ending the Hostile Environment on 49 and Electoral Reform on 18. As delegates are able to vote for four priority topics the meeting agreed that they should support motions on Windrush / hostile environment if submitted by other CLPs, in addition to social care and Brexit.

1. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 28 June 2018 were accepted.
2. Future meetings. Noted as **Friday 12 October 2018** (Rose Hill community centre, conference reports and member Jamie Tarlton on Palestine and Israel), **Friday 9 November 2018** (Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health, St Clements family centre), **Friday 14 December 2018** (short meeting with refreshments, Summertown church hall).
3. NEC. On behalf of the meeting Rabyah thanked Ann for her many years’ service on the NEC.

**Appendix A**

**Links from Oxford Cohousing talk to Labour Party, 6th Sep 2018**

**1. Local organisations promoting Community-Led Housing (CLH):**

**1.1 Oxford Cohousing (OCH)**

Searching for land to build intergenerational community for 20-40 mixed tenure households. 66% permanently affordable.

[www.oxfordcohousing.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcohousing.org.uk)

[www.cohousing.org.uk](http://www.cohousing.org.uk)

**1.2 Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT)**

Promoting community ownership of land via Land Trust mechanism to lock in the land value and ensure permanent affordability of homes. Building 8 flats for people in housing need in Dean Court (VOWH DC).

[www.oclt.org.uk](http://www.oclt.org.uk)/

<http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/>

**1.3 Collaborative Housing Hub**

Virtual housing hub developed by OCLT and Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) to promote various models of community-led housing including coops, cohousing etc. Currently unfunded but hoping to bid in next round of community-led housing fund.

<https://collaborativehousing.org.uk/>

**2. Examples of CLH already in existence locally:**

2.1 Kindling Housing Coop in Cowley

<http://kindlingcoop.org/>

2.2 Dragonfly Housing Coop in Florence Park

http://www.radicalroutes.org.uk/list-of-members/housing-co-ops/dragonfly.html

2.3 OCLT’s Dean Court project:

<https://www.oclt.org.uk/projects/dean_court/>

**3. Examples of bids made by OCH and OCLT:**

3.1. Stansfeld Outdoor Centre in Headington for which OCH’s bid was shortlisted but ultimately unsuccessful in 2015

<http://www.oxfordcohousing.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Stansfeld-BROCHURE-v3-150902.pdf>

3.2. Wolvercote Paper Mill site for which Homes for Oxford (a partnership with OCLT, OCH, Kindling, Oxford City Council Housing Company and others bid unsuccessfully in 2016)

<https://www.oclt.org.uk/projects/wolvercote/>

3.3. The Irving Building for which OCLT bid unsuccessfully in 2017.

<https://www.oclt.org.uk/projects/irving/>

**4. New round of government funding announced 2nd July 2018**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-housing-fund-prospectus>

**5. Makespace Oxford**:

Another innovation. Building owned by Wadham and leased as meanwhile space to the wonderfully energetic and youthful bunch of people <http://makespaceoxford.org/>

**6. The support we need from you as members of the Labour Party:**

But the key issue is LAND: if OCH or any other community group had access to land atm, they can apply for pre-development money and even grants towards the capital costs.

Think of ways to help this movement secure land, not for free but at least off- market, especially publicly owned land. Read the recent NEF report <https://neweconomics.org/2018/07/what-lies-beneath>

Work with us to create a sector, a small sector of community-led land and homes across the city and beyond.

Fran Ryan (OCLT and OCH) / Sarah Westcott (OCH)

Contact: [fran.ryan@oclt.org.uk](mailto:fran.ryan@oclt.org.uk)