## Draft Minutes of the Oxford & District Executive Committee, 12 September 2018

**Present:** Luke Barbanneau, Ann Black (minutes), Becky Boumelha,Susan Brown, Nigel Chapman, Jane Darke (Chair),Mo Fadlalla,Tom Hayes, Alex Hollingsworth, Felicity Irwin,Rabyah Khan, Mark Ladbrooke, Stephen Marks, Cherry Mosteshar,Andrew Peak, Caroline Raine, Hannah Riley,Linda Smith

**Apologies**: Shaista Aziz, David Blackman, Michaela Collord, Erica Davis, Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Ray Hand, Dan Iley-Williamson, Peter Nowland, Dawn Oliver, Andrew Smith, John Stansby, Jane Stockton, Marie Tidball, Ed Turner

1. Executive committee minutes, 25 July 2018. These were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising.

(a) **4(c) Annual conference rooms**. Ann reported that she had finally found alternative occupants, though it had been time-consuming and stressful, and asked for a different process next year.

3. Urgent business / other business.

(a) **Expelled member**. A former member expelled by the national constitutional committee had insisted on entering Thursday’s all-member meeting. Communication with the general secretary was circulated confirming that people expelled are not allowed to attend party meetings. Contrary to his and his partner’s belief, the secretary and other CLP officers had no role in reporting him to the NEC or played any part in the disciplinary process. Cherry agreed to speak to them informally and also talk to Jane S as membership secretary in the hope of avoiding further confrontation. **Action:** Cherry, Jane S.

(b) **Thank-you cards**. It was agreed to send cards to Brenda Walton, who had resigned, thanking her for her many years of service to the party, and to Bobbie Nichols in Abingdon. **Action:** Ann

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4. Finance

(a) **Treasurer’s report**. Alex reported that that a gap on the income side continued, with big-ticket dinners needed. One-off donations were down, and half our income came from a relatively small number of members. The 200 club was the most reliable source of continuing revenue, and should be promoted at every opportunity. A draw was held for 200 club prizes for the last three quarters, with the winners Kate Reynolds (£152.50), Nick Eyre (£145) and Sue Tanner (£140). Members were more likely to donate for specific needs, and an appeal around the Abingdon elections was proposed. Becky suggested sending Christmas and birthday cards with a fundraising. Hannah asked about the possibility of crowdfunding, and Stephen thought that branches should organise their own activities such as book and film clubs. Alex reported that most branches contribute to central funds from time to time, though some hold very small balances to cover day-to-day running. There was no consensus on whether establishing a fund-raising group would be productive, though perhaps the post of deputy treasurer could be transformed into a fund-raising officer. Cherry would take on fundraising responsibilities as part of her deputy treasurer role until the new role is put to the 2019 AGM.

(b) **Dinners**. The good news was that Diane Abbott will speak at a dinner on Friday 19 October, with detailed planning when we have the times for her visit. Hannah reported that the party’s website no longer supports ticket sales for events, and Eventbrite charges a fee and will not handle tiered prices. Luke suggested Brown Paper Tickets as an alternative. It was agreed to advertise the date, and to readvertise the date of Danny Dorling’s supper in Kidlington. **Action**: Hannah.

. (c) **Cultural calendar**. Cherry reported that the group would meet soon, with dates including the Persian New Year in March, which could include fire-jumping. Alex confirmed that the CLP had public liability insurance. It was agreed to move this item from finance to membership.

5. Elections.

(a) **Iffley Fields & St Mary’s county by-election**. Members in the division would select their candidate on Thursday 13 September, with the by-election expected on Thursday 18 October..

(b) **Council elections, May 2019**. John Stansby and Cath Arakelian were willing to stand in the two Kidlington seats, and two candidates wishing to stand in Botley had been approved by the panel. More candidates were needed. Alex and Susan said that phoning members had been effective in the past, and Rabyah said she had suggested phonebanking members already. It was also suggested that phone calls from Andrew Smith might be persuasive. The meeting agreed that Rabyah would raise this with Jane S and the OxWAb Action Group. If agreed she would go back to Andrew, and she and Alex were willing to help with phoning. **Action**: Rabyah.

(c) **Diversity and inclusivity in selecting candidates**. Mark had spoken with Peter about the need for outreach work and promoting low-paid candidates. He suggested a survey for branches on what the party could do to encourage them Linda added that we should start with recruitment, identifying community activists and using canvassing as an opportunity. Cherry suggested going to different places, and had distributed lots of material outside the Central Oxford Mosque.

6. Membership. Dan’s report showed a very small decline, with 3,746 members in the two constituencies. Of these, 3,523 are paid up, the others are in arrears. Mark suggested asking why members left the party, where they had not already told us.

7. Social media and local campaigning.

(a) **National campaign day**. The next day would be Saturday 29 September, building on themes from the party conference. Hannah had ordered the free materials but they would not be available until 27 September. Street stalls in Templars Square, outside the Cowley Road Tesco, and in the ciy centre were suggested, and branches would be asked to organise them. **Action:** ???

(b) **Oxford Living Wage**. The meeting thanked Rabyah for submitting a nomination for the city council’s work on the living wage for a party award, and this will be circulated with the minutes.

(c) **Social media**. Rabyah had met with Anneliese, Hannah, Nigel and Emma Turnbull. They discussed development of the party website, co-ordinating our online presence across all platforms – councillors, Facebook groups, individual members – getting the balance right across the two constituencies, and highlighting that the party was active, in addition to councillors. She and Nigel would be able to tweet from the party account to assist Hannah. Susan said that Witney Labour did social media very well, and we could learn from Laura Price and the CLP.

(d) **Anti-racist demonstrations**. Concern was expressed at several recent attacks on Stand Up For Racism stalls, with varying accounts doing the rounds on social media. Councillors stressed that these must be reported to the police. They worked very hard to fight discrimination and to support diverse communities, not always in the media spotlight, and where possible they would join public protests as well. It was suggested that councillors could be asked to send words of solidarity., and Tom said he would be very happy to do this.

Tom added that the council is clear in its condemnation of hate crime and is proactive in tackling it as well as reactive to reported incidents. They welcome other people sharing their comments more widely on social media to reassure grassroots supporters of their commitment. Also that he was not aware of councillors receiving invitations to demos or panel discussions, and would welcome the increased visibility by being able to speak up on the views and values that Labour councillors communicate to the media after an incident.

8. Equalities

(a) **Oxford Labour Women**. Shaista was thanked for her notes from the meeting on 11 September, and they are included at the end of these minutes.

(b) **Disability**. The meeting agreed to send a card to Marie welcoming the birth of her daughter.

(c) **LGBT** **.** Tom was supporting Oxford Friend, a confidential phone line for LGBT people.

(d) **Young members**. Andrew reported that he was working with Michaela, Hannah and Anneliese. The evening at G&D’s was successful, with around 2o members, all new and keen to get active, and one had now been canvassing. They hoped to build Young Labour locally. Becky would chair the panel event on Tuesday 9 October in the Town Hall, which was mainly for young members.

(e) **BAME**. Becky thanked the CLP for supporting her attendance at the Leeds party democracy review consultation, which was the biggest gathering of BAME members that she had ever seen. Political education in how to organise was better than looking in from the outside.

8. All-member meetings.

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

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

(c) **Friday 14 December 2018**. Short meeting with refreshments, Summertown church hall.

It was agreed that the January meeting should also be held in OxWAb.

9. Executive committee meetings. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Wednesday 24 October 2018, the lounge, East Oxford community centre; Wednesday 21 November, venue and time to be notified.

From: shaista aziz <[shaista.obaidi@gmail.com](mailto:shaista.obaidi@gmail.com)>  
  
Notes from Oxford Labour Women – meeting held on Wednesday 11 September, Oxford Town Hall  
  
We want to know if the Labour campaign to end homelessness is in place and if so how can we contribute advocacy ideas and work to it? Would like to focus on Oxfordshire county council potentially not spending money they have on this issue.  
  
Action: Sue L to speak to Debbie to get more info about Oxfordshire County Council.  
  
Emma to speak to Debbie at UNISON to get more info.  
  
Refugees.

17th November is our joint fundraiser with Didcot, Wantage women's groups and Oxford Refugee Solidarity in memory of David Matthew Bailey.  
  
We brainstormed guest speakers...  
  
Action: Shaista to contact Liz Peretz and get a timeline of events happening on the issue of refugees and asylum in Oxford/ Oxfordshire.  
  
Period poverty

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We agreed Oxford Labour Women will give a donation to Shoebox Oxford for sanitary products for women experiencing homelessness , refugees and those who can't afford sanitary products.  
  
We will press release this, tweet this etc.  
  
Action: Emma will make contact with Shoebox Oxford.  
  
Mentoring, building women up!  
  
Ann to produce a timeline of key dates leading up to elections in 2019 and we as a group will discuss how we can support women interested in becoming councillors in the future.  
  
Women's Festival 2019  
  
Emma and Sue L to speak to organisers about us organising a panel on austerity with the women's budget group. Ann will chair.  
  
Emma and Sue L to organise.

Quiz night

Provisionally late January / early February.

Other issues:  
  
13/14 October we will organise a Oxford Labour women canvassing session for the by election.  
  
Action: shaista to contact Hannnah.  
  
October is black history month.  
  
Reclaim the Night is on 25th November.  
  
We talked about organising solidarity flash mob style actions in response to any story or nonsense from MPs, public figures like Boris Johnson attacking women over their clothing choices.  
  
Shaista