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

**7.30 p.m. on 12 October 2018, Rose Hill Community Centre**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present:** Luke Akehurst, Avril Alexander, Lubna Arshad, Jamila Azad, Ann Black, Maggie Black,David Blackman, Phil Bloomer,Chris Bond, Becky Boumelha, Susan Brown, Anna Bryant, Rip Bulkeley, Madeline Burke, Peter Cann, Michaela Collord, Jane Darke (chair), Anneliese Dodds, Joy Doswell, Tony Eaude, Ibrahim El-hendi, Jesse Erlam, Anisha Faruk, Linda Forrest, Deborah Gill, Julia Goodwin, Julio Gonzalez Taboada, James Grover,Pauline Hamilton, Roger Hewe, Stephanie Hobson, Alex Hollingsworth,Izzy Hollingsworth, Ali Hussein, Stephen Hyde, Dan Iley-Willamson, Steve Jewitt, Rabyah Khan,Felicity Leary (minutes), Matthew Leigh, Rob Lemkin. Liz Lock, Simon Lowles, Anne Lyons, Deborah Mcilveen, Bill Mackeith, Bee Maidlow, Zaid Marham, Stephen Marks, Nikki Marriott, Cherry Mosteshar, Peter Nowland,Pol O Ceallaigh,Liz Peretz,David Preston, Rosemary Preston, Bob Price, Caroline Raine,Tony Richardson, Andy Rimmer, Chris Robins, Linda Smith,Jane Stockton, Martin Stott, Rob Sutton, John Tanner, Sue Tanner,Geoff Taylor, Keith Taylor, Sian Taylor, Emma Turnbull, Louise Upton, Anna Wagstaff, Nick Walker, Janet Warren, Harley Weekes, Matt Whiteloch, Ingrid Widdows, Peter Willsman, Barry Wooding, Martha Young

**Apologies:** Judy Barrow, Jana Bek, Marie-Claire Ohsan Berthelsen, Erica Davis, Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, David Emeny, Dorian Hancock, Tom Hayes, Bev Humberstone, Gordon Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Peter Leary, Sue Ledwith, Mark Lygo, Michael March, Caroline Morrell, Jim O’Donoghue, Anthony Phillips, Caroline Russell, Andrew Smith, Marie Tidball

1. Agenda and timings. These were agreed
2. Minutes of the all member meeting on 6 September 2018. These were agreed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising. None.
4. Urgent business, including any other business. None.
5. **Jamie on three months in Palestine - witnessing the Israeli occupation.**

Jamie described the demolition of Palestinian homes in the West Bank and reasons that this is taking place. Palestinians are forced to build without correct planning permissions because only around 1.5% of applications are successful and processes take many years and cost thousands of dollars that many Palestinians cannot afford. Palestinians do not get a vote in Israeli elections so there is no accountability.

Israeli committee against house demolitions – says demolition is politically and ethnically motivated… to ensure Israeli control of occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Limit development of Palestinians, encouraging them to move out of the area and moving in Israelis instead. Demolitions are a war crime, according to article 53 of Fourth Geneva Convention.

How did we get to Israeli Palestinian conflict? 1918, end of 1st world war, end of Ottoman empire. Land split between Britain and France. Large migration of Jews from around the world to what is now Israel. In 1948, as Britain pulled out army, declared state of Israel. Borders defined by the war. Palestinians call this the ‘Nakba’.1967, six day war – Israel gained control of West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is when the occupation won.

Jamie stayed in Bethlehem and was participating in Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) visit to monitor and report human rights violations. Now advocate for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. One of activities while there was to protect children walking to school from Israeli soldiers.

Another feature of daily life for Palestinians is separation barrier between West Bank and Israel. Unemployment in West Bank incredibly high, so 7,000 cross through the wall at checkpoint in Bethlehem every morning.

What can you do to promote Palestinian rights? In face of imminent demolition of Khan al-Ahmar. Sign up to email updates from EAPPI – [www.eyewitnessblogs.com](http://www.eyewitnessblogs.com)

Ask our government to take a stronger stand on demolition of villages. Talk to Anneliese about what she can do in her position in Parliament.

Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Matthew Leigh

Work is incredibly impressive in bringing home to us the role of the Israeli government. However, you should not talk about history without mention of the Holocaust. (Apologise if history has caused offence. Agree the Holocaust was reason so many Jews were moving to Israel.)

Rip Bulkeley

Could you say something about the role of the media? (Not through mass media – people find out about things through social media.)

Phil Bloomer

Agree with comments made about history issue. Agree with your descriptions, but did you make any connections with the peace movement in Israel as well?

Tony Williamson

You can’t deal with the history in three statements, because Palestinians didn’t just leave, they were driven out. It is a big issue and needs a proper debate.

Jane Darke

Israeli organisations that advocate on behalf of the Palestinian people. Do they have any foothold within Israel? (Israeli human rights groups – we had talks from lots of great Israeli groups and there are many groups who do not agree with what is going on out there. Government is elected in Israel so must represent public opinion in some way. The Israeli groups must be part of the solution, and they are working on the ground to change the situation.)

David Blackman

Are there other areas within the West Bank that EAPPI does not go? Do you have any contact with authorities in West Bank? (Anywhere we can’t go in the West Bank? Yes access limited. Try regularly to meet with British Consulate.)

Jamila Azad

Welcome your presentation. What you have shown is quite shameful – people cannot build houses on their own land. You worked with UN, what does the UN think about the situation? (The UN is a collection of countries so each has its own opinion. US is very important in preventing UN from taking position on Palestine. Many refugees depend on UNWRA, and the US has announced that it is cutting UNWRA funding which will prevent Palestinian children from going to school.)

Peter Cann

Two journalists from Palestine were invited to UK by NUJ and they highlighted difficulty of getting to places to report on developments and get the news out.

Caroline Raine

Shocking how many Palestinians are refugees both in Palestine and in the rest of the world.

Further information can be found here and in the attached document:

https://eyewitnessblogs.com/2018/09/07/rachels-tomb-the-impact-of-the-wall/

https://eyewitnessblogs.com/2018/09/21/hebron-a-weekend-of-occupation/

http://blog.oikoumene.org/posts/keeping-hope-a-challenge-as-al-walaja-homes-suffer-demolition

1. Fundraising collection £164 was collected.

Cherry Mosteshar

Need for fundraising to pay for election campaigns. Members can join the 200 club - donate a few pounds per month and this raises lots for the CLP. Diane Abbott fundraising dinner on Friday 19 October. Please donate items for auction at the dinner.

Jane Darke

Also have Danny Dorling fundraising fish and chips supper on 2 November

1. National Constitutional Committee

GC delegates voted to nominate Annabelle Harle, Gary Heather, Stephen Marks, Khaled Moyeed, Susan Press, and Cecile Wright for the National Constitutional Committee from both Oxford East CLP and Oxford West and Abingdon CLP. The full results are attached.

Rip Bulkeley

Point of order – we should have ballot papers in alphabetical order and not in order of slates.

Ann Black

Explained that this was in order to save time and allow us to count votes before the end of the meeting.

1. Annual conference reports. Written reports from Jane Stockton and Ann Black had been circulated with the agenda. Erica’s report and any others received would be attached to the minutes.

Dan Iley Williamson – delegate from Oxford East

Conference was positive, unified clear message of how we can build Britain for the many. Conference was celebratory last year, while this year was positive and unified and more seriously engaged with issues that we are facing. To add to Jane’s written report, our two motions that our CLPs sent to conference both got prioritised. Oxford East had Brexit motion and OxWAb had the social care motion. 150 motions submitted on the issue of Brexit, so very large compositing meeting with very strong opinions. It did not appear that there would be unanimity on a single motion but after five and half hours, agreement on one motion was reached. Contrary to predictions in media, Brexit did not divide the conference, but the motion that was proposed unified conference.

Very hopeful about the Democracy Review. Part of this was watered down by NEC. I spoke to conference on issue of Westminster selections – I spoke in favour of the NEC recommendations for Westminster selections. Gives members more power to hold their MPs to account. There was support for open selections from many delegates.

Becky Boumelha

Agree with Dan about achievement of reaching agreement on Brexit motion at compositing meeting. Democracy Review – incredible steps forward in terms of BAME representation with the party. Women’s conference – high level of discussion. Same high level of debate on conference floor. Discussing several topics in one go – Brexit, Windrush and other issues – meant that debate was watered down.

Jane Stockton

Hope that some of you will have read my written report. Great experience, and highly recommend going, whether as visitor or delegate. Good to have larger delegation because so many roles to play and things to attend. Debate on Palestine at conference was big step forward – it is now policy that we should have a halt to sale of arms to Israel, and we have condemned US decision to cut funding to UNWRA and called on British Government to continue help for refugees.

Questions and comments

Sian Taylor

Marie Tidball is not here today but we should be really proud that she attended and spoke at national conference on Oxford Labour’s disability network.

David Blackman

The trade union block vote makes many decisions at conference.

Jane Stockton

Electoral reform issue only came up in the reference back of the electoral reform statement in the national policy forum report – this was voted on by show of hands. It appeared that a good number of CLP delegates did support the reference back, but was defeated because unions pretty solidly opposed the reference back. For those who support electoral reform, there is work to be done before the next conference within their unions.

Zaid Marham

New procedure for selecting candidates – how is this going to work? You are only allowed to have a trigger ballot once an election has been called.

Ann Black

Half way through electoral cycle, there is an opportunity for CLPs and affiliates to decide whether to support the existing MP. Some had proposed an open selection process – which would take longer. Now need a third of party branches or a third of affiliate branches to say they want an open selection.

Luke Akehurst

Can you explain the logic of the new trigger process? One third of party branches can trigger a selection, and some branches are very small

Ann Black

This is the procedure agreed by conference. Trade unions could have dominated decisions now that they affiliate so many separate branches, and this is a long overdue change.

Pete Willsman

Agree with Ann and will miss her terribly on the NEC. I am happy with this process that we have now adopted.

Stephen Marks

There is an argument for breaking down some of our very large branches. We have put several branches together because some had hardly any members, however this is no longer the case. Now we have separated out trade unions and labour party branches into different sections..

Jane Darke

Would like to thank conference delegates and Ann Black for her service to the NEC.

1. Parliamentary Report. Anneliese Dodds MP.

Anneliese’s written report was circulated. She gave an update first on Israel-Palestine issues.

As a Shadow Minister there are things that I can do internally, but some things I am not allowed to do, such as sign EDMs unless instructed to do so by my whips.

After a number of meetings with constituents, the issues which I have taken up with ministers have been specifically around child prisoners, labelling products from Palestinian territories, calling on government to fulfil its responsibility to try and achieve peace in the region which they have not been doing. There was a moment of hope around the Balfour agreement. Particular concern now that US has withdrawn support for UNWRA, it is time for the British Government to step up in support of Palestinian human rights and a two state solution.

We have had a good report on Labour Party conference. Agreed with analysis, we managed to lead the agenda on what the future can look like under Labour Government. Increase public ownership. John MaDonnell made announcement about transferring ownership of businesses to workers. This has been received positively including by many companies. Really great announcements on education, and on combating domestic violence. When Dan and Becky were in their composite meeting, I was in the composite meeting about Labour’s approach to public services which was over in ten minutes, unlike theirs.

In Parliament we have budget coming up on 29 October. Government squeezing it in before Brexit. Have had nonsense announcement from Theresa May that austerity has ended and we know that is not true.

Will in theory have vote on Brexit deal – we are saying we cannot accept May’s deal because it cannot stand up to the six tests that the Labour party has set. Now clear that we are not going to rule any options out and that if a referendum is necessary to break the deadlock then that is what we will do.

Damian Haywood – standing for Iffley Fields county council seat. It is so important that we win this seat because if we don’t we will no longer be the official opposition. Please come out and campaign with us before and on next Thursday. We have members here from Oxford University Labour Club who have been out campaigning for Damian.

Diane Abbott – really happy that she will be here for the fundraising dinner next Friday. Encourage members to come along.

Questions and comments

Sue Tanner

Universal credit – John McDonnell has said we would axe it, but in the meantime are going to fight to get managed delay.

John Tanner

Labour marginally lost the vote on customs union, now the government is supporting a customs union.

Phil Bloomer

Conference seemed marvellous but we didn’t get much of a bounce out of it.

Anneliese Dodds

Universal credit is a complete disaster. Labour has been arguing for customs union for a long time, but in the meantime we have a lot of investment that has not taken place because of concerns around the government’s position. This conference the commentary was about what Labour is putting forward and this is something to build on and we need to work harder to get our message out there because our policies are very popular.

Michaela Collord

As constituents what can we do to spread the message? Understand a new community organising unit has been created within the party.

Jane Darke

Are we heading for another financial crash?

Anneliese Dodds

Important when we have continuation of myths such as Tories saying Labour left economy in a mess, there is a lot we can all do to respond to them. Eg. Radio phone ins, newspaper comments pages, social media.

Around community organising unit – we have held a series of town meetings talking to people about what we can do to boost the local economy.

Economy - we have more instruments in place, and more of an awareness. Rising levels of personal debt, so interest rate rise could leave a lot of people in danger. Labour is preparing to deal with any eventuality.

Ann Black

Community organisers are being deployed in marginal seats, but not clear how they differ from regional and local organisers.

1. Motions

(a) **Racist violence: Labour and the unions must mobilise** proposed by the Rose Hill, Iffley & Littlemore branch

This meeting notes:

1. The assassination of Jo Cox and the increase in hate crime post-Brexit referendum are both long term indicators of a resurgence of fascism in Britain. Nationally, this has been compounded by racist remarks from the likes of Boris Johnson, and reports of hate crime relating to Islamaphobia and anti-semitism are on the rise.
2. In Oxford, recent racist and fascist incidents include an attack on a synagogue and an attack on the stall of anti-racist campaigners.
3. There were 10,000 – 15,000 racists demonstrating in London on 9th June. At that event there were speeches from a UKIP MEP, a Breitbart representative, the leader of the new Party ‘For Britain’ and a fairly clear incitement of them to launch physical attacks by Geert Wilders that were followed by street battles around Whitehall with the police.
4. At its highest point during the rise of the far right in the late 1970s the national Front were never able to mobilise more than 1,000.

This meeting believes:

1. That anti-fascism and anti-racism is unfortunately currently seen as a fringe activity in the labour movement. It has to be central.
2. The labour movement should take Cable Street in 1936 as one example for our model. When violent racists and fascists gather together they should be physically blocked by massive outnumbering. The Labour Party has the numbers to do that.
3. We should take and explain anti-racist, pro-migrant and pro-refugee politics into the working class areas with the EDL and UKIP are active.

This meeting therefore resolves:

1. To call on the CLP and other labour movement organisations (i.e. trade unions) to organise an inclusive meeting of all anti-racists and anti-fascists to act on such policies.
2. We also call on the NEC and national union bodies to mobilise significant numbers of members for anti-racist protests rather than simply passively endorsing such protests.

Amendment proposed by Ann Black:

In the third point 1, replace "to organise an inclusive meeting of all" with "to work with other" so that instead of "To call on the CLP and other labour movement organisations (i.e. trade unions) to organise an inclusive meeting of all anti-racists and anti-fascists to act on such policies."

it reads

"To call on the CLP and other labour movement organisations (i.e. trade unions) to work with other anti-racists and anti-fascists to act on such policies."

Caroline Raine moved the motion and Geoff Taylor seconded the motion.

Anne Lyons proposed replacing “into the working class areas with” with “into any areas where” to read

1. We should take and explain anti-racist, pro-migrant and pro-refugee politics into any areas where the EDL and UKIP are active.

The motion was carried unanimously including the amendments proposed by Ann Black and Anne Lyons that were accepted by the mover.

(b) **Anti-semitism** proposed by the South West Central branch

Oxford Labour Party resolves:

To support the continued work on the NEC to help eliminate antisemitism from the Labour Party

To uphold the principles and recommendations of the Shami Chakrabarti Inquiry and to implement all its findings in all disciplinary actions

To note grave concerns regarding the use and dissemination of secretive recordings of NEC meetings which may potentially bring the Party into disrepute.

John Tanner moved the motion and Pol O Ceallaigh seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

1. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 12 September 2018 were accepted.
2. Future meetings. Noted as **Friday 9 November 2018** (St Clements Family Centre, Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health), **Friday 14 December 2018** (short meeting with refreshments, Summertown church hall).