## Draft Minutes of the Oxford & District Executive Committee, 24 October 2018

**Present:** Shaista Aziz, Ann Black (minutes), Susan Brown, Michaela Collord, Jane Darke,Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Alex Hollingsworth, Rabyah Khan (Chair), Mark Ladbrooke, Stephen Marks, Peter Nowland, Caroline Raine, Linda Smith

**Apologies**: David Blackman, Nigel Chapman, Tom Hayes, Dan Iley-Williamson, Cherry Mosteshar, Hannah Riley, Jane Stockton, Ed Turner

1. Executive committee minutes, 12 September 2018. These were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising.

(a) **3(c) Expelled member**. Ann expressed thanks to Cherry for resolving the situation diplomatically.

3. Urgent business / other business.

(a) **Any Questions**. Ann had advertised this in the newsletter with a deadline of 28 October. It was agreed to draw the successful applicants at the Danny Dorling social on 2 November.

4. Oxford city Labour group report. Susan updated the meeting on Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan’s application to rejoin the Labour group. A statement would be issued in due course. Members were thanked for their personal support. Concerns were expressed about the procedures of the national party and the standards committee, and the lack of clear guidance on social media activity.

.

5. Finance

(a) **Treasurer’s report**. Alex reported that the dinner with Diane Abbott had raised around £2,000, though the auction was less successful. The Danny Dorling evening in Kidlington on 2 November would be cheap (£10 / £5 concessions) and cheerful. Hosnieh suggested a model where people paid what they could afford; from her experience in Australia such events attracted a more diverse attendance without social barriers. Alex proposed trying this in addition to the current programme. The cost per head at First Floor was £20, and Stephen added that taking the whole restaurant meant that the party had to guarantee a profit for the owner. Usually MPs were only available on Thursday or Friday nights, but other speakers could be more flexible.

(b) **Annual conference, Brighton, 22/25 September 2019**. Ann said that booking accommodation in advance for Liverpool had been stressful, with the rooms only “sub-let” in the final few days. It was agreed that delegates should be strongly urged to book accommodation immediately they are elected at the AGM on 8 March, and to set a limit of £250 per delegate for the four nights,

(c) .**Women’s conference, Telford, 23/24 February 2019**. No information had been received from the NEC concerning delegates, agenda, motions etc, but this would be an additional expense.

6. Elections and campaigns

(a) **Campaign committee, 6 October 2018.**  The minutes were noted, together with the report from Kidlington who were congratulated on their level of campaigning activity.

(b) **County council by-elections**. There would be by-elections in Grove & Wantage on 15 November and Wheatley on 29 November, both currently held by the LibDems. Labour candidates were being selected by the appropriate constituencies. John Tanner had volunteered to organise weekend forays into these areas, and it was agreed to advertise his offer in the newsletter. **Action**: Hannah

(c) **Wolvercote by-election**. This was likely to be in early December. After consulting the co-chairs and the branch secretary, the opportunity to apply had been advertised in the latest newsletter with a deadline of noon on Monday 29 October. If new candidates applied, interviews would be organised on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, with panels drawn from available executive members. The selection would be on Thursday 1 November, with Ann officiating. For the campaign it was agreed that one centrally-organised voter ID session per week would be held in the ward, focusing on areas in Cutteslowe, with one high-quality leaflet delivered throughout the ward plus calling cards.

(d) **Iffley Fields & St Mary’s county by-election**. Congratulations were recorded to Damian Haywood and everyone who contributed to his success. There were many reports that the Greens’ negative campaigning had put voters off them.

(e) **Council elections, May 2019**. John Stansby had been selected for Kidlington East and Erica Davis and Maurice O’Donoghue for Botley & Sunningwell. A candidate for Kidlington West and 19 in the Vale of White Horse were still required. Rabyah had offered to phonebank members – she would speak to Jane S about this, and co-ordinate with the OxWAb action group as well as with Andrew etc. **Action**: Rabyah

(f) **Diversity and inclusivity in selecting candidates**. Mark, Peter and Linda would discuss ways of engaging more working-class members. Michaela suggested organising a workshop on being a candidate and a councillor. Hosnieh reported that she and Becky were planning a survey of what BAME members wanted from the party, and this could be extended to all members. Ann commented on very low attendance at selection meetings. Caroline said that trade unions faced the same issues: most people do not like meetings, and we should value whatever they are willing to do: leafleting, canvassing, street stalls. Mark reported that Headington branch had most success with issues relevant to members’ lives, for instance a local pharmacist on the drug trade, and the church on the debt crisis. Shaista had organised a workshop on racism in Oxford. It was agreed that Hosnieh and Becky should liaise with the membership officers on a survey, using SurveyMonkey if it was free, otherwise alternatives. **Action:** Jane S / Dan / Hosnieh / Becky

(g) **National campaign day, Saturday 3 November 2018**. The theme would be the budget. Hannah had ordered leaflets, and would be asked to co-ordinate street stalls. Linda reported that local councillors would be holding their regular meet-the-public session in the Cowley Centre and could link this into the national campaign. **Action**: Hannah

(h) **Racist violence**. The O&DLP had signed the open letter condemning the Oxford Union’s invitation to the leader of the German far-right party AfD, and the Oxford Labour Muslim Network had also issued a statement. There would be a demonstration on 7 November. Felicity had suggested asking Sabby Dhalu of the national Stand Up To Racism campaign to address an all-member meeting, but others felt that local speakers were preferable. The motion agreed at the October AMM called for Labour to take the lead in working with other anti-racists, and Hosnieh argued that a prominent role would galvanise members. Stephen added that there would be a demonstration in Oxford against the likely election of a far-right demagogue as president of Brazil. Shaista said that as part of Islamophobia awareness month the Network was hosting a public meeting in the Town Hall. Mark asked if the charity which owned the Oxford Union building could be challenged for spending taxpayers’ money on right-wing speakers. Rabyah suggested a press release, and Shaista an open letter to the Oxford Union. Susan agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the city council, focusing on the anxiety and stress caused to local communities. **Action**: Susan. Linda added that the police could be asked for their views of the demands placed on them. The executive also agreed to establish a working group to draw up a programme of activity around these issues and report back. **Action**: Mark. Peter, Michaela, Shaista.

7. Democracy review. Ann presented advice from the general secretary on the first tranche of the reforms agreed at conference, many of which the O&DLP had been doing for years. There was a new mandatory position of policy officer: Ann would try to find a job description and how this differed from a political education officer and report back in November. **Action:** Ann. If agreed this could be advertised to branches with other posts in the run-up to the AGM. An optional post of social media officer could also be considered, and the deputy treasurer might be replaced with a fund-raising officer, which was a rulebook position and corresponded more closely to Cherry’s current role. The review also clarified that for their first eight weeks members could attend branch meetings but without a vote, and this would need to be followed from now on.

8. Nominations and elections

(a) **Ballot papers**. At the October AMM one member had criticised the layout of the ballot for NCC nominations in slate order. An executive member who was one of the tellers said this made it quick and easy to count. [*Of 61 ballots 48 were pure slate votes, with 13 mixed*]. The committee did not consider the practice undesirable, and speed and accuracy were important benefits.

(b) **Mandates**. The committee affirmed the principle that delegates and others representing the

O&DLP should vote for candidates nominated by the general committee. Upcoming elections are

(i) South-east regional conference. Nominations were made by the general committee on 6 September 2018. The Oxford East delegate is expected to vote for Ann Black and Michaela Collord for the regional board and Carol Hayton for the national policy forum, and make her own decision on the second NPF place. The OxWAb delegate is expected to vote for Ann Black for the regional board and make his own decision for the second place, and for Carol Hayton and Sue Ledwith for the NPF. These votes will be public. **Action**: Ann to inform Becky Boumelha and Adam Brodie, Becky, Adam to confirm that they will vote accordingly.

(ii) National constitutional committee. Nominations were made by the general committee on 12 October 2018. Votes will be cast by the secretary after consulting conference delegates. **Action**: Ann to confirm with Becky, Dan, Marie, Jane S and Erica that she should vote for the GC nominees Annabelle Harle, Gary Heather, Stephen Marks, Khaled Moyeed, Susan Press and Cecile Wright for both CLPs, and vote accordingly.

9. Equalities

(a) **Oxford Labour Women**. The quiz night would be on Friday 25 January 2019.

(b) **BAME**. As well as the survey, an event was planned for national women’s day. Shaista also drew attention to an event on 6 November on women and homelessness, and a fundraiser on 17 November for refugees.

(e) **Young members**. Michaela reported that the panel evening went well, and a meeting last week had elected a secretary and co-chairs.

10. All-member meetings.

(a) **Friday 9 November 2018**. Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health, St Clements family centre. As the venue was not suitable for projecting PowerPoint slides, Ann would ask Dougal for the presentation either to be circulated in advance with the agenda, or for 50 copies to be run off and brought to the meeting

(b) **Friday 14 December 2018**. Short meeting with refreshments, Summertown church hall. It was agreed that Duncan Bowie would be invited to launch his book Reform and Revolt about the history of the Labour party in Oxford, with a brief introduction after the close of formal business.

(c) **Thursday 10 January 2019** (Wesley Memorial Methodist church, possibly discussion on climate change – Michaela would let Ann know about potential speakers). **Action**: Ann, Michaela

(d) **Friday 8 / Thursday 14 February 2019** (topic and venue to be arranged – Botley?), **Friday 8 March 2019** (AGM, Rose Hill community centre).

11. Executive committee meetings. 7 - 9 p.m. Wednesday 21 November in the Regal community centre.