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

**7.30 p.m. on 9 November 2018, St Clements Family Centre**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present:** Omar Alrawi, Ann Black, David Blackman, Chris Bond, Becky Boumelha, Adam Brodie, Peter Cann, Nigel Chapman, Tiago Corais, Pete Cranston, Jane Darke, Roy Darke, Anneliese Dodds, Tony Eaude, Ibrahim El-hendi, John Fitzgerald, Deborah Gill, Julio Gonzalez, Pauline Hamilton, Alex Hollingsworth,Roger Howe, Sally Joss, Rabyah Khan (chair),Mark Ladbrooke, Sarah Lasenby, Felicity Leary (minutes), Peter Leary, Anne Lyons, Bill Mackeith, Bee Maidlow, Hosnieh Marbini, Stephen Marks, Cherry Mosteshar, Peter Nowland,Pol O Ceallaigh, Martin Ofori-Atta,Simon Ottino,Liz Peretz,Rosemary Preston, Linda Smith,Jane Stockton, John Tanner, Sue Tanner,Geoff Taylor, Anna Wagstaff, Nick Walker, Janet Warren, Peter Willsman

**Apologies:** Avril Alexander, Lubna Arshad, Linda Forrest, John Fuller, Prue Fuller, Damian Haywood, Gordon Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Peter Ledwith, Sue Ledwith Ben Lloyd Shogbesan, Debbie McIlveen, Caroline Morrell, Lesley Page, Anthony Phillips, Bob Price, Caroline Raine, Chris Robins, Andrew Smith, Cristina Whitecross

1. Agenda and timings. These were agreed
2. Minutes of the all member meeting on 12 October 2018. These were agreed as a correct record with the clarification that Keith Taylor also proposed amending the anti-racism motion along the same lines suggested by Anne Lyons, and this was agreed by the meeting.
3. Matters arising. None.
4. Urgent business, including any other business.

Jane Stockton

Urged comrades to come and help campaigning for the by-election that is taking place in Wolvercote.

Jane Darke

Good practice to campaign in places not used to Labour canvassing.

Julio Gonzalez

Future meetings – concerned about date of AGM on 8 March. This clashes with International Women’s Day which is an important day for members who may have other commitments.

Sarah Lasenby

Strongly support Julio’s concerns.

Ann Black agreed to take this to the EC for discussion.

Mark Ladbrooke

This is Living Wage week – new Oxford Living Wage rate will be £10.02. Headington Labour Party branch has agreed that we want to be a Living Wage Zone.

1. **Speaker: Dr Dougal Hargreaves on improving health outcomes for children and young people.**

Intends to give upbeat presentation on child health. There are positive stories that show things can change relatively quickly for children. Netherlands infant mortality was at one point among the highest in Europe, and public outrage led to ten year campaign – have gone from having one of the highest to one of the lowest still birth rates in the world.

Infant mortality in Scotland - difference between richest and poorest areas, led to consensus that they needed to do something about this. Have had national strategy to do something about this, and as a result are doing better than England in addressing these.

State of child health report – looked at trends in England and in other countries. Currently 30% higher than other high-income countries. Already have some of the highest rates of childhood obesity in Western Europe.

Increase in mental health problems may reflect greater awareness and reporting of such things, but there is genuine increase in anxiety and depression in young people.

Austerity has meant that funds that used to go into prevention work are now directed more to crisis point.

Child poverty – plan of last Labour government did reduce child poverty significantly over long period, but did not eradicate it.

Infant mortality has stalled over the past few years. For children in low-income households 100-year trend reversed about 5 years ago.

Dutch and Scottish examples show that you need something shocking to bring about action.

2010 comprehensive plan for children with diabetes was put into place and this has worked. Emergency admissions have gone down.

Never had a comprehensive plan to deal with asthma and we have seen increase in hospital admissions and increase in health inequality between different groups.

We may now have got to a point where population are not prepared to accept current trends and we are going to do something about health inequalities.

Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Hosnieh Marbini

Doctors are really poor at advertising these facts and engaging with health inequalities. How can doctors become more engaged and how can we get other doctors to be more engaged?

(Partnership – people don’t realise that doctors voices are listened to. What is even more powerful is doctors and young people working in partnership.)

Sarah Lasenby

Running down social workers services has led to admissions into care rocketing. Costs of care are phenomenal.

(Agree with this.)

Ann Black

Disappointed that did not manage to do away with limiting benefits to first two children.

Pól O Ceallaigh

Reason was to help Universal Credit system which cannot deal with more than two children.

Peter Cann

Relationship between changes introduced by Health and Social Care Act and now?

(We are starting to look at that at Nuffield Trust but it is hard to pick apart because so many changes are taking place at once.)

David Blackman

Asthma – do you relate these results to poor housing conditions and pollution.

(Diabetes is largely about what you eat and how much you are prepared to change your lifestyle, but also depends on care and advice that you are given when you are diagnosed. Housing, smoking at home, access to GPs, access to asthma nurses, all play a part in people suffering from asthma.)

Roy Darke

Important to have a wide look at poverty – broad definition includes health, education, wealth etc.

(The best thing we can do as doctors is to get patients five good GCSEs because that will have the greatest impact on their future health outcomes.)

Jane Darke

Surestart was mainly geared to educational outcomes, but wonder if the evaluations picked up any health outcomes.

(Valuation of Surestart is really contested. International studies show the longer you wait, the better the effects. Short term benefits are probably mainly for mothers’ mental health. Real economic benefits will come 15 to 20 years later when individuals are employed and have better health.)

Alex Hollingsworth

Silos and integration – can you comment on problems we have with acute medicine, social services etc organised separately? Is England too big for people to identify a problem and take ownership of it?

(Local integration – it is happening much better in some areas than others.)

Ibrahim El-hendi

People with same disease being treated in a group in one session

(This is a passion of mine. Particular interest is adolescent health.

Group clininc model for young people with diabetes, run by a youth worker. Is very promising but need to study it as a research question because there are also possibilities for doing harm..

Simon Ottino

Primary school teacher – many children with behavioural problems. Is there an increase in autism and is it related to deprivation.

(There is an increase and a shortage of specialist services is a massive problem. We don’t really know what is causing it, but is not something that is unique to this country.)

Aghileh Djafari Marbini

Is there a moral case for clinical – parties who work for the NHS and those who don’t to make the case? Royal College of Paediatricians – can take a strong stance and say that the Tories have been bad for our children.

(There are two audiences – there is an audience to changing voting behaviour, and one of changing behaviour of parties. Your suggestion might help with first, but not with second. Countries that have succeeded have done this through a cross party consensus. This can be more effective than backing people into a corner and shaming them.)

Mark Ladbrooke

We are just setting up a Socialist Health Association had Danny Dorling talk to us about effects of cuts on older people – these health indices are dropping like a stone – as though there had been a famine or a war.

UN is sending someone to find out what is happening here. It is about time that doctors became political.

(Fully support doctors being political. The stats are the sign of a society that is not working in the way that it should be.)

1. Fundraising collection £185 was collected.
2. Parliamentary Report. Anneliese Dodds MP.

Written report has been circulated. Budget – predictions Labour made before the budget did come to pass. We will have some more money coming into the NHS but not as much as we need, and it is not clear that it is sustainable. Office of Budget Responsibility predictions were wrong and released funds for them to spend now.

Need higher tax rates for the most wealthy, particularly top 5% of earners, and should reverse cuts in corporation tax rates.

Other public services – schools may be able to get some little extras, but they are struggling for basic essential staff and equipment. Happening right across Oxford. Without the shift in public health funding that we were hoping to see, much of the spending will deal with symptoms rather than causes of ill health. No extra funding for day-to-day policing, a lot of concern about this, particularly in cities such as our own. Organisations such as city councils have stepped in – funding officers to deal with drug problems in Oxford. Crime stats in Oxford unlikely to be reversed unless we increase funding for officers.

Goverrnment has changed rules for pensions, police will need to find more money to pay pensions.

Social security – saw some change. Only 1/3 back of what George Osborne took out.

Position of PLP was that we should not deprive people who are already struggling of some extra income, although we would have preferred a more progressive tax system.

Will be pushing them on digital tax and believe there are massive loopholes in proposed scheme.

Brexit – Jo Johnson has resigned from government over Brexit, Hobson’s choice between chaos and bad deal. Labour has consistently said this would not be a meaningful choice. Still massive problems around border in Ireland and impact on manufacturers, as well as science funding. Also, issue of citizens’ rights. We were promised by the government that there would be no change for people already here unless there was any criminality. But now will need to prove that you have been working or studying in an official capacity. This does not preserve citizens’ rights, and it will be the most vulnerable who will suffer.

Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Bill Mackeith

Would you welcome government announcement that Campsfield detention centre is to close next May. And will you invite members to join you on 24 November – will be a platform to extend the campaign to end all immigration detention?

(Yes want to know what will happen to people who are there, and to people who would have been sent there. Very important to link campaign to ending detention in general.)

Hosnieh Marbini

Should Labour change only the tax rise for the top 5% in government. This seems like the barrier to opposing the Tory position.

(Income tax has got much less progressive over time, now top 10% pay less of income in tax than bottom 10% so do need to do something to change this. It is right to focus on the top earners. Given salience of taxation issues for Labour, is that the fight that we want to have before the next general election. Question of whether we can deliver what we want without crossing that Rubicon.

Roy Darke

Thanks for what you are doing on Brexit. Disappointed by decision to make Buckinghamshire a unitary authority.

(There are varied views, for example in county Labour group, but my experience on doorsteps is that people do not want to be scooped up together in one Oxfordshire. Genuinely think this would be very negative in terms of local democracy, and do not think it would save money.

Cherry Mosteshar

Brexit is a contentious issue; lots of Tories are now saying we need to have a vote on the question again. Do you think this is something we can call for?

(Still genuinely have concerns about politicians saying right at this stage that we need to have another referendum. Those who voted to leave react very badly to this. But if government doesn’t listen when we vote against the deal, and call for ran election, it would be very sensible to call for a second referendum. This would be viewed as a more legitimate development. Doing it before we reach that stage, we would have very strong divisions on this. Overriding concern is that we need to try to bring people together because polarisation can be quite damaging over time.

John Tanner

EU nationals in Oxford – will they be able to get back in to the country that they live in.

Proper tax solution for google and amazon.

(Need to work much more intensively with countries who want to work with us on this and look at where we can apply a tax.)

David Blackman

Your worry about European citizens’ rights.

(Have written to immigration minister, and has been taken up by Joint Council on Immigrants, and need to coordinate with others.)

1. South-east conference report – Becky Boumelha, Adam Brodie, others

Becky Boumelha

Thank you for opportunity to go. Said that candidates for Regional Board had to have nomination of their own CLP and nomination did not imply support, but EC had discussed and agreed that delegates were mandated to vote for candidates nominated by the GC. Voted for Ann Black and Michaela Collord for Regional Board, both were elected. Carol Hayton was elected to National Policy Forum from the region, but not Tom Hayes. Participated in protest against closure of two care homes in Southampton.

Variety of speeches and panel discussions, level of discussion was very high, speakers included Anneliese Dodds and Marie Tidball. Should have more time for contribution from delegates. Motion from Brighton Pavilion CLP on Trans rights. Motion was disallowed by Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) – so CLP launched campaign to reinstate the motion. A transphobic incident at conference, led to call for CAC to reconsider, asked for vote from conference floor, vote not allowed so a group occupied the stage. We debated it the following day and the motion passed nearly unanimously.

Adam Brodie

Also voted same way as Becky. Conference was great, felt inclusive, training events were really useful. Dismayed by fact that most interesting contributions were from delegates and visitors, but these discussions were not facilitated by conference. Conference needs to try to give more of an open floor to delegates. This conference felt very unity focused, but may not be most conducive to winning elections.

Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Ann Black

Correction: candidates for regional board did not require nomination of home CLP and all EC members were informed, it is now only National Constitutional Committee candidates who do need this.

Party Democracy review agreed that there should be sweeping changes, there will be regional BAME, LGBT, Women’s and Disabilities conferences. Agree with having more contributions from the floor.

1. Oxford city Labour group report

Causes of homelessness are the deliberate policies and decisions taken by central government such as austerity and lack of affordable housing. Many council policies address the resulting increase in homelessness - council has retained housing, working as landowner to provide housing, grants to advice centres and Oxford Rent Guarantee scheme. Council has ambition that no one should sleep rough on our streets so continue to put forward and follow policies to tackle it. Severely hindered by withdrawal of funding by county council. £1.8m of city council budget goes into funding policies to support homeless. Secured £1m additional funding from central government to help address the problem. Women's only shelter, Outreach Team - OXSPOT new hub in Bonn Square to try to provide a more holistic help. Oxford winter night shelter runs from January to March and is run by church volunteers. Day services are funded by council. Severe Weather Emergency Protocol opens up additional beds when temperature drops below freezing for three consecutive nights. Model of operation, whereby staff are working extra hours, means this cannot be extended to operate every night that the temperature drops below freezing but we will strive to do this wherever possible. Moving forward we need to change the model. Would like to see basic night shelter to be open throughout the year, with additional beds in winter and SWEP in operation for all nights temperature drops below 0. We are putting in a bid to government to fund this. OXSPOT number to report rough sleepers who may need support 0300 5000 914.

Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Liz Peretz

There are other kinds of weathers that are impossible to be in. Asylum Welcome say that despite plans last winter, there are still people who are sleeping rough all throughout the year because they are migrants and are not entitled to help. Often find SWEP too complicated, and different location every night, so welcome this move from Council to keep something open. As a wealthy city, we should be able to offer a shelter for all nights.

(Agree and it makes no sense to open up short term shelters.)

Julio Gonzalez

What does council think about Catalyst - chosen as partner in regeneration process of Blackbird Leys.

(It is not social housing - many postgraduate students lived there. Looking to see whether some current residents with vulnerabilities can be housed in social housing.)

Adam Brodie

Informing people about SWEP - particularly if they are EU. Previously government used homelessness as trigger for deportation. Mental health issues of homeless population. Centre - lots of vacant property. Can the Council make use of it for homeless service provision?

(Interested to hear about vacant buildings and any proposals to make use of them. Could do a lot better on mental health.)

Alex Hollingsworth

Published our local plan for consultation – you have until Thursday 13/14 December to get comments in.

Mark Ladbrooke

County council were talking about brining in Uber.

(This was an individual county councillor, but application was never made. We have serious concerns with them, in line with London. Also have concerns that majority of taxi drivers are registered in cities, and authorities, other than Oxford.)

Sarah Lasenby

Large numbers of properties run by Catalyst and maintenance is continuously poor so why does council go on to offer more opportunities to Catalyst.

(Linda: Catalyst is a huge organisation and no decision has been taken as to who will own the buildings in Blackbird Leys.)

1. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2018 were accepted.

Stephen Marks

Difference between policy officer and political education officer?

Ann Black

No guidance or role descriptions from party on either.

1. Future meetings. Noted as **Friday 14 December 2018** (Summertown church hall, short meeting with refreshments and launch of Duncan Bowie’s book on the history of the Labour party in Oxford, **Thursday 10 January 2019** (Wesley Memorial Methodist church, possibly discussion on climate change), **Friday 8 or Thursday 14 February 2019** (topic and venue to be arranged), **Friday 8 March 2019** (AGM, Rose Hill community centre). [*NB now on Thursday 7 March 2019 because of clash with international women’s day events*]