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

**7.30 p.m. on 10 January 2019, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present:** Avril Alexander, Jana Bek, Nadine Bely-Summers, Marie-Claire Berthelson, Ann Black, David Blackman, Becky Boumelha, Adam Brodie, Peter Cann, Judy Carey, Michaela Collord, Maria Crosta, Jane Darke, Roy Darke, Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini, Tony Eaude, Clare Ferguson, Jane Fisher, David Fishman, John Fitzgerald, Linda Forrest, Will Front, Simon Garrood, Deborah Gill, Joanna Gill, Mary Gill, Julia Goodwin, Stephanie Hobson, Roger Howe, Steve Hyde, Alan Jenkin, Steve Jewitt, Emma Jones, Sally Joss, Ben Kenward, Rabyah Khan (chair),Sarah Lasenby, Felicity Leary (minutes), Peter Ledwith, Sue Ledwith, Simon Lowles, Luba Lychakaska, Anne Lyons, Jennifer Mainstone, Deborah McIlveen, A. McColl, Chris MacMackin, Michael March, Zaid Marham, Stephen Marks, Caroline Morrell, Cherry Mosteshar, M. Mukherjee, Peter Nowland,Pol O Ceallaigh, Simon Ottino, Liz Peretz,Ann Poulter, Bob Price, Caroline Raine, Chris Robins, Caroline Russell, Chris Saltmarsh, Neha Shah, Jane Stockton, Martin Stott, Sue Tanner, Ann Taylor,Geoff Taylor, Nick Walker, Alan Whitaker, Judi Williams, Peter Willsman, Joe Wilson, Maisie Wilson,

**Apologies:** Luke Akehurst, Shaista Aziz, Maggie Black, Chris Bond, John Bond, Susan Brown, Nigel Chapman, Erica Davis, Anneliese Dodds, David Emeny, Susanna Hoe, Alex Hollingsworth, Gordon Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Peter Leary, Bill MacKeith, Caroline Pinder, Susanna Pressel, David Preston, Rosemary Preston, Abdul Rahman, Linda Smith, John Tanner, Marie Vickers

1. Agenda and timings. These were agreed
2. Minutes of the all member meeting on 14 December 2018. These were agreed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising. None.
4. Urgent business, including any other business.

Geoff Taylor

Notice of free event ‘Never Again – lessons of the Holocaust’. Educational exhibition 19-26 January Oxford Town Hall.

Sue Tanner

Labour Party Women’s quiz 7pm for 7.30pm start, Rose Hill Community Centre – please do come Friday 25 January. It includes food, so please volunteer to bring some and let Julia know if you can. Also looking for volunteers for the night to help on the door. Contact: sue@tanox.demon.co.uk

Peter Cann

Friday 1 February is dignity day for pensioners and there will be a stall at Cowley Centre.

Stephen Marks

Saturday 19 January People’s Assembly Against Austerity – ‘General Election Now’ demo 12pm BBC, London.

1. Women’s conference, Telford, 23/24 February 2019 – delegates and nominations
2. **Delegates**. The following were elected by women GC delegates:

Oxford East – **Nadine Bely-Summers**

Oxford West & Abingdon – **Rabyah Khan**

1. **Nominations for the women’s conference arrangements committee**.

The executive committee agreed that our delegates will be expected to vote for the candidates nominated by their constituency without a further ballot in February, unless any candidate withdraws.

Women GC delegates in both Oxford East and Oxford West & Abingdon voted to nominate:

**Gemma Bolton**

**Teresa Clark**

**Jean Crocker**

1. Climate change, Green New Deal and just transition for workers. Presentation and discussion led by Chris Saltmarsh, Co-Director: Climate Change Campaigns at People & Planet.

How do we create a world that is sustainable? Recently inspired to get more involved with work within the Labour Party.

What do we mean by climate change – it has been portrayed as a vague threat to us all. The reality of what climate change means differs depending on who you are and where you are in the world. It can mean extreme, changing weather, fishing stocks, food insecurity, losing livelihoods, displacement, forced to move from home or from country, financial crisis. Climate injustice is a term that politicises climate change – it is defined by the injustices that we see in the world and the harms caused by climate change are most felt by the people who contributed the least to causing it. Those most responsible are often sheltered from its effects by their location or wealth. As with the financial crisis, it is the many who bear the brunt of the climate crisis. We have an opportunity to build something out there. Over the summer we were told that we have 12 years to tackle climate change.

Areas of the movement that I am involved in – work for People and Planet and manage the fossil fuel divestment campaign to pull investments out of fossil fuel industry. Important to identify the fossil fuel industry as the enemy as they continue to profit from this and to extract these materials that we need to stay below ground in order to keep temperatures low enough. Also important to participate in and develop mass movement for climate justice. I am involved in anti-fracking movement – this is on the front line of environmental campaigns. There are those currently seeking to set up new fossil fuel industry in this country. Many of the interests seeking to set up these new industries are in our own country - British capital, and British government. It is our responsibility as socialists to stand up to this. Another campaign is Extinction Rebellion – activists prepared to shut down a bridge or similar to get their message across. We should take this as a challenge as a political party to do better. We are best placed to provide an alternative narrative – against austerity and also against climate change.

Labour’s climate policy – includes 60% energy to come from renewable sources within 10-12 years of coming to power, banning fracking, insulating homes, more rail electrification, free bus travel for under 25s, putting environment at heart of foreign policy, divesting DfID investments towards low carbon investments. Members should leverage this and demand more specific and ambitious targets.

Green New Deal – put forward in UK by economists such as Anne Pettifor of the New Economics Foundation, and has found traction in US. Rather than frame climate change as scary overwhelming crisis, this frames it as an opportunity to build. Talks about all of the things that we can achieve in our communities.

Climate policy could be a bit better. There often appears to be a tension between the green movement and the labour movement – such as in the debate over the Heathrow expansion. I want to bring to the climate movement an understanding about the labour movement and the reasons they act in the way that they do. I would like to bring to the labour movement the idea that there really isn’t a separation between the two programmes – the people who are driving climate breakdown are the same people who are driving inequality in our societies. If we want to irreversibly change society so that it works for the many and not just the few, it can be the same policies that can lead to climate justice.

Questions and comments included (with responses in brackets):

Emma Jones

Toxic relationship between the fossil fuel industry and the arms industry

(Agree there is a lot of opportunity – we should take assets from the likes of BA and bring them into public ownership.)

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Do you really believe we can have any action against climate change unless we get rid of the need for companies to make extreme profits?

Ben Kenward

Understand why you need to be upbeat and talk about the New Green Deal, but the reality is it really is a crisis.

(Agree with urgency – changes need to be made. Big divide is whether it is lifestyle changes can work or whether we need more systemic changes.)

Pol O Ceallaigh

As President of Trades Council, spoke at Divestment campaigns rally, from trades unions perspective we are showing that there are opportunities to make lots more new jobs. UNISON has finally agreed to divest from fossil fuel. Call on members to put similar motions to your union branches.

Joanna Gill

Here at Labour Party meeting for first time in long time. Cross party consensus is so important – this is the only way we can have a nationwide acceptance that this is what we need.

(Would love Tories to come on board with this agenda, but they haven’t and they continue to drive this climate injustice. Maybe the way we will win is to politicise climate change.)

1. Fundraising collection £178.80 was collected.
2. Motions Women’s conference, Telford, 23/24 February 2019 – Motions
3. **Motions**. The motions proposed were voted on by women attending the AMM.
4. Electoral Reform and Women’s Representation

Women are currently 32% of elected MPs in the UK, a record for Westminster. But we remain 38th in the world order. In Europe the Scandinavians lead with Iceland on 47.6%, Sweden 43.6% and Finland 42%. These all have proportional representation electoral systems. PR is shown, worldwide, to return more women to parliament. These are also consensus democracies, with positive indicators for equality, lower rates of inflation and unemployment, higher spending on welfare and social programmes, energy efficiency, lower rates of prison incarceration, and higher foreign aid.

Evidence also shows that women legislators raise distinctive concerns affecting women. Under-representation of women in parliament thus has consequences for the public policy agenda and the articulation of women’s interests. It also raises questions of democratic legitimacy.

On this basis, we believe that our current parliamentary electoral system of First Past the Post is antidemocratic and anti-equality. We need to change to a form of proportional representation for national elections which can deliver a gender balance and in which seats will broadly reflect the votes cast. This should be one which also allows M.P.s to keep their local constituency link.

This Conference calls upon the Labour Party to reject First Past the Post, the current voting system for General Elections, and to include proposals for reform in the Party's manifesto for the next general election, with the declared intent that the new electoral changes will be put in place for the following general elect

The motion was proposed by Sue Ledwith and seconded by Julia Goodwin.

The motion was defeated with 18 votes in favour and 20 votes against.

1. Building a Britain for the many, not the few

Conference notes that in November 2018 the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights delivered a searing verdict on 'austerity' policies and their impact, stating cuts and reforms to social security had been driven by a goal of radical social engineering and 'there is such a gender dimension to these welfare reforms that if you got a group of misogynists in a room and said how can we make this system work for men and not for women they would not have come up with too many ideas that are not already in place'.

Women, BAME and disabled women in particular, have borne the brunt of austerity, with severe cuts to public services, social security, the growth of insecure work and a spiralling housing crisis. This has placed women at greater risk of sexual harassment and violence and our ability to enforce our rights has been restricted.

Conference welcomes Labour's strong policies to:

* end austerity and build a country for the many not the few;
* deliver social justice, greater equality and stronger trade union and employment rights;
* properly fund our public services, including social care and childcare;
* end privatisation;
* build council homes;
* tackle unequal pay for women;
* extend public ownership; and
* invest £500 billion over 10 years to transform our country and ensure the rewards of wealth are genuinely shared.

Conference resolves to unite behind this agenda, putting women at the centre of this economic and social transformation and win a Jeremy Corbyn led Labour government to achieve it.

The motion was proposed by Felicity Leary and seconded by Becky Boumelha.

The motion was carried unanimously.

1. NHS charging for ante-natal and maternity care

Annual Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante-natal and maternity care.

We note these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care; they and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is deemed to be 'immediately necessary' and should be given, regardless of ability to pay. However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by Home Office officials when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1) call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations - and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact

2) call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government

3) call for all NHS Trusts to:

a) provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.

b) exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care.

c) ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

The motion was proposed by Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini and seconded by Neha Shah

The motion was carried unanimously.

The motions on ‘Building a Britain for the many’ and on ‘NHS charging for ante-natal and maternity care’ will submitted to Women’s conference.

1. Parliamentary report - Anneliese Dodds MP

Anneliese has sent apologies as she was stuck in London and her written report was circulated to members.

1. Motions from branches
2. **Mental health** proposed by the Rose Hill, Iffley & Littlemore branch

This meeting notes:

* The words of Nye Bevan, the Labour Party’s founder of the National Health Service, prior to its creation in 1948: “One… disability from which our health system suffers is the isolation of mental health services from the rest of the health services.” 70 years on, we are still some way off ‘parity of esteem’ between mental and physical health.
* The announcement in the Budget of £2bn of ‘new’ money for mental health services, which the Institte for Public Policy Research (IPPR) says is only half what is needed to begin to create a true parity of esteem between mental and physical health. New findings by the IPPR show that mental health spending in the NHS should increase from £12 billion in 2017/18 to £23.9 billion in 2030/31.
* Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) continues to be the lowest funded CCG per capita in England, meaning funding for mental health services is becoming increasingly stretched in the face of rising referrals.
* Local adult mental health services face pressures due to increased levels of referrals (up 29.5% in the past three years, with a 1.1% increase in money available to meet the increase). By spreading this new money thinly over five years, the Government will exacerbate the strain being experienced by local mental health services.
* Staff retention is an issue at all levels because of low wages, stresses placed on hard-working public sector staff, and, as acknowledged by the chief executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Brexit. The Government is not giving health professionals from the EU27 countries the certainty that they are welcome in Oxford and the UK.
* There are human costs to underfunded services. Those who are living with severe mental illness are expected to die between 15–20 years earlier than those without. One in four of us will experience a mental health problem each year. Many people still suffer in silence or go without treatment.
* The impact of underfunding mental health services is compounded by the government's austerity agenda in general which has adversely affected benefits, housing and other services, leading to increasing pressure on mental health and lack of support for wellbeing.

**This meeting resolves:**

* To call on the Leader of the Labour Party to ensure parity of esteem between mental and physical health services.
* To call for the Party’s next manifesto to earmark extra spending to reverse the underinvestment in mental health services, with a focus on early intervention for children and young people in schools and local communities, as well as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and improved access to treatment for common mental health conditions such as depression, including through the NHS programme of IAPT (Improved Access to Psychological Therapies).

The motion was proposed by Caroline Raine and formally seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Make Oxford an Anti-Racist City** proposed by The Leys branch

This meeting notes the increase in racism and hate crime as well as increased activism by far-right/nazi groups.

The UN special rapporteur on racism Professor Tendayi Achiume visited England earlier this year and highlights:

* Increase in hate crimes and incidents across the UK after the referendum to leave the EU.
* Growth in volume and acceptability of xenophobic discourses on migration, and on foreign nationals including refugees in social and print media.
* Gross human rights violations and indignities that Afro-Caribbean British citizens popularly referred to as the ‘Windrush generation’ have had to endure as a result of the so-called ‘hostile environment’ policy.
* The criminalisation of young people from ethnic minorities, especially young black men.
* They are over-represented in police stop and searches and are over-represented in the prison system including ‘a pervasive and officially tolerated culture of racial profiling is at work in certain police forces, and that racial and ethnic minority children and youth are among the most vulnerable’.
* That Operation Prevent, the government’s counter-terrorism strategy, should be suspended while officials conduct a comprehensive audit of its impact on racial equality.
* Structural racism is still an everyday reality for people from black, Asian and other minority and refugee communities.

**Increase in incidents in Oxford**

In April 2015 to 2016 the number of hate crime reports were 398 in Oxfordshire, compared to 623 April 2016 to May 2017 shows an average rise of over 40 per cent.

This meeting also notes that action is required to make Oxford an anti-racist city. This includes stopping racist attacks and taking other actions to address all forms of racism in Oxford.

This meeting resolves to:

- Support and work with the group Make Oxford an Anti-racist city

- Call on Oxford Labour to support Make Oxford an Anti-racist city and work with Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, local Labour branches, trade unions and other organisations to Make Oxford an Anti-racist City.

Debbie McIlveen proposed the motion and it was formally seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

1. **The Debt Trap** proposed by the Greater Headington branch

* *Households in the UK now owe 239 billion in unsecured debt (i.e. on loans, credit cards, overdrafts, debts to doorstep lenders, and rent-to-own products), exceeding the pre-2008 peak by 4.6%*
* An estimated 7.6 million people owe the equivalent of at least a third of their entire annual incomes, and nearly 9 million people are spending more than a quarter of their income on debt repayments.
* The poorest are in the greatest financial difficulty. Just under half (44%) of all households spending more than a quarter of their income on debt repayments have incomes of less than £15,000 per year.

**This All Members Meeting believes...**

That low wages, insecure work and social security cuts mean that growing numbers of families are having to turn to rip-off lenders charging extortionate interest rates to make ends meet, landing them deep in debt.

That the poorest families are being hit the hardest.

That the growing debt trap is driving poverty, misery, mental health problems, and homelessness, and completely unacceptable impacts on child wellbeing.

That we need urgent action by the government to tackle the debt trap, including a cap on interest rates and charges for all types of consumer credit, and action on the structural causes of indebtedness: low wages, insecure work, and cuts to our social safety net.

It's likely that some of the poorest families will need a debt write-off to lift them out of the debt trap and give them a fresh start.

We call on

Oxford City and County Councillors to:

* Consider increasing the funding of the work of local advice centres,
* Work with food banks to ensure adequate provision locally.
* Take active measures to promote the Oxford Living Wage.
* Continue to deal strictly with exploitative rogue landlords.

Our MPs

* To raise the issue of indebtedness in parliament; calling on the government urgently to address the issues of
* Lack of truly affordable housing
* An inadequate minimum wage
* Underfunding of Universal Credit.

The motion was proposed by Simon Lowles and was formally seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

1. South-east regional board, 8 December 2018. Ann Black and Michaela Collord represent Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire CLPs on the board. Ann’s report and the Momentum report have been circulated to members.
2. Future meetings. Noted as **Friday 8 February 2019** (Dean Court, Botley, topic to be arranged), **Thursday 7 March 2019** (AGM, Rose Hill community centre), **Thursday 9 or Friday 10 May** (?Abingdon), **Thursday 13 or Friday 14 June** (?GLOW, Blackbird Leys), **Thursday 11 or Friday 12 July** (?Kidlington).
3. Any Other Business

Liz Peretz

Please support the Stansted 15 – we do not know exact date of the appeal but may be 4/5 February and there will be protestors outside. The appeals are extremely expensive and an appeal has been launched a couple of days ago – to donate please go to [http://enddeportations.com](http://enddeportations.com/).