Minutes of South West Central branch on 20th November 2018

1. Present: John & Sue Tanner, Pol O Ceallaigh (chair), Rosemary & David Preston, Roger Howe, Richard & Ruth Shallard, Stephen Marks, Anne Lyons, Colin Gordon, Emma Turnbull, Felicity Leary, Edward Pope, Liz Peretz, Bill MacKeith, Colin Cook, Alex Donnelly & Susanna Pressel.
2. Apologies: Tonya Kocharova, Harm-Jan Fricke, Gina Ullman, Abdul Rahman, Sobia Afridi, Richard Howlett, Alex Hollingsworth and Pat & Gordon Kennedy.
3. Minutes: Minutes of 16th October agreed.
4. Motions:
   1. After discussion a motion on a People’s Vote, proposed Colin Gordon, was amended. The amended motion was then agreed overwhelmingly. It reads:
   2. **“This branch calls on the Labour front bench to continue to adhere to Party policy, adopted overwhelmingly at conference, by voting against Theresa May’s deal. In the event that her deal is defeated in Parliament, Labour should demand a general election and campaign across the country to bring down the Government. Labour should campaign in the election to renegotiate on the basis of Labour’s six points and then hold another referendum to choose between the best terms Labour can get; and remaining in the EU to campaign for reform with other left and progressive forces across Europe”**
   3. After discussion the following motion, proposed Bill MacKeith, was agreed overwhelmingly. **“This branch asks the Labour Party to call for sanctions against the government of Cameroon, which is responsible for crimes against humanity, including forcible displacement of communities, and for denial of civil rights. The main victims are the English-speaking minority in Cameroon. The Tory Government has taken no effective action and has failed to acknowledge that the UK, having unjustly forced the former Southern Cameroons to join a larger entity in 1961, has a moral responsibility to protect the population of that territory and to support its right to self-determination.”** Agreed to send to National Policy Forum and Front Bench but not to All Member Meeting.
5. Oxford Living Wage: The campaign was meeting that evening.
6. Financial Report: Richard reported £679.68 in the account, with £69 of standing orders each month. **Secretary to put account details on future branch communications.**
7. Reports from councillors:
   1. Colin Cook listed his many Lord Mayor appointments and was applauded. Alex Donnelly reported parking concerns in Hinksey Park ward and that the City’s new Local Plan has been agreed. Susanna said Damian Haywood had been elected to the County in the Iffley Fields & St Mary’s by-election. Oxford City is supporting 30 Syrian refugee families. Emma added the County is reviewing its vehicle fleet after Labour stopped the cut to Severe Educational Needs transport. County Labour Group is campaigning to end secrecy at the Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee.
8. Concerns of Members: Rosemary is concerned about traffic jams to the Westgate Centre. Bill MacKeith was congratulated on the impending closure of Campsfield Immigration Detention Centre. Alex Donnelly said the Home Office was privatising its immigration service.
9. Next Meeting: Agreed to meet briefly on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30 pm followed by drinks in the Lord Mayor’s Parlour.

John Tanner, secretary, 21/11/18