Minutes South West Central Branch on 16 October 2018

1. Present: Tonya Kocharova (chair), James Urwick, Colin Gordon, Felicity Leary (minutes), Pol O Ceallaigh, Rosemary Preston, Sue Tanner, David Elwell, Sobia Afridi, Alex Donnelly, Roger Howe, Harm Jan Fricke, Richard Shallard, Ruth Shallard, Edward Pope, Susanna Pressel, Wendy Mantle, Liz Peretz, Richard Howlett, Bill MacKeith, Anne Lyons, Stephen Marks, Colin Cook, Dan Iley-Williamson, John Tanner

Apologies: Marie Tidball, Peter Leary, David Preston, Susan Brown, Jane Caplan, Bruce McClaren, Bob Price, Nadine Bely-Summers, Pat and Gordon Kennedy

1. Minutes 18 September

These were approved, subject to the correction to spelling of Pol O Ceallaigh’s name.

1. Matters Arising

Susanna reported that Hospital trusts are very keen to introduce pay weighting for Oxford NHS and are lobbying for permission from government. Pól reported that Bob is waiting for response from Sarah Carter, NEU. **Bob and Pól to update on cash crisis for local schools at next meeting.** The motion regarding anti-semitism was passed unanimously at the AMM.

1. Speakers:
2. James Urwick – Crisis in Cameroon, Banbury and Bicester Constituency Labour Party have passed a resolution calling on the British Government to impose sanctions on the government of Cameroon, in order to put pressure on them to stop oppression of Anglophone minority. The people of the former southern Cameroons are demanding justice. Regime is oppressive and corrupt and has tried to marginalise the Anglophone population. Currently 400k internally displaced people, and 60k refugees in Nigeria. Crisis has intensified because regime refuses to discuss constitutional change. This was followed by questions and discussion.
3. Colin Gordon – A People’s Vote, Oxford for Europe group sprang up in response to the referendum. Local groups campaigning against Brexit are cross-party. Two recent All Member Meetings have passed pro EU votes. Colin spoke about local groups campaigning for a People’s Vote. Also discussed what messages the Labour Party could campaign on if there was to be a second referendum, and how to build a mass movement from current modest levels of campaigning. Discussed attempts to create cross party campaign. This was followed by questions and discussion.
4. Oxford Living Wage Oxford Living Wage meeting last night - a rally planned for week commencing 5 November. **Pól to let Bill, Bob and Anne know date of public meeting.**
5. Reports from councillors

Richard Howlett reported on process of asking residents how they would like ward member budget spent and other recent activities.

Dan Iley-Williamson Full council meeting tomorrow for the Local Plan. West Area Planning Committee last week approved controversial hotel in Summertown.

Susanna Pressel County ouncil about to start a restructure and shed up to 800 full time jobs. Forced to make £33m savings because of government cuts. Demand rocketing for adult and children’s social care. Oxford flood alleviation scheme – local environment group has started fighting against it. Susanna agreed to Bill’s proposal to meet with user organisations – with the aim of developing a campaign against cuts from viewpoint of user groups.

1. Concerns of members

Pól – urged members to take part in online consultation on discount scheme to assist those on universal credit.

Tonya - Gender recognition act consultation is ongoing – support the rights of trans people to get recognised.

John Tanner – need all members out campaigning on Thursday for county council by-election. Anneliese Dodds keen for members to publicise Cowley Branch line on Friday.

1. Any Motions

Pol to contact James Urwick and propose wording for a motion on Cameroon at the next meeting.

Praised work of John and Sue Tanner to organise and host of work of European Socialists that John Tanner organised.

1. Next meeting: Tuesday 20 November, Town Hall