Minutes of South West Central Branch on 18th December 2018

1. Present: Sue & John Tanner, Pol O Ceallaigh (chair), Pat & Gordon Kennedy, David & Rosemary Preston, Richard & Ruth Shallard, Susanna Pressel, Sobia (& Sharik) Afridi, Roger Howe, Richard Howlett, Tonya Kocharova, Liz Peretz, Felicity Leary, Nadine Bely-Summers, Stephen Marks, Anne Lyons, Bill MacKeith & Colin Cook.
2. Apologies: Harm-Jan Fricke, Lis Ledger, Wendy Mantle, Marie Tidball & Bruce McLaren.
3. Minutes: Minutes of 20th November agreed. Sue reported on the outcome of the Europe motions at the All Member Meeting. The SWC motion was amended to remove the last sentence. But a resolution from East Oxford branch did call for a second referendum.
4. Oxford Living Wage: **Agreed to encourage each member to ask a shop, institution or club if they paid at least the Oxford Living Wage of £10.02 an hour before the next meeting.**
5. Reports from councillors:
   1. Sobia said the County Council was planning huge cuts to adult social care and mental health, which is devastating and depressing. Susanna said Labour wanted to abolish the £15,000 community fund for each councillor which would free up nearly £1 million.
   2. More and more children were being taken into care, people were living longer but the Government was slashing funding for councils. The County Council budget is out to consultation at: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/BudgetConsultation2019_20/consultationHome>
   3. Tonya took the chair. **After discussion agreed to organise protests at the County Council Cabinet on Tuesday 22nd January for 2 pm and full County Council on Tuesday 12th February for 10.30 am. John to contact other branches and Constituency Labour Parties. He and Tonya will draft motion for All Member Meeting on January 10th.**
   4. Richard Howlett said the City Council was taking responsibility for rough sleepers with no connection to Oxford and extending the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP).
6. Women’s Conference: **Women present agreed that Nadine Bely-Summers should go to the Telford Conference if her diary allows. Nadine agreed to draft a motion on austerity in any case.**
7. Concerns of members: Bill reported that Stansted 15 are due to be sentenced in February and are likely to appeal. More information can be found at: <http://enddeportations.com/>
8. AGM: The branch meeting on Tuesday 15th January will be the Annual General Meeting. John, who has been secretary for 16 years, will be standing down.
9. The meeting was followed by a Lord Mayor’s reception at the kind invitation of Colin Cook.

John Tanner 19th December 2018