Minutes of South West Central branch on 15th January 2019

1. Present: Hugh & Phyllis Starkey, Harm-Jan Fricke, Bob Price, Graham Smith, Richard & Ruth Shallard, Marie Tidball (chair) with baby Sophie, Alex Hollingsworth, Colin Cook, Gordon & Pat Kennedy, Sobia Afridi, Roger Howe, Edward Pope, Bruce McLaren, Jane Caplin, Mark Hathaway, Liz Peretz, Pól O’Ceallaigh, Peter & Felicity Leary, Stephen Marks, Ann Lyons, Hugo Raine, Jack Kelly, Marina Lambrakis, Neha Shah, Bill MacKeith, Kenny Stanton, Tony Richardson, Susan Brown, Richard Howlett, Cathy & Howard Gospel, Sue & John Tanner.
2. Apologies: Tonya Kocharova, Dan Iley-Williamson, Emma Turnbull, Susanna Pressel, Becca O’Vallins, Abdul Rahman, Ben Carhill, Alex Donnelly & Colin Gordon.
3. Minutes: Minutes of AGM on 16th January 2018 and last meeting on 18th December agreed.
4. Matters Arising:
   1. **Agreed that protests at County Council on 22nd January and 12th February should go ahead. John to produce a briefing news release.**
   2. Oxford Living Wage: members reported on their advocacy of the Oxford Living Wage. **Richard Howlett will request leaflets from Martyn Rush.**
5. Brexit: At this point members interrupted to say Theresa May’s European Union withdrawal agreement had been defeated in the Commons by 230 votes.
6. Reports:
   1. Finance: Richard Shallard circulated accounts for 2018 showing £805.68 in the bank.
   2. Secretary: John was standing down after more than 25 years as branch secretary. He was thanked for his hard work and given a bottle of whiskey.
   3. Councillors: Alex Hollingsworth said City Council agreed a new Local Plan and Zero Emission Zone will be implemented in two phases. Sobia said Labour wanted to scrap the councillors’ community funds and employ youth workers instead.
7. Elections:
   1. **Branch Officers: The following were agreed. Chair: Pól** **O’Cealliagh & Tonya Kachorova (job share), Vice-chairs: Marie Tidball & Liz Peretz, Secretary: Felicity Leary, Treasurer: Richard Shallard, Women’s Officer: Neha Shah, Membership Officer: Ann Lyons, Campaigns Committee representative: Felicity Leary.**
   2. **Delegates to Oxford Party: Thirty one people were agreed. Sue Tanner, Neha Shah, Felicity Leary, Julia Hamilton, Marina Lambrakis, Anne Lyons, Jenny Stanton, Liz Peretz, Pat Kennedy, Susan Brown, Izzy Hollingsworth, Cathy Gospel, Marie Tidball, Phyllis Starkey, Emma Turnbull, Tonya Kocharova & Jane Caplin (17 women). John Tanner, Abdul Rahman, Jack Kelly, Hugo Raine, Peter Leary, Stephen Marks, Bill MacKeith, Edward Pope, Gordon Kennedy, Colin Cook, Alex Hollingsworth, Ben Carhill, Bob Price & Harm-Jan Fricke (14 men).**
   3. **Officer Nominations: The following were agreed unanimously. Chair: Rabyah Khan, Vice chair: Jane Darke, Policy Officer: Stephen Marks, Treasurer: Alex Hollingsworth, Vice-chair: Michaela Collord, Secretary: Anne Black, Assistant Secretary: Felicity Leary, Membership: Jane Stockton/Geoff Taylor (job share), Women: Neha Shah, Ethnic Miniorities: Becky Boumelha/Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini (job share), Youth: Chris Saltmarsh, Disability: Marie Tidball, LGBT: Tom Hayes, Trade Unions: Abdul Rahman, Fund Raising: Cherry Mosteshar.**
   4. **Party Conference: The following were agreed. Oxford East: Emma Turnbull & Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini. Oxford West & Abingdon: Liz Peretz & Peter Leary.**
8. Motion: The following motion proposed by Alex Hollingsworth and amended by Liz Peretz was agreed unanimously:
   1. “This Branch welcomes the Shelter report 'A Vision for Social Housing' published in January 2019, which sets out a clear path for restoring the place of social housing as a part of the fabric of our society rather than a tenure of last resort.
   2. “The impact of the housing crisis can be seen across the country, but particularly in Oxford and Oxfordshire, with the young and old trapped in unaffordable privately rented homes and an increasing homelessness that scars our society.
   3. “Evidence of house building figures since 1945 shows that this country has only built enough homes when both the private AND public sectors are contributing to the total; the catastrophic decline in investment in social housing has been the direct cause of the current housing crisis.
   4. “At the same time as government investment in social housing has fallen so the cost of government support for those in private rented accommodation has risen, meaning that spending on housing has been shifted away from providing homes and towards subsidising private landlords.
   5. “Shelter's commission, draw from experts and politicians from across the political spectrum, recommends a 20-year programme to deliver 3.1 million more social homes; this Branch believes that such a programme would be financially efficient as well as socially and morally necessary, and moreover that it would form the basis for a Labour Party manifesto that is genuinely for the many not the few.
   6. “This branch therefore calls on Oxford and District Labour Party to campaign on a platform of building more social housing, and calls on the Labour Party nationally to put the recommendations of "A Vision for Social Housing", in particular the building of 3.1m new social homes and the training, recruiting and development of the skilled workforce required to deliver those homes, at the heart of its manifesto at the next General Election”.
9. Next meeting: Agreed to meet on Tuesday 12th February and not on the third Tuesday so as not to clash with ‘Education Crisis’ meeting.

John Tanner, outgoing secretary 16/1/19 version 2

So long and thanks for all the fish!