

Socialist Societies Executive Meeting

Minutes of meeting 27 January 2009



Present: Anne Hock, Dianne Hayter, Sally Mulready, Neil Nerva, Nicholas Russell, Simon Wright, David Caplin, Fred Grindrod, Emma Burnell, Melanie Smallman, Marianne Hood.

1. Apologies for Absence

Jacky Peacock, Carlie Newman, Judith Bara, Huw Davies, Martin Rathfelder, Sheila Doré, Martin Doré.

2. Anne Hock: Popularis

Anne introduced the issue of how the Socialist Societies participate in internal elections and conference votes. Although smaller numbers, our turnout is high. At Conference, there has been confusion about the ballot books for votes which should be collected from herself or Renee Finan in the elections office.

Only Socialist Societies that affiliate to the Scottish or Welsh parties are eligible to vote in their elections. Increasingly, we can have email ballot papers through electronic votes. In Scottish election some of the Societies voted electronically. Anne offered that a special site for the Socialist Societies to vote to identify who lives in the relevant region. The Wales leadership election this year is a chance to experiment so there might be flexibility for Societies about how ballot papers are sent.

3. Minutes of meeting of 13 November

Minutes of meeting were agreed as accurate although did not record who was present.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. NEC Report

Report from today's NEC. Discussion about strategies for Euro elections, including targeting by interest groups. Societies encouraged to get messages to all members, wherever they live in the UK.

Polls volatile as lots of former LibDem voters now moving around. In US elections, the predicted turnout of young people did not materialise as predicted. Key issues likely to be jobs. Virtual Phonebank will be set up in time for June elections. Donations needed to pay for the campaign (this is ringfenced from the debt repayment and staff costs).

Barack Obama is here on 2 April so G20 meeting will be an opportunity to make sure recession and solutions are global.

Concerns raised about blocking FOIs for MPs expenses and the Labour Peers accused of corruption.

6. National Policy Forum

Meeting on 28 February will look at how the "delayed" general election is going to be handled when circumstances have changed so much since Warwick. Discussion how the NPF could contribute to building campaign momentum.

7. Treasurer

Emma has sent out invoices - all Societies are asked to pay. There will be substantial income in the bank and we can think about using money for Conference activities.

8. AOB

None.

9. Date of next meeting.

23 March, 18 May (to be changed), 20 July, 21 September.