

# Minutes – Socialist Societies Executive

Monday 18 May 2009 6.30pm

## **1. Introductions and apologies**

Present: David Caplin, Jacky Peacock, Melanie Smallman, Dianne Hayter, Martin Doré, Emma Burnell, Andy Flannaghan, Simon Wright, Sally Mulready, Neil Nerva.

Apologies from Carlie Newman, Martin Rathfelder, Nicholas Russell, Fred Grindrod, Marianne Hood, Huw Davies, Neil Nerva (leaving early), Sheila Doré.

## **2. Minutes of March meeting** available to download from [here](#).

Agreed.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Simon to continue to try to arrange Harriet Harman or Maria Eagle for Equality Bill briefing at next meeting.

Simon to send membership list out with the minutes.

## **4. NEC Report**

Discussion about expenses scandal and Party's response. Apology to members needed, PLP should not investigate itself, PLP donation to Party required.

Great concern about this issue, how to respond, mandatory re-selection interviews, repayment of resources. Expressed disgust at MPs who have played the system, knowing that what they were doing would look bad if it ever came into the public domain and therefore have brought the party into disrepute. All agreed that need for swift and high-profile action against miscreants. Might be a members' committee through NEC to which any MP can be referred.

## **5. European Elections**

Lawrie Nerva's paper was strongly endorsed and thanks to him for putting this forward. Asked that it be brought to attention of NEC.

6. **Speaker: Andy Flannaghan**

New Director of Christian Socialist Movement. CSM have moved into Victoria Street, new website and finances good. Building alliances for a renewed ambition, including new groups who are motivated for progressive policies and Christian groups who interpret their faith as calling for collective action. Discussion about joint values and opportunities to work together. Producing a document with faith groups. Andy to look into Victoria Street as venue.

7. **2009 Party Conference**

Simon to look into display stands. SERA have taken block booking for King's Hotel. CSM also have block booking. Both to send contact details for Simon to circulate.

8. **Friends Groups Update**

Dianne attended Sikh Friends of Labour and Polish Friends of Labour. Labour Friends of China might start.

9. **Officers' Reports**

Treasurer's Report: £850 has been banked; bank name change in progress.

10. **Any Other Business**

Information exchange should go back on agenda.

11. **Date of next meetings:** 20 July 2009, 21 September 2009.