

Labour Party Socialist Societies Executive

Minutes of Meeting: Monday 19 March 2007

1. Introductions and apologies

Present: Nigel Spearing (SEA), Gareth Davies (LPDMG), Simon Wright (Labour Campaign for Lesbian & Gay Rights & Secretary), Huw Davies (Socialist Health Association), Malcolm Horne (SEA), Emma Burnell (SERA), Judith Bara (JLM), Sally Mulready (LPIMG), Martin Tiedmann (Co-operative Party), Dianne Hayter (NEC).

Apologies: Jacky Peacock, Nicholas Russell, Pete Moorey, Carlie Newman, Bill Thomas, David Caplin, Hywel Lloyd, Neil Nerva, Judith Blakeman, Sunder Katwala,

Emma Burnell agreed to chair.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Agreed. Noting that it was Neil, not Lawrie, Nerva who attended.

3. Matters arising.

None.

4. Guest Speaker: Martin Tiedmann, Co-operative Party

Martin gave a talk about the role of the Co-operative Party both in relation to the wider Co-operative movement and to the Labour Party (presentation will be on the webspace). As Co-operative Party is a separate political party it does not affiliate to the Labour Party (they have a mutual agreement which also means that Co-op reps on the National Policy Forum). There was discussion about how to link....particularly for policy events. Agreed that Martin would be on the wider list of contacts – with the Friends Groups etc. Also that Dianne could speak to their Executive to forge a stronger link with the NEC.

5. NEC Report

NEC discussing boundary change decisions, All-Women shortlists. Range of local government, women's and youth events around the country in place of Spring Conference. Noted that this has involved many more people than usual but no decision yet about 2008. Staff have been halved to cut costs, reducing to essential functions. Deal has been reached on staff pensions including raising retirement age to 65. Dianne seeking nominations for the NEC position – deadline 6 June. Hayden Phillips review: negotiations ongoing to try to reach cross-party agreement to legislate before election. May have to accept some compromises but this far better than risking Tories making law.

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6. National Policy Forum

SW gave brief report of 3 February meeting, noting that written report is on the webspace.

7. Leadership elections

Very important that all Societies prepare for this and inform Dianne now who will be responsible for running the process. When Leadership and/or Deputy Leadership election called, ten days for MPs to nominate. Not all current potential Deputy candidates can possibly be nominated. SocSocs and CLPs can then make supporting nominations. Societies need to ensure their membership records are robust and clean and decide how to run ballot following the rules. Non-Party members must sign to say that they "support Labour". Guidance notes previously circulated are on webspace.

8. Black Socialist Society

This now exists as an affiliated body, with one NEC rep (Keith Vaz MP) and four National Policy Forum representatives.

9. Labour Friends Groups

Labour Arab Group may be preparing to affiliate. Muslims for Labour active. Africans for Labour may become active through the BSS.

10. Officers Reports

Thanks to Pete Moorey for his work as Treasurer, as he is now stepping down. Emma Burnell elected as Treasurer.

11. Any Other Business

Labour Party Irish Society having big relaunch on 27 March at House of Commons 4pm-6pm....other Societies welcome; also working on a joint deputy hustings with other BME groups.

SERA keen to work with SHA on the All-Party Walking Group.

12. Date of Next Meetings.

21 May 2007, 16 July 2007, 17 September (may be moved).