

Minutes – Socialist Societies Executive

Monday 28 January 2008, 6.30pm

Present: Marianne Hood, Jim Moher, Dianne Hayter, Andrew Bradstock, Simon Wright, Sheila Dore, Jacky Peacock, Sally Mulready.

Apologies: Fred Grindrod, Huw Davies, Nicholas Russell, Carlie Newman, David Caplin, Bill Thomas.

1. **Introductions and apologies**
2. **Minutes of meetings** 5 November and 17 September
 - Agreed.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - Agreed to invite BSS to a future meeting.
 - No.10 reception, consider child poverty focus to interest No.10? To discuss later.
4. **NEC Report: Dianne Hayter**
 - Ongoing financial concerns and need to increase staff working on compliance with electoral law.
 - Appointment of new General Secretary, Scottish GS & head of press. Interviews and shortlisting ongoing.
 - Issues of governance. Being reviewed again, to strengthen scrutiny and clarity of responsibilities.
 - Review of rules etc for Leadership elections
 - 2008 London and local elections
 - 2009 European elections and selections
 - PES: Sofia, PES Bureau to London in January, when they met Gordon Brown, various ministers and members of the NEC; DH to Brux in March to see Labour MEPs and sister parties, NEC to Brux in May – first such meeting – to discuss June 2009 European elections (campaign and manifesto) with the EPLP and with the Party of European Socialists
 - Spring conference 29 Feb - 2 March (credentials mailings, 11-22 Feb)
 - Vice Chairs of the party in parliament; these are leading on “outreach” work of the party with specific groups (e.g. faith groups, youth, etc)
 - “Friends” of Labour meeting happening on 18 February, organised with Stephen Timms by Andrew Bradstock. Mainly the ethnic and faith groups.
 - Labour Transport Group has started.

- Labour Humanist Group also formally started and may do an event with SEA on faith schools.
- Cath Speight taken over as Vice-Chair of the NEC.

5. Follow up with Ed Miliband

Seems more intention to link with the National Policy Forum (Ed Miliband wants to get the parliamentary party manifesto leads to submit by end of February. Then will go to the Policy Commissions in April and to July NPF). Societies should try to get any written submission in by the end of March.

Idea for a joint activity on “child poverty” (or the idea that Martin Rathfelder proposed on inequalities previously). Could be a Commons evidence session. Cradle to grave idea on Labour’s values to address inequalities. Sheila: need to evaluate existing policies.

Simon, Marianne and Andrew to do some work preparing for this.

6. MPurIs for Socialist Societies

Simon to chase MPurIs.

7. Next NPF elections

If Societies willing to do the same system last time (we have internal hustings and agree to make only three nominations) we should hold this at the May 2008. Simon to circulate the timetable.

8. Spring Conference

There will be a stand at conference. Gareth Gould of LGBT Labour, Melanie Smallman of SERA and Martin Rathfelder of SHA will jointly run it. Other Societies to confirm names of reps who can help.

9. Report from National Policy Forum (1 December)

Noted.

10. Officers' Reports including Treasurer's Report

No reports. Jacky to email Emma to check financial position

11. Any other Business

12. Date of next meetings

18 March 2008

19 May 2008

14 July 2008,
22 September meeting moved to 15 September 2008.