

Labour Party Socialist Societies Executive

MINUTES

Monday 18 September 2006. Present: Jacky Peacock, Marianne Hood, Sunder Katwala, Neil Nerva, Simon Wright, Dianne Hayter, Malcolm Horne, Sally Mulready, Carlie Newman.

1. Introductions and apologies from:

Apologies from Jim Moher, Nicholas Russell, Judith Blakeman, Ohid Ahmed, Bil Thomas, David Caplin, Huw Davies, Janet Kirk.

2. Mins of last meeting.

Agreed.

3. Matters arising.

Officers still to look for alternative venue; Malcolm agreed to ask NUT. SEA are meeting the Sec of State for Education in October.

4. Conference arrangements including stall, venue, Socialist Societies Policy Forum

Stall – please let Jamie Hodge know when you will be covering the stall and make sure materials are taken up as well as taken to the Friends Meeting House.

Policy Forum – all Societies urged to help publicise this. Simon and Dianne to try to get it out through the Labour Party email list. Simon to email a map of the venue. Agreed that the following people will run the workshops: Simon – Britain in the world, Hywel – Creating sustainable communities, Alon Or-Back (LCLGR) – Crime citizenship equalities, Malcome – Education and Skills, Health – Martin R, Jacky - Prosperity and work. Agreed that we will probably run each one once only.

Simon to email out Martin Rathfelder's compiled list – thanks to Martin for all his hard work.

There will be a Socialist Society breakfast on the Wednesday at conference, 8am at the Friends Meeting House.

5. NEC Report

Dianne is likely to be the Vice-Chair of the Party and therefore will have greater access to the Joint Policy Forum and probably the Chair for the year afterwards. This will be very good for Socialist Societies influence. - congratulations to Dianne.

6. Procedures for election of party officers

Dianne asked all Societies to look at their procedures for the election of a leader and deputy leader. Societies, if they want to participate, have to ballot their membership and make a weighted vote reflecting the outcome. Very important to have robust systems with clear cut-off dates so only eligible and paid up members are voting. Sunder agreed to send out the Fabian's procedure.

7. Black Socialist Society

Dianne reported on the dispute within the Black Socialist Society. Following this, there was a discussion which agreed that we should be much clearer about what meetings are for affiliated groups and what all unaffiliated friends groups are welcome to attend. At the moment, the Exec is only for affiliated groups.

8. National Policy Forum

The next meeting is on 25 November. Agreed to give substantial time at the next Exec for Jacky, Bill and Simon to get guidance from Societies about the document and a call to make sure you pass on your views to the NPF reps.

9. Officers' Reports

None.

10. Information Exchange

11. Any Other Business

12. Dates of future meetings.

Conference breakfast: Wednesday 27 Sept 8am at Friends Meeting House

Thursday 2 November 2006

29 January 2007

19 March 2007

21 May 2007

16 July 2007

17 September 2007 (request that this move - to be discussed nearer the time).