

## Left Unity National Council 7/8<sup>th</sup> June 2014

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – London

**Absent:** Fred L, Terry S, Lynn G, Chris H, Drew M, Simon H, Phil J

**Attending:** Kerry A, Toby A, Adele A, Anna B, Kat B-M, Katie B, Matthew C, Merry C, Liz D, Hazel D, Jon D, Mark F, Eleanor F, Stephen H, Guy H, Dawud I, Matthew J, Bev K, Kathy L, Ben L, Yassamine M, Sharon McC, Colin P, Barbara S, Pip T, Karen M, Mike S, Liz S, Doug T, Eve T, Andy H, Darren McC, Melanie G, Jade H, Susan P, Richard F, Steve M, Kate H, Andrew B, Felicity D, Pete G, Salman S, Bianca T, Tom W, Terry C, Oliver N, Rachel, Roisin B, Ciara D, Gioia C, Geoff H, Pete McL, Joana R, Tim N, Laura C, Dave S

**Chairs:** Matthew C and Liz D

**Minutes:** Kate H and Jon D

1. The meeting agreed not to take the Glasgow South motion following a request from the Disputes Committee that this was a case in process.
2. The meeting agreed to take the internal election report on the Sunday owing to officer availability.
3. The meeting agreed to take a motion tabled by Joana R during NC business.
4. It was agreed to use the model standing orders for branches (constitutional appendix) for this meeting and to adopt NC standing orders for the following ones.
5. **Political situation discussion:** a wide ranging discussion took place, including introductions on the Euroelections and their European political significance, with intro by Kate H; the council elections and their significance in the run up to the 2015 general election with intro by Andrew B; the current state of the economy with intro by Pete G; the current state of trade union struggle with intro by Oliver N.

**A resolution from Haringey Left Unity** that we should invite a representative from the new Spanish party Podemos for a speaking tour, was agreed, with an amendment to include a representative from Izquierda Unida in the tour if available.

Tom W reported on Left Unity's local election results with additional reports from candidates present.

Mike S moved his motion 'that those who stood could be requested to write an analysis of their campaigns.' This was passed.

### 6. **Kate H made the following proposals:**

- To establish an election sub-committee led by party nominating officer to draw up a draft general election strategy to present to the next NC for discussion, amendment and agreement. Agreed.
- To establish a manifesto sub-committee led by media officer Tom W, to turn party policies into a readable and accessible format with stage one completed by the September NC and the next tranche after the autumn policy conference. Assistance on readability to be provided by the Disabled Members' caucus. Agreed.
- Constitutional requirement to establish EC noted for action and basis for agreeing regional reps and directly elected section reps agreed. Agreed that EC meet in month in which NC does not meet. Agreed that the gender balance requirement would be applied.
- It was agreed that Merry C would be the party's Access Officer, with rights as an officer as provided for in the constitution.
- A schedule of NC meetings for the year was agreed as follows:  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September (Birmingham); Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December; Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March
- A pre-NC schedule was agreed as follows: Draft agenda circulated to NC members and

branch reps one month in advance of meetings; submissions by two weeks in advance; final proposal one week in advance.

- It was agreed that the next policy conference would take place in London on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November.
- It was agreed that the next internal elections (online and postal) would be concluded by 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015. It was agreed that the date for the next national conference would be considered in light of the general election campaign.
- The Brighton and Hove motion that NC agendas should not be set in such a way as to presuppose elections are our organisational priority was agreed.

7. **Additional motion proposed by Joana R and seconded by Rachel.** Following extensive discussion the proposer and seconder accepted that the motion be remitted.

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – London**

**Absent:** Rachel A, Roisin B, Ciara D, Terry S, Lynn G, Gioia C, Geoff H, Pete McL, Joana R, Tim N, Laura C, Dave S, Drew M, Simon H, Phil J

**Attending:** Kerry A, Toby A, Adele A, Anna B, Kat B-M, Katie B, Matthew C, Merry C, Liz D, Hazel D, Jon D, Mark F, Stephen H, Guy H, Dawud I, Matthew J, Bev K, Fred L, Kathy L, Ben L, Yassamine M, Sharon McC, Colin P, Barbara S, Pip T, Karen M, Mike S, Liz S, Doug T, Eve T, Andy H, Darren McC, Melanie G, Jade H, Susan P, Eleanor F, Richard F, Steve M, Chris H, Kate H, Andrew B, Felicity D, Pete G, Salman S, Bianca T, Tom W, Terry C, Oliver N

**Chairs:** Eve T and Doug T

**Minutes:** Tyler C

#### **1. Membership, Communication and Branch development report – Terry C – Endorsed**

Motion 1 – Move membership payments to Direct Debits – **Carried**

Amendment 1A – Standing orders accepted on an annual basis – Pip T – **Carried**

Motion 2 – Regional Responsibility – **Carried**

#### **2. Campaign priorities and centralised resources – Hackney, Pete G**

Motion 3 – Clearer direction for campaign priorities and resources produced centrally with availability posted on website – **Carried**

Amendment 3A – Impact of austerity on disabled people must be central to campaigns. Electronic activist guides and leaflets from the Disabled Members' Caucus should be distributed – Merry C – **Agreed**

Amendment 3B – Under instruction from legal counsel, news on DPAC, the Work Capability Assessment and government appeal should kept from the press and website – Eleanor F – **Agreed**

Amendment 3C – General Election, with view of electoral strategy, should be included in discussion on campaign priorities – Kathy L – **Carried**

Amendment 3D – Housing shortages, privatisation, the NHS and zero-hours contracts are general issues that can be supplemented with immediate local concerns and news – Melanie G, Bianca T, Felicity D – **Agreed**

Amendment 3E – Focus on women, BME groups and racism, disability and immigration – Terry C, Kat B-M, Susan P – **Agreed**

Amendment 3F – Leaflets for specific issues, potentially in different languages and with room for local topics, letters to local press and more creative campaign tools to be emphasised – Oliver N, Jade H, Ben L – **Agreed**

Amendment 3G – Campaign on the impact of austerity on children – Sharon McC – **Agreed**

### **3. Internal elections report, sections 1-8 – Terry C – Endorsed**

Motion 4 – Reopen West Midlands regional election – Leamington Spa – **Not carried**

### **4. Policy Commissions report – Pete G – Endorsed**

Verbal confirmation that Social Security Commission is up and running. Entire Policy Commissions report was endorsed, with a request for those interested in joining a publications subcommittee to contact Pete G.

A discussion on the limitations of the Equalities Commission, focusing on the failure to have BME members, ensued.

The next national conference must bring forward policy on Equalities – Terry C – **Agreed**

### **5. New Media – Tower Hamlets, Guy H**

Motion 5 – Employ a web designer and social media community manager to create clear branding and attract new members, especially of a younger demographic – **Carried**

Amendment 5A – Terms and hours of employment, available resources and priorities to be looked at further and reported upon at next national conference – Terry C, Barbara S, Eleanor F – **Carried**

Amendment 5B – Social media should integrate and share branch news – Steve H – **Agreed**

Amendment 5C – Should reach out to LU member base to help with social media before any monetary commitment – Steve – **Agreed**

### **6. Online branches for those without branches or unable to attend, with passwords and moderator – Merry C – Approved**

Amendment 6A - Regional online branches are something to consider – Barbara S – **Agreed**

### **7. Officer Reports**

**Finance Report – Andrew B – Endorsed**

**Report to executive on Leeds dispute, with call for Disputes and Appeals Committees to convene ASAP – Felicity D – Endorsed**

**Report on Regional Committees: any further developments in regional committees to be reported to Kate H – Kate H – Endorsed**

Amendment 7A – emails of regional committees to be distributed – Pip T – **Approved**





