

North Devon Labour Party

Minutes of a CLP Meeting held on 10th December 2020



1. PRESENT: Cecily Blyther, Nick Agnew, Toby Ebert, Pam Ebert, Kathie Salter, Siobhan Strode, Doug McLynn, Val Cann, Mark Cann, Steve Hinchliffe, Annie McVey, Roy Tomlinson, Glynis Walker, Andy McGeeney, Chris Swanwick, Martin Robathan, Ian Crawford, Finola O'Neill, Jerry Dickens, Harry Ellis, Oliver Bell, Catherine Bearfield, Ben Totterdell, Sid Baldaro, Rosie Godfrew, Jane Dickens, James Baldaro, Sean O'Callaghan, Allan Davies, Katie Baldaro, Lydia Gladstone, Masie Dickens, James Williams, Phil Hawkins, Blake Hawkins, Molly Dickens, Gaynor Howe, Tamsin Higgs

Apologies

Kathie Salter, Terry Elliott

Minutes of CLP Meeting 12th March 2020

Were agreed

Matters Arising

None

Membership update

- Total membership stands at 571, down 6 from last month

Finance

Balance in Bank Account at 10 Dec £4087. Previous report 2nd March: £2512.

Since the first lockdown income from membership and lottery has continued but expenditure has all but stopped.

Executive Committee Report

Due to the new election of Executive Officers and the AGM just prior to this meeting, a summary of CLP and Executive Committee activity was given by the Chair in her Annual Statement and is included in the minutes from the Annual General Meeting 10th December 2020

Councillors Report

VAL CANN – BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Val has been instrumental in setting up an anti-discrimination group in Braunton. The group has contacted all businesses and schools in Braunton and encouraged them to sign up to a police anti-discrimination scheme.
- Val is working to get new speed signage in the Parish.
- Val has dedicated a large amount of her time to community support during the pandemic

IAN CRAWFORD – FREMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Ian has set up a Climate Emergency working party and moved forward on tree planting and rewilding verges
- The council are calling on planning for better environmental standards
- They are calling on passive housing projects and social and affordable housing in Fremington
- Ian is also looking into ways of improving public transport in Fremington

OLIVER BELL – MORTHOE PARISH COUNCIL

- Oliver has been focussing on the Morthoe Community Land Trust. There is a public meeting pencilled for January ahead of planning.
- Oliver is the treasurer of the CLT
- Wollacombe and Morthoe have worked hard to respond positively for the community to the Coronavirus Pnademic

TERRY ELLIOT – ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

It has been an incredibly busy time over the past few months with Covid pushing many endemic problems to the forefront in Ilfracombe. To keep it brief I have been working with the Foodbank, the Head of Housing, the poverty action group Transform and the Salvation Army to ensure that support is getting quickly and easily to those people who need it on the ground. Working with 361 energy also in successfully getting a grant from the League of Friends to offer emergency heating small grants (for fuel top ups, small heaters etc) for people in desperate need over winter. Introduced a Zero Tolerance to Hate policy which I hope will be passed this Monday and have begun the process of establishing a Community Land Trust for Ilfracombe to build some new social housing on a small scale

County Council Elections

- The selection of our candidates is ongoing. 6 of our 8 candidates are now selected with the remaining 2 to be in place by January.
- The Campaign Committee had planned a leafleting campaign prior to Christmas and a lot of time was spent designing the leaflet and creating copy. Due to Coronavirus restrictions the leaflet drop was postponed until 2021
- A comprehensive, paid social media campaign has been developed in it's place and will be analysed by the Campaign Committee

Development Plan

The CLP Development Plan has been deferred to the next meeting

MOTIONS

The following motions were submitted in the correct time frame and ruled in order by the Chair:

1. North Devon CLP call upon the Labour Party to set out how it will select a new, proportional voting system for general elections, in time to offer it as a concrete alternative to First Past the Post in our next manifesto.
2. North Devon CLP supports the leadership of the Labour Party in ensuring full implementation of the EHRC recommendations and in its efforts to root out antisemitism and racism wherever they are located

Annie McVey submitted an emergency motion as follows:

Following the confusion that has arisen in recent days in other CLPs the NDCLP agrees to suspend the debate of the motions on our agenda until clarity of the General Secretary's directions can be obtained.

CLPs have been directed that discussion of matters which could lead to "a flashpoint for the expression of views" could lead to the suspension of members. This CLP believes this is open to interpretation and may put our members at risk of unintentionally being in breach and therefore suffering suspension from the Party.

Without fully discussing the implication for any point raised in the motions this NDCLP does not believe that any vote would be fully considered and valid.

- Those present at the meeting agreed to include the Emergency Motion for discussion
- As a result, the first motion was withdrawn
- The emergency motion was carried and no more discussion of motions took place

Any other business

- Catherine Bearfield is looking forward to an education meeting around PR. She would also like an educational session on anti-semitism as soon as possible
- Ian and Chris mentioned the 'Campaign for a New Democracy' with regard to PR education
- Chris added that in light of the emergency motion being passed this evening, he isn't willing to commit to an education event at this stage, but will wait until the guidance is clearer

- Annie reminded those present that the Facebook forum should be a safe space. She was referring to comments on the forum being taken to a member's employer. She thanked Siobhan for calling it out
- Andy called for a PR education session before the motion relating to PR is debated by the CLP
- Jerry would like us to look at virtual attendance once face to face meetings recommence
- Gaynor expressed how pleased she was at the level of support in the CLP

Future meetings, events and venues

- CLP Meeting TBC