

## **North Devon Labour Party**



### **Minutes of a CLP Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

1. PRESENT: Nick Agnew, Siobhan Strode, Mark Cann, Val Cann, Ian Crawford, Glynis Walker, Steve Hinchliffe, Andy McGeeney, Patrick Kelly, Catherine Bearfield, Chris Swanwick, Martin Robathan, Rosa Payne, Kathie Salter, Oliver Bell, Jerry Dickens, Roy Tomlinson, Roy Walker, Lydia Gladstone, Annie McVey, Wayne Lee, Sean O'Callaghan

### **Apologies**

None

### **Minutes of CLP Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Were held for half an hour for meeting to become quorate. Meeting was unsuccessful in becoming quorate and the minutes were agreed by the number present.

### **Matters Arising**

None

### **Membership update**

- Total membership stands at 524

### **Finance**

Ian nominated Mark to stand in as temporary Treasurer and this was seconded by Catherine. 18 out of 20 present for vote voted in favour

- No report
- NDCLP is eligible for refund of £1420 from the Euro Levy Fund. Nick has submitted application

### **Executive Committee Report**

The Exec have been mainly focused on the County Council Campaign. The Facebook forum has proved to be very challenging to manage over the last couple of months. Siobhan gave an overview of the issues and it has been agreed that the forum will close until after the elections, at which time a new approach may be proposed by the membership.

### **Councillors Report**

## VAL CANN – BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

There was not much more to report than the last CLP meeting. The school poster competition has been very well supported.

## IAN CRAWFORD – FREMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sadly Ian has had to resign due to personal reasons. He received a formal thank you from Frank Biederman which was a nice surprise! Before leaving, Ian was involved in re-vamping the 'Neighbourhood Plan'.

## OLIVER BELL – MORTHOE PARISH COUNCIL

The council has mainly been meeting to discuss covid-proofing Woolacombe and the issues of campervans and overnight parking. The Woolacombe barrier system will be coming back in the summer to help with social distancing

## TERRY ELLIOT – ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Not present

### **Campaign Report**

- Our 8 council candidates will soon be formalised
- We are now allowed to canvass and go out leafleting
- 10,000 leaflets will be delivered via the Gazette
- In Ilfracombe, Patrick Kelly is standing for the Town Council and a special leaflet has been designed and ordered
- Mark requested a special leaflet to be delivered in Braunton. This was proposed by Catherine and Seconded by Ian with a unanimous vote in favour.

### **Development Plan**

2 amendments proposed by Catherine were agreed:

- Addition of 5<sup>th</sup> point under 'Core Objectives': "Establish a dialogue on the local issues so identified with the other CLPs across Devon."
- Under section 7, following *Their primary objective is to provide members with an opportunity to have a political discussion and debate key issues.* Add the following: "To this end, some meetings will be dedicated primarily to political education and discussion and committee reports will be given in writing where possible and time dedicated to business kept to a minimum."

### **National Conference**

Due to the meeting not being quorate, Mark proposed we postpone the selection of National Conference Delegates until the next CLP General Meeting. This was seconded by Siobhan and agreed by the meeting.

### **Women's Conference**

Annie proposed Catherine as main delegate. Siobhan seconded and Catherine was confirmed by a unanimous vote

Mark proposed Annie as our second delegate and this was seconded by Val and was also confirmed by a unanimous vote

## **Constitutional Amendment**

The following constitutional amendment was proposed by Martin, seconded by Siobhan and voted in favour by all but 2 members present:

*We believe that constituencies that do not have a Labour MP should be able to select a candidate to fight the next election as soon as is practicable after the previous election.*

*We believe that our experiences in not being able to select a candidate while other parties did so, placed us at a considerable disadvantage when campaigning. Other parties had candidates in place long before our CLPs allowing them to become well known in the community and a touchstone for rival parties. Meanwhile, our constituents often felt they had no point of reference for the Labour Party in their community, despite regular campaign activity. This severely hampered our campaign efforts and, in many cases, stopped us reaching our voter potential at elections. In both 2017 and 2019 when faced with 'snap' General elections, we were put in a position where the selection process was greatly curtailed, leading to the disenfranchisement of older and disabled members as well as those with caring responsibilities and meaning we had very little time to promote our candidates.*

*To address this, we propose that the Party should adopt a Constitutional Amendment (rule change) that allows all CLPs to put a candidate in place in a timely and democratic manner.*

*We propose that:*

*“Following a parliamentary election in constituencies that do not elect Labour MPs, all the relevant CLPs will choose and appoint a candidate for any future parliamentary election within 18 months of the date of the aforesaid parliamentary election. If the chosen candidate later withdraws for any reason, becomes ineligible or boundary changes mean a reselection is necessary, the CLP will choose and appoint another candidate within three months.”*

## **MOTIONS**

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

“Austerity is a choice by Governments rather than a need and other alternatives exist. The Chancellor may not be calling this Austerity but it is. A Wealth Tax or Windfall Tax in addition to Corporation Tax must be used to pay for COVID. Large Corporations have made billions of pounds of profit from the COVID Pandemic, profiting from NHS Funds and the working people of the United Kingdom . To continue with Austerity would make the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and be an obscene use of power. Therefore, North Devon CLP believes our Party should object to Austerity. ”

"This meeting notes the escalating crisis within the Labour Party concerning freedom of debate, freedom of speech, and interference in the workings of our CLPs.

This meeting believes that the party's crisis needs to be addressed urgently.

This meeting recognises that the supreme policy-making body of our party is our national conference, composed of delegates from the CLPs, trade unions, and other affiliated organisations. We believe that this is the only body with the necessary authority to resolve this crisis.

We therefore demand that the NEC organises an immediate national recall conference of the Labour Party, under rule Clause VI:1 of the Constitutional Rules\*, with the purpose of ending the impasse, restoring party democracy and achieving genuine unity as the only means for the party to achieve victory at forthcoming elections.

\*"The work of the party shall be under the direction and control of Party conference, which shall itself be subject to the constitution and standing orders of the Party. Party conference shall meet regularly once in every year and also at such other times as it may be convened by the NEC."

*Both submitted by Glynis Walker*

Motion 1 passed: Unanimous

Motion 2 passed: dropped as the NEC has already rejected it

### **Any other business**

- Catherine mentioned a petition started by Fin called 'Press pause on the white paper' and encouraged members to sign and spread.

### **Future meetings, events and venues**

- 13<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm – CLP General Meeting