

Section B: Additional Materials

In this section, I provide key material that has been referred to in this Response. This includes CLP GC minutes, BLP e-Bulletins, as well as a whole host of other evidential documentation.

13. Chronology of Events Since February 2016

Over the next five pages is every stage in the process surrounding my suspension. The repeated and interminable delays and lack of replies is quite significant.

19th February 2016 – email from Finbar Bowie to Peter Gates inviting him to a “*Meeting of Rushcliffe CLP*” to discuss “*complaints and the situation generally in Rushcliffe*”. Discussions ensued over attendance, culminating in agreement to attend as long as complaints were not raised here but were dealt with subject to Party Rules.

7th March 2016 – The Rushcliffe CLP Meeting which became a CLP EC meeting unbeknownst to the 10 observers. This lasted 14 minutes. Minutes were not circulated until October 26th.

11th March 2016 – Suspension letters, administratively suspending ten officers for “*behaviour toward a member*”.

30th March 2016 – email sent to Emma Foody asking for a meeting – “I’m about to write to you about the situation in Rushcliffe and wondered if it’s possible to come over and talk face to face as soon as possible? There are a few things which would be helpful to clarify. I look forward to hearing from you.” **No reply was ever received.**

20th April 2016 v Letter from Emma Foody to all ten with a request for “*submission*” of evidence we “*feel might be beneficial*” that “*the panel seeks to resolve these issues as quickly as possible*”.

31st May 2016 – Submission made to Emma Foody by all ten suspended members.

28th June 2016 – Meeting between Peter Gates and Gordon Pattison. Adele Williams attending. No report or notes of this meeting have been provided although they have been requested.

11th July 2016 – Email from Gordon Pattison to Peter Gates that his case being referred to NCC. No explanation was given as to why. This included “I am keen to resolve this matter **as speedily as possible**, so I am preparing the paperwork this week to send to the secretary of the disputes committee who will be then be in touch with you **directly**.” Peter was informed by Gordon that it was over a month before paperwork was prepared and after a year no contact has been made with the Secretary of the disputes committee.

8th October 2016 – letter to Gordon Pattison asking for information. Reply on 13th saying “Peter, I will chase this for you.”

26th October 2016 – West Bridgford Branch Labour Party demands Gordon Pattison comes and explains. During this tense meeting, he says the following two statements which seem to be in contradiction:

“The two suspended members currently will have all the paperwork and they’ll be able to share it with you and you will be able to see what I’ve seen - and some of it is disgusting, I’ll be honest with you. I’ve never seen anything like it in twenty-eight years in politics. [...] I can’t tell you exactly what’s happened or what I’ve seen because I’m not going to prejudice the case that is ongoing.”

4th November 2016 – Email from Peter Gates sent to Gordon Pattison after talking to LP Legal Department and Governance Unit. No one there had any information:

“Gordon, I’ve been onto various people in Newcastle and London and have been told to call you as you are the person who knows most about where my suspension is. The last person to tell me that was Sam in the Governance and Legal department, today Friday 4th. You told me you weren’t, so ... I’m at a bit of a loss now. I was told on Wednesday I would hear by Friday, but today was told that is a mistake and that I will hear eventually.”

No reply was received.

15th November 2016 – Further email from Peter Gates to Gordon Pattison after contacting Compliance Unit who could give him no information but advised him Gordon Pattison was responsible:

"Gordon, I'm contacting you again because all communications I've had with the Compliance Unit have pointed back to you as the person I need to contact to find out what is happening with my suspension. Three different people in different departments have told me to contact you. Just to remind you that the last official communication with the Party was 20th April. Gordon, this is moving into really unprofessional terrain now. Can you please contact me and give me roughly which decade I might expect it to be looked into? STILL no one has given any hint of what I am suspended for. Regards and in anticipation"

No reply has ever been received to this email.

17th January 2017 – email from Sam Mathews, Head of Disputes, that Peter's case being referred to NCC. No explanation as to why, or when it might be dealt with.

9th March 2017 – The existence of two very different and contradictory sets of minutes of the meeting on 7th March 2016 come to light via members of the Rushcliffe CLP EC and several members of West Bridgford Branch. Complaints procedure as laid out in Labour Party Rule book instigated.

10th March 2017 – emails sent to Sam Matthews, Head of Disputes, Anne Black, Chair of Disputes Panel and Glenis Willmott, Chair of NEC, saying:

Sam wrote to me on 17th January about my suspension saying it was being referred to the NCC. I did reply to Sam but have not heard back so I will try again. The information you gave me, Sam – about referral to the NCC - was communicated to me by Gordon Pattison in July 2016 – 6 months previously. Can you please tell me what has been happening in those 6 months? Can I point out that have been told absolutely nothing about my suspension; even a meeting with Gordon Pattison in June 2016 shone no light on any possible allegations or charges. I never received a response from my submission to the Party in May 2016. Nor did I ever receive a copy of the notes of my meeting with Gordon, in spite of asking for them. I wonder if I might invite you all to consider how this is looking. It is no wonder people are getting suspicious as I become excluded from one thing after another: CLP AGM in 2016, Election of Conference delegates in 2016, Nomination for Local County Council seat, Nomination of Conference delegates 2017, Branch AGM 2017, and pretty soon CLP AGM in 2017. I am beginning to wonder myself if this is what all the delays are about. I believe both Ann and Glenis are now aware of the injustices surrounding this. But my letters to Party Officials only get ignored; I rarely get a response. I hoping for something different now. Tomorrow will be a full year, 12 months since my suspension. You have still been taking my money and I've still been campaigning hard and supporting Labour – that, I will go on doing. Below is a chronology of my case, and really, surely this is wrong? Someone somewhere must be responsible for this; it can't be right. I look forward to hearing from you, ideally with a communication lifting my suspension. No one should be treated like this, no one should be intimidated in the way I have been.

No reply was received from any of these emails.

11th March 2017 – first anniversary of suspension. Still nothing from the Party on any resolution.

1st July 2017 – Still no communication with Party over suspension. Emails and letters sent to: Sam Matthews, Head of Disputes, Anne Black, Chair of Disputes Panel and Glenis Willmott, Chair of NEC.

4th July 2017 – Meeting of NEC Disputes Panel where it was agreed that the delay to my suspension was "unacceptable" and that it was currently being dealt with.

20th July 2017 – Peter Watson, a West Bridgford Labour Party member had contacted Ann Black over the suspension in March, including him saying *"as an active trade unionist I would be outraged if an employer suspended a member for a year without explanation, hearing or appeal. I would be straight onto the union solicitors to take them to task. It's incredible that a part of the Labour Party behaves worse than most employers"*

Ann Black indicated she had asked for the suspension to be "**immediately lifted**":

From: Ann Black <annblack50@btinternet.com>

Date: Thu, 20 Jul 2017 at 11:33

Subject: Re: Peter Gates suspension – Rushcliffe
To: Peter Watson <watsonpeter885@gmail.com>

Hi Peter

I have asked for a reply to be sent to you. I have also asked that the suspensions are immediately lifted.

Best wishes

Ann

24th July 2017 – email from Sam Matthews:

Dear Mr Gates,

I am writing to inform you that charges have been supplied to the secretary of the National Constitutional Committee (NCC) who will now begin the process of arranging a hearing.

The Secretary of the NCC will be in touch shortly to supply you with the charge bundle and any other useful documents ahead of the hearing. You will remain under administrative suspension until the hearing takes place. I understand that you have been in contact with an NEC member regarding your suspension. They have made clear the importance of bringing this matter to a conclusion quickly. We have therefore requested that the secretary of the NCC arranges your hearing as soon as is practicable.

Please find attached Appendix 6 of the rulebook which contains the procedural guidelines in disciplinary cases brought before the NCC.

Regards

Sam Matthews

Head of Disputes

Governance and Legal Unit

The Labour Party

An email from Keir Chewings, Chair Rushcliffe CLP to Ann Black asking for clarification that the suspension was lifted and Peter was clear to attend meetings, Ann replied:

No not yet. I'm on it.

26th July 2017 – Email sent to Sam Matthews pointing out that Ann Black, Chair of Disputes Panel had asked for the suspension to be immediately lifted:

Sam,

(I have copied three members of the NEC including Ann Black, plus my CLP and Branch Officer, and Peter Watson who is referred to below)

in case you have been out of the loop I have copied below Ann Black's email asking for my suspension to be "**immediately lifted**".

Can you please confirm that contrary to your previous email, my suspension has now been lifted as per the request of the elected Chair of the Disputes Panel. Ann's request for "**immediate**" lifting was on Thursday 20th.

I would be grateful for a fast response.

Peter

27th July 2017 – Reply from Sam Matthews:

Dear Mr Gates,

It is undoubtedly the case that this matter has taken too long for charges to be presented to the NCC, hence Ann's desire and clear indication to Party officers that the matter should be progressed as quickly as possible. The initial delay was caused by an administrative error owing to staffing changes within the party. The delay this year was caused by the General Election when all constitutional matters were put on hold as all staff focussed on electing a Labour Government.

Charges have now been presented to the secretary of the NCC and I am assured that the charge sheet and evidence bundle, as well as a copy of the NCC's procedures, will be sent today to arrive with you tomorrow. This will remove any ambiguity about the exact charges brought against you and a date for the hearing will be set imminently. In light of this development and further complaints received since the January Disputes Panel meeting, Ann Black is of the view that the Disputes Panel decision of 17 January should not be reversed, and the administrative suspension should not be lifted at this time. You will therefore remain administratively suspended until the date of your hearing.

The matter is now out of my hands as it is the responsibility of the secretary of the NCC to progress the matter further and arrange a hearing. It would be inappropriate for party officers or members of the NEC to comment on the substance of the charges brought against you however, if you have any further questions about the process you should be able to find answers in appendix 6 of the rulebook or by contacting the secretary of the NCC (contact details for which will arrive with the charge bundle).

Kind Regards

Sam Matthews
Head of Disputes
Governance and Legal Unit
The Labour Party

28th July 2017 – Charges Pack arrives from Labour Party.

3rd August 2017 – Letter sent Jane Shaw, Secretary of NCC confirming my intention to contest the charges, and my intention to have legal representation, asking for disclosure of all the evidence on which the allegations rest, and a copy of the notes of the meeting with Gordon Pattison on 28th June 2016. This was received by the Labour Party on 4th August signed for by "Falay".

31st August 2017 – Reply from Jane Shaw:

Dear Dr Gates,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 August. I'm sorry for the delay in replying, but I have been on annual leave.

The charges that have been received against you, your intention to contest and request for legal representation will be reported to the next meeting of the NCC, which will be on 27 September and notice of the hearing will be sent to you and the Presenter as soon as possible thereafter. It would be helpful if in the meantime, you could let me know of any dates in October and November, including Saturday and Sunday, when you, your proposed representative and your witnesses WOULD NOT BE ABLE to attend a hearing.

I have forwarded your query regarding the apparently missing page in the Presenter's bundle and your request to be provided with copies of the "excessive correspondence" and note of the meeting with Gordon Pattison to the Presenter and will let you know when I have his response. However, please note that the NCC has no power to require either side to provide specific documentation.

Kind Regards
Jane

22nd September 2017 – Email sent from Martin Lee, my solicitor to Jane Shaw.

Dear Jane

I have been advising Peter Gates about his appeal against his administrative suspension from the Party and note that you have been in communication with him about the process in your capacity as the Secretary of the National Constitutional Committee (NCC). I note that on 26/27 September 2017 the NCC will be meeting to discuss a number of appeals that are before the Committee, including Peter's case. I understand that this is a meeting to discuss procedure and in particular, in Peter's case, whether he can be legally represented at his appeal. I hope that will be a formality in the interests of natural justice.

I have reviewed a comprehensive document that Peter has compiled to rebut the charges and allegations made against him. I have to say that, taking into account the "Charges Pack" that has been

sent to Peter and the paucity of the evidence disclosed, it seems that any tribunal considering his case will be compelled to dismiss the charges. I therefore write to you to see if an informal meeting with you and/or any other responsible officer(s) of the Party engaged in this process before moving towards a full hearing might be appropriate, to avoid a waste of resources and unnecessary costs. My client would be happy to disclose his defence document prior to such a meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Martin Lee

Martin Lee & Co

No reply was received

5th October 2017 – follow up email to Jane Shaw

Dear Jane

I refer to my e mail sent to you on 22 September 2017 (below). I note that you were unable to respond as you were at the Party Conference.

Are you able to address the points I raise now? Specifically, can you let me know the outcome of the NCC as far as Peter's case is concerned?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Martin Lee

Martin Lee & Co

2nd November 2017 – Reply from Jane Shaw to Martin Lee:

Sent: 02 November 2017 11:33

To: Martin Lee

Subject: RE: Labour Disciplinary Proceedings - Dr Peter Gates - Rushcliffe CLP

Dear Mr Lee,

I am so sorry not to have responded to you sooner, but since Annual Conference I have been tied up with other disciplinary hearings around the country and I've also taken some annual leave.

I am pleased to be able to now inform you that the NCC has agreed that your client can be legally represented at the hearing of the NEC charges, which has now been arranged to take place at **a venue to be confirmed on Saturday 9 December 2017, commencing at 10.30am**. Your client advised me in September that his witnesses would not be able to attend a hearing during a weekday.

It is noted what you have said about the NEC's case, but Labour's procedures for dealing with disciplinary matters, copy attached, do not provide for the type of meeting you have requested, but the NCC does have the authority to dispose of cases without a hearing (Labour Party Rule Book appx 6.4.) and the panel could decide to do so after consideration of your client's answer to the charges etc. Your client has already confirmed his intention to contest the charges and he is now asked to provide the following in writing by **Thursday 30 November 2017**:

1. The Respondent's written answer to the charges;
2. Details of any witnesses the Respondent wish to call at the hearing to give evidence;
3. A written statement from each witness the Respondent wishes to call at the hearing and of any other witnesses, whose evidence he would like the Panel to consider, but who he would not wish to call, or who would not be able to attend the hearing;
4. Any challenge the Respondent wish to make to the NEC's case and supporting evidence.

I look forward to hearing from you or your client in due course.

Kind regards

Jane Shaw

Governance and Legal Unit

The Labour Party

14. Transcript of the '*Disgusting*' Incident

The incident occurred at a meeting of the West Bridgford Branch of Rushcliffe CLP on 24 October 2016. Gordon Pattison, Regional Director of the East Midlands Labour Party was requested to attend the meeting to answer questions regarding the suspension of ten members of Rushcliffe CLP, eight of whom belong to West Bridgford Branch.

GORDON PATTISON: I'm afraid I'm going to struggle to explain where I'm going to come from tonight because I can't tell you everything that is going on with the ongoing investigations, unfortunately. There is a wider issue to all of this. There is a background that has gone on months, *months* before this meeting.

PENNY GOWLAND: It sounds like smears.

GORDON PATTISON: Sorry? [*In order to clarify.*]

PENNY GOWLAND: It sounds like smears to me.

GORDON PATTISON: Well, look, when the investigations are over, you know, hopefully the two suspended members currently...

PENNY GOWLAND: You can't speak about people like this, you know.

GORDON PATTISON: The two suspended members currently will have all the paperwork and they'll be able to share it with you and you will be able to see what I've seen - and some of it is disgusting, I'll be honest with you. I've never seen anything like it in twenty-eight years in politics.

[*There are gasps and a clear sense of disbelief around the meeting hall.*]

GORDON PATTISON: No, I'm just saying, I'm not on about this meeting of the members that have been suspended...

PENNY GOWLAND: You can't talk about them like that, you can't talk about them like that. [*Penny walks out of the meeting hall and does not return.*]

GORDON PATTISON: Well, I'm sorry, but that's the truth.

PETER SORENSEN: You're implying the Branch Secretary of this branch is operating in a manner which...

GORDON PATTISON: No, I'm not, what I'm saying is...

PETER SORENSEN: You're *implying* it by what you're saying!

GORDON PATTISON: What I'm saying is: there are a lot of other issues ongoing around this, right?

PETER SORENSEN: Right, so let's have...

STEVE CALVERT (*Chair*): Give Gordon a chance to speak, please.

GORDON PATTISON: I can't tell you exactly what's happened or what I've seen because I'm not going to prejudice the case [that is] ongoing.

PETER SORENSEN: But you've told us it's "disgusting"!

GORDON PATTISON: Yeah, it is, some of the stuff I've read and seen is, quite frankly, it's... it is!

KERI DUTCZYN HOWE: But is that evidence or is that just hearsay?

GORDON PATTISON: As far as I'm concerned, it's evidence because I've read it, I've seen it.

15. Letter from Emma Foody

The Labour Party

East Midlands Labour Party
Harold Wilson House, Barratt Lane, Attenborough,
Nottingham NG9 6AD

0115 943 1777 | eastmidlands@labour.org.uk

Mr Peter Gates
10 Belfry Way
Edwalton
Nottingham
NG12 4FA

09 February 2016

Dear Mr Gates

Complaint about intimidation and uncomradely behaviour AND data protection

I'm writing to you regarding alleged complaints that have been raised with the Regional Labour Party regarding recent behaviour and actions within Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party (CLP) by you.

The issues surrounding these complaints will be referred to the East Midlands Labour Party Regional Board, a representative of which will be attending a Rushcliffe CLP meeting in the near future.

An outline of the complaints are below. The issues raised and the expectations of the Party with regard to the conduct of individual members are also detailed.

Misuse of membership information in the capacity of a Branch Labour Party (BLP) Secretary

The Labour Party rulebook (Appendix 2.1.ii.) states :

ii. Misuse of information contained within the membership lists could be a breach of the Data Protection Act, and should be reported immediately to the Data Protection Officer at Head Office.

The Labour Party takes the protection of members' personal information extremely seriously, and obligations in terms of data protection are clearly outlined to relevant officers in the Labour Party Rulebook, Appendix 2.1.ii.



Designated Officers are entitled to access membership information for the purposes of official Labour Party activity only. This entitlement may be withdrawn and disciplinary action taken should a misuse of this information become apparent.

The advertising of third party organisations events does not fall into the category of official Labour Party activity and therefore would not be an appropriate use of membership information.

Hostile and uncomradely behaviour within Labour Party activity

Party units are expected to ensure all party activity is conducted in a comradely environment, within which members feel comfortable, especially whilst undertaking any officer responsibilities to the Labour Party.

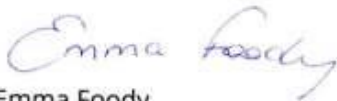
It is expected that disagreements be discussed openly and through the appropriate channels that the CLP provides. Where these channels are deemed to be undermined or abused, the East Midlands Regional Board may intervene to ensure Party activity is being conducted in an appropriate manner.

Harassment or intimidation of members on any basis, including gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability or race is unacceptable.

As such, consistent attempts to undermine the efforts of individual Officers within the party will not be tolerated.

I would like to make it clear that if activity and behaviour similar, but not restricted to the above, is deemed to exist within party units in Rushcliffe, formal action on the part of the Labour Party will be taken.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Foody
Deputy Regional Director
East Midlands Labour Party

16. Chronology of Events Surrounding Members' Workshop by Sandra Coker

The follow notes were circulated by the Chair of the CLP, Sandra Coker, to the GC on 11th November 2015.

19/10/15	Peter Gates elected CLP secretary John Walsh elected Political Education officer Political education workshops proposed and agreed Working party established to plan workshops – John Walsh, Rachel Scudamore, Pat Walsh, Kev Lowe, Gary Edgerton, Bill Logan
22/10/15	Concerns raised with Sandy and Liz that Gary was not being included in the planning or delivery of the workshops.
25/10/15	Sandy emailed Peter and John indicating that the proposed workshops including content and facilitators should be fed back to the next GC meeting on 16 November and copied to all members of the working group. Reply from Peter indicating this was fine and that John was keen for this to happen.
26/10/15	Email from John Walsh saying he was not happy with my email and would like to talk on the phone that day. I telephoned and spoke to him that morning. John wanted clarification about why I wanted more detail about the workshops and said he felt he was being 'reined in'. I confirmed that I wanted to ensure any content was approved by GC and that all members of the working group were involved. John emailed later to point out that I had missed Rachel off the circulation list and I corrected this. Peter emailed later to say he thought it right that GC are 'informed- and hopefully involved'. Peter elected secretary of West Bridgford Branch.
29/10/15	Peter emailed to suggest we get together to talk over roles and working together and suggested it may be appropriate if Liz were there too as Branch Chair.
30/10/15	I emailed Peter to confirm that I would be pleased to meet with him and would liaise with Liz to suggest some times to meet. I let him know that I was not free until the middle of the following week. I asked for Peter's help in finding the answers to some questions that were emerging about the workshops. Peter replied that he would try to find answers to the questions but wanted to talk about resolving tension between individuals. He asked if he could telephone or I could offer any advice. I did not pick up this email until later in the day. Peter had received a response from John to the questions I raised and forwarded this to me. I emailed Peter to confirm that I would contact him about a date to meet as soon as I had heard from Liz. John Walsh emailed to say that he was ending his involvement with the Labour Party and asking not to be contacted by email, phone or text. Lizzie Edgerton contacted me to share her concerns about lack of contact with John Walsh re workshops and answers to emails Kevin Fitzgerald emailed to ask for 'background'. I confirmed I had no more information than he and suggested he ask Peter. Family commitments meant I was not free to respond further.
31/10/15	I emailed Peter to suggest 2 dates to meet the following week and explained that my cough/cold now meant that I had no voice at all. Peter replied apologising for contacting me when I was unwell explaining he was not able to make those dates. Given the urgency he expressed we arranged to meet on Mon 2 Nov. Both Liz and I changed arrangements to facilitate this.
2/11/15	Meeting – Peter, Sandy, Liz where we agreed to postpone workshops until January 2016, Liz would cancel the venue, Peter would inform those booked onto workshops of the postponement, Peter would arrange a working party meeting before next GC.

3/11/15	Liz emailed Peter to confirm what had been agreed.
5/11/15	Concerns raised that Peter was posting on his FB page for experienced Labour Party person to help with workshop – content negotiable. Peter emailed queries re GC agenda. I emailed the existing template including my suggestions. I let him know that Liz had cancelled Lutterell Hall and asked him to forward a copy of the emails cancelling the workshops on 14 and 24 November.
8/11/15	Peter forwarded two emails – one cancelling the workshop on 14 November and the other to those who were interested but could not make the dates informing them meetings would be rescheduled for the new year. Peter emailed to say he had not been able to get in touch with all of the working group and that he thought this should be reconsidered at the next meeting. He informed me that he had thought more since our meeting and gone ahead and booked a new venue, two external providers - Adele Williams – Nottingham East and Chris Williamson, was keeping the date of 24 November and suggesting that the event would not work with himself and Gary as facilitators.
9/11/15	Peter emailed to ask if I would give him my feelings on the proposed workshop – 24 November. I replied that I was not happy with the proposals explaining that following our meeting (one week ago) which he called to ask for advice and to discuss roles and how to work together effectively, we had agreed to postpone both workshops. I informed Peter that I would now take advice from Regional Office. Peter replied that there was no need to take advice as he would cancel the workshop. I telephoned Regional Office and spoke to Finbar Bowie who agreed to liaise with Emma Foody and get back to me.
10/11/15	Peter emailed to inform me that he was resigning as CLP secretary. I replied thanking Peter for letting me know that he intended to resign at the end of the next meeting. I asked for a copy of the email cancelling the workshop on 24 November.
11/11/15	Peter emailed a final agenda for approval. I replied that it looked fine to circulate. Peter forwarded his letter of resignation to all delegates. John Walsh emailed all GC delegates informing them of his reason for resigning as PEO, making unfounded allegations about CLP officers and delegates and informing all that he intends to remain a delegate. Richard Crawley emailed all delegates expressing disquiet at the content of John's email. Peter emailed all delegates asking others to remain calm and informing us that John is still a member of the Labour Party and a delegate to GC and therefore has a right to be listened to. Robert Crosby emailed to express his confusion about recent events and his assumption that there would be a full and frank discussion at GC on Mon 16 Nov.
12/11/15	I replied to Robert letting him know that I was in the process of putting together a chronology of events as I am aware of them since the last GC meeting. I have spoken to Finbar Bowie re John Walsh's role as delegate to GC. He confirms that as John resigned (and then used the cooling off period to cancel his resignation) it is first for Keyworth Branch to decide if they wish to put John forward again as a delegate but ultimately for CLP to decide whether he remains a delegate. He is, of course, entitled to attend as an observer. I have asked Finbar to attend GC on Monday evening to offer procedural advice as appropriate. Email from Peter regarding him taking advice from Regional Office, inviting Finbar to

	Monday GC and confirming that the decision about whether the workshop on 24 November goes ahead will be decided at Monday 16 Nov GC. I replied noting Peter's comments.
14/11/15	Email from Peter with amendments to the agreed agenda. G3 now 'CLP secretary' rather than 'Election of CLP secretary' with Peter to introduce this item. G4/G5 Political Education Workshops/Political Education organiser now have John to introduce these items. I replied that Liz would be introducing items G4 and G5 and that I needed clarification of the change in item G3 and that it was not ok to send out the revised agenda.
15/11/15	Peter emailed to confirm all names would be removed from GC agenda. I confirmed the agenda was now ok to circulate.

17. Relevant Minutes of Rushcliffe CLP General Committee: July – November 2015

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY Draft Agenda for GC Monday 18 May 2015

- G1. Introduction, welcome to new delegates, confirmation of agenda, apologies for absence
- G2. Minutes of GC meeting held on 16 March and Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)
- G3. General Election 2015
- G4. Borough, Town and Parish Council Elections 2015
- G5. Financial Report and Fundraising
- G6. South Wolds School
Keyworth Branch has asked for this item to be placed on the agenda:
"Members of Keyworth Branch note that South Wolds School is currently consulting parents and carers regarding its Governing Body's proposal that the School should join West Bridgford School's 'East Midlands Education (Multi-Academy) Trust'. Has the Nottinghamshire Labour Group reached any conclusions regarding the likely consequences of what is effectively a takeover of South Wolds?"
- G7. County Council Report
- G8. Borough Council Report
- G9. Future Items for discussion
- G10. Correspondence requiring action
- G11. Items from the supplementary list below
- G12. Paul Morrissey 100 Club - Draw for Prizes for April and May
- G13. Lifts home: requests and offers
- G14. Date and venue of next meeting:
General Committee Monday 15 June Venue to be agreed

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

General Committee Minutes 20th July 2015

ATTENDANCE: Chris Kemp, Gill Aldridge, Alistair MacInnes, Jean Stansfield, Steve Calvert, Liz Plant, Keir Chewings, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Richard Crawley, Trish Whittone, Colin Gibson, Terry Morrell, Peter Gates, Kevin Lowe

G1. INTRODUCTION: Gill Aldridge took the Chair.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: Additional item as G12

G2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Sandy Coker, Bill Logan

G3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GC MEETING (15th June): Agreed.
MATTERS ARISING:

- Gill Aldridge is liaising with Glenys Wilmott regarding her attendance at a special CLP meeting on a Friday night. Liz Plant suggested it be part of a fundraising social. (Could it be a European theme?) Action GA

G4. FINANCIAL REPORT AND FUNDRAISING:

- Bill Logan will report to the next meeting.

G5. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT :

Steve Calvert reported that the last meeting of County Council agreed to respond to the latest LGBCE consultation on Electoral Division boundaries by simply advocating the proposals it set out previously. It has left it to local community groups to respond as they wish. The meeting agreed that Steve would respond by 10th August on behalf of the CLP supporting the recommendations for West Bridgford but seeking a change of name for Tollerton to Cotgrave and for the inclusion of Ratcliffe on Soar parish in the Soar Valley Division. Action SC

- SC advised that a special meeting of the Labour Group was held to commence planning for the next County Elections. It was facilitated by Graham Chapman, Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council.
- Liz Plant reported that the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People service had received a "Good" OFSTED assessment.
- Keir Chewings reported on a recent meeting of the County Party. He expressed disappointment with the way the meeting was organised and proposed that we invite Cllr Rhodes to a future GC meeting. Action SC

G6. BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT Alistair MacInnes reported on the consultation on the RBC's Supplementary Planning Document for two sites on the Sharphill Development. He also referred to the imminent sale of the Civic Centre and the very sad sudden death of the Deputy Chief Executive Peter Stead.

- Chris Kemp asked about progress on Part 2 of the Local Development Plan and how it might impact on the approval of Neighbourhood Plans.

G7. LEADERSHIP AND DEPUTY LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS: Steve Calvert outlined the process for holding a formal CLP nomination meeting for the two Leadership elections. He noted that nominations were required by 31st July and Members required a minimum of 7 days notice. There were also strict rules about voting procedures at such a meeting. After a long discussion it was agreed (5 for, 3 against and 4 abstentions) that we hold an informal meeting for all Members on 3rd August and invite representatives from each of the candidates to speak. The key outcome would be to better inform Members for their voting decision when they receive their ballot papers after 14th August. Action SC

Steve also advised that the CLP could send a delegate to the Special Conference on 12th September to announce the Leadership election results. Peter Gates will attend.

G8. DISCUSSION ON PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: This item was discussed at the West Bridgford Branch and referred to the GC. Steve Calvert summarised the presentation

given by Bill Logan and the comments made at the Branch meeting. The discussion widened to how we could improve democracy including lowering the voting age to 16, making voting compulsory as well as a PR voting process. It was agreed that changes were required but acknowledged that the Conservative Government will not do anything in the next five years to address the issue.

G9. FUTURE ITEMS: Cllr Alan Rhodes, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, to be invited to attend the September meeting. Action LP

G10. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION:

None.

G11. Supplementary list Items: The Co-operative Party and Peoples Assembly , Jean Stansfield. Cotgrave issues, Keir Chewings.

- JS reported back from the latest Co-op Group meeting. Tom Webb from Canada led a discussion on the impact of Global Capitalism on the future of co-operatives. He analysed all the current threats but did also articulate a positive vision for co-ops delivering fairer and more sustainable outcomes.
- JS summarised the report from the Co-op Group AGM and concerns about a break in direct links with Labour. She noted that Hazel Blears was now on the Board.
- Jean Stansfield advised of future events including a TTIP Day of Action on 25th July, and the Nottingham Green Festival at the Arboretum on 6th September.
- KC outlined campaigning action, including a petition and Radio Nottingham interview, against development proposals in Cotgrave town centre.

G12. PAUL MORRISSEY 100 CLUB DRAW:

June £75 Sarah Crawley, £25 Conrad Ashley

July £15 Conrad Ashley, £7 Rosemary Howard

Date of next meeting. Monday 21st September 2015

GC-Mins-2015-07

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

General Committee Minutes 21st September 2015

ATTENDANCE: Gill Aldridge, Alistair MacInnes, Jean Stansfield, Steve Calvert, Liz Plant, Bill Logan, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Richard Crawley, Steve Collins, Colin Gibson, Peter Gates, Kevin Lowe, John Walsh, Rachel Scudamore, Patricia Walsh, Allen Ashmore, Alan Winship, Jean Winship, Lizzie Edgerton, Stuart Brady

G1. INTRODUCTION: Gill Aldridge took the Chair.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: Additional item as G12

G2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Sandy Coker, Keir Chewings, Chris Kemp, Pam Thompson, Peter Brodie

G3. Cllr. Alan Rhodes, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, was unable to attend the meeting due to a constituency meeting in Bassetlaw. A new date will be arranged. Action SC/LP

G4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GC MEETING (20th July): Agreed.

MATTERS ARISING:

- Steve Calvert reported that he had not submitted a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on their draft recommendations. The only comments we were to make were to include Ratcliffe on Soar in Soar Valley Division and to rename the Tollerton Division as Cotgrave.

G5. TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE PRICE: Several moving tributes were paid to Florence Price who recently passed away at the age of 97. She had been a Labour Party member for over 70 years, had served as Chairman of the County Council, a Parish Councillor, a regular member of the Radcliffe on Trent Branch and a Co-op delegate. Described as "formidable", it was noted that the Red Flag was the last song at her funeral.

G6. REPORT BACK FROM LEADERSHIP SPECIAL CONFERENCE: Peter Gates attended the Conference with Nadia Whittome. He said it was the most exciting experience he had witnessed in his 45 years of involvement in Politics. Peter described in great detail the build up to the announcement of Jeremy Corbyn's emphatic victory. He said that the new Leader's speech was phenomenal and he felt it was scandalous how the media had attacked him so quickly after his success. Robert Crosby expressed concern about how quickly some senior Members of the Party had expressed their displeasure with the outcome and refused to take up roles in the Shadow Cabinet.

G7. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE CLP GENERAL COMMITTEE: Steve Calvert said he wished to resign from his duties of Secretary of the CLP and his local Branch. He said that he felt that the timing was right because it was now vital that more time and energy was applied to the role to take advantage of the big increase in membership and the need to increase our campaigning activities. He said that in his view his role as a County Councillor was very time consuming and not compatible with the role of Secretary. After some discussion it was agreed that Peter Gates would commence immediately in a shadow role and that a formal appointment would be considered at the next GC meeting. Jean Stansfield was very complimentary in thanking Steve for his input in the last few years. Action PG

G8. FINANCIAL REPORT AND FUNDRAISING:

- Bill Logan gave an update on the accounts to the end of August.
- Richard Crawley offered to organise the Christmas draw again and proposed that the number of tickets printed be increased from 1,000 to 2,000. A concern was raised that this may not be the most effective means of fundraising but it was agreed. It was noted that Branches receive benefits from the money raised and were encouraged to help with the sale of tickets locally.
- It was agreed that Liz Plant would check if the Poppy and Pint would be available on Friday 29th January 2016 for another winter social with Guest Speaker Glenis Willmott. Action LP

G9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT :

Steve Calvert advised that the Labour Group had been approached by the Conservatives to consider working on a cross party budget for the forthcoming financial year. An intriguing part of their offer was that they would agree to an increase in Council tax. Robert Crosby warned that this should be very carefully managed. It was also noted that there was a Question raised at Full Council about the refugee crisis. It is the Borough Council which will lead on this matter.

G10. BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT Alistair MacInnes reported on four issues

- Land in Bingham sold to RBC
- £8.1 million loan to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club shared between the City Council, County Council and RBC.
- Latest progress on Sharpill housing and Waitrose.
- £1.4m Heritage Lottery bid for the Hall has been successful

G11. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION INCLUDING NOMINATIONS TO REGIONAL BOARD:

- Delegates to Regional Conference : Peter Gates, Lizzie Edgerton
- Nominations for the Regional Board: Peter Gates and Nicki Brooks
- SC to sort out bookings Action SC

G12. Supplementary list Items: The Co-operative Party and Peoples Assembly , Jean Stansfield. Cotgrave issues, Keir Chewings.

- JS reported back from the latest Co-op Group meeting. Tom Webb from Canada led a discussion on the impact of Global Capitalism on the future of co-operatives. He analysed all the current threats but did also articulate a positive vision for co-ops delivering fairer and more sustainable outcomes.
- JS summarised the report from the Co-op Group AGM and concerns about a break in direct links with Labour. She noted that Hazel Blears was now on the Board.
- KC outlined campaigning action, including a petition and Radio Nottingham interview, against development proposals in Cotgrave town centre.

G13. PAUL MORRISSEY 100 CLUB DRAW:

August: £15 Rosemary Howard, £7 Gill Aldridge

September: £15 Allen Ashmore, £7 Josephine Crawley

Date of next meeting. Monday 19th October 2015

GC-Mins-2015-09

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

General Committee Minutes 19 October 2015

ATTENDANCE: Allen Ashmore, Jane Caro, Sandy Coker, Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Colin Gibson, Gary Edgerton, Lizzie Edgerton, Peter Gates, Chris Kemp, Bill Logan, Kevin Lowe, Alistair MacInnes, Terry Morrell, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield, John Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Trish Whittome. Observer: Rachel Scudamore.

G1. INTRODUCTION: Sandy Coker took the Chair. She welcomed new delegates.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: Additional item Regional Conference as G7B.

G2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Gill Aldridge, Jude Burgess, Steve Calvert, Jo Higman, Nadia Whittome.

G3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GC MEETING (21 September):

Item G12 Co-op Party contained a report from the previous meeting. Jean Stansfield said she had given a different report to the September meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

Item G9 County Council: Liz Plant said she had learned that it was the County Council (not the Borough Council) that would take the lead on resettling refugees.

Membership: Richard Crawley said he had given a membership report to the previous meeting but it did not appear in the minutes. In any case it was incorrect because he had not found all the affiliated and registered supporters. He circulated an updated report showing 938 members, 183 affiliated supporters and 200 registered supporters.

Chris Kemp noted that Keyworth branch membership had doubled.

Harry Curtis said that Radcliffe branch was organising a social for new members.

Allen Ashmore said that Newark CLP was carrying out a skills survey of old and new members, and is having to find bigger rooms for meetings.

Robert Crosby said we should encourage members in Ruddington and South Rushcliffe to revive the branches.

G4. ELECTION OF NEW CLP SECRETARY AND MINUTES SECRETARY:

Steve Calvert had circulated a list of tasks that the secretary needs to carry out (or delegate). Jean said we need similar lists for other officers' roles.

Peter Gates was nominated as CLP Secretary by Trish Whittome, seconded by Jean Stansfield. There were no other nominations so Peter Gates was elected. He thanked delegates for electing him and said he hoped to bring fresh thinking to the role.

Peter had made clear in advance that he would not be able to take minutes during meetings.

There was a discussion about the role of Minutes Secretary and we agreed that it would be better if there was one named person, and others could fill in when that person was not available. Liz Plant said the minutes of meetings were important as a record of decisions, and to inform members who were not able to attend. However, there were no volunteers. Richard had said he would take the minutes for this meeting only. Trish Whittome said in future she could make her notes available to Peter who could write them up, but we agreed that this would not be a very satisfactory solution.

G5. POLITICAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS:

Liz Plant nominated John Walsh for the vacant post of Political Education Officer and this was agreed.

John had circulated a discussion paper with a proposal for two half-day skills workshops. They would be about listening and sharing. They would be led by Rachel Scudamore and Peter Gates. He had contacted the Regional Office for advice. We would need to find a suitable venue and then contact members to invite them to take part. Trish suggested the GMB or Unison offices in Nottingham.

Working party: John Walsh, Rachel Scudamore, Gary Edgerton, Kevin Lowe, Patrick Walsh. Liaise with Bill Logan about costs.

Sandy thanked John for the work he had put into preparing this initiative.

G6. A. ELECTIONS, ELECTORAL REGISTRATION, MARKED REGISTERS:

Richard Crawley had circulated a summary of his meeting with Jeff Saxby, elections officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council, and some notes about Contact Creator.

The most important change is from household registration to individual registration, which is being implemented from this year. It is feared that up to a million people may lose the right to vote.

Sandy said that the national Contact Creator database was not up to date, and the software was sometimes flaky, allowing her to access only old borough ward boundaries. Laurence Turner is still the designated administrator although he no longer lives in the constituency. This must be changed to make Sandy the designated administrator, and then she will be able to give access to other people who need it.

Peter Gates said we should make representations to move Rushcliffe Constituency up the priority list, because it will become more winnable when Kenneth Clarke stands down.

Liz asked about the marked register. Richard said he had paid £274 for the marked register. When he received the digital lists he would forward them to Sandy and Chris Kemp, and he would give the paper registers to Sandy when he received them.

Trish asked who updates Contact Creator. The register of electors is updated centrally each year from the lists provided by local councils. Canvassing data is entered locally and is carried forward from year to year. Sandy said that Trent Bridge ward data was up to date.

Trish asked for a list of HMOs in West Bridgford (houses in multiple occupation, often students and other young people) so that we could visit them and encourage the residents to register. Alistair MacInnes to provide this.

Peter pointed out that people can be fined up to £80 if they fail to respond to letters about registration. (There is no truth in the rumour that they will be taken out and shot.)

Richard said that when the new register is published on 1 December he will check all members and chase any who are not registered.

B. MOTION FROM KEYWORTH BRANCH:

"This CLP urges the Nottinghamshire County Party to start work on the County Council manifesto for the 2017 elections involving all relevant Constituency Parties."

Chris Kemp proposed the motion. He said it was important that members should have more say in the manifesto, not just elected councillors. He accepted an amendment from 'County Party' to 'Local Campaign Forum' to reflect the new structure.

Gill Aldridge had circulated a report from the meeting of Notts LCF the previous week, but it did not address the substance of this motion.

Liz Plant said that candidate selection could not start until the new boundaries had been finalised (report due on 10 November). Then the Regional Office and LCF would have to agree a list of priorities for target seats and designate some divisions for women-only shortlists.

Allen Ashmore said that where a sitting councillor retires there would be priority for a woman candidate.

Replying to the debate, Chris said that divisional boundaries were not relevant to this motion, which was to give the LCF the lead in writing the manifesto, and to involve ordinary members.

The motion was carried unanimously.

To be sent to Notts LCF, Finbar at Regional Office, County Council Labour Group.

G7. A. REPORT ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Kevin Lowe said he was writing a report on his impressions of the conference in Brighton and would circulate it to branches. He had enjoyed the experience and thanked the constituency for sending him.

There was very strong support and warmth for Jeremy Corbyn.

Strong doorstep campaigning wins seats, but some people do not see Labour as sound on the economy or immigration. We have lost voters to UKIP.

Margaret Beckett's task force to report soon.

It is not good enough to blame the SNP for all the seats we lost in Scotland.

The Trade Union bill was mentioned frequently, as was the sentence 'The Tories have started a race to the bottom'.

The Trade Union bill was mentioned frequently, as was the sentence 'The Tories have started a race to the bottom'.
 There was an emergency debate on the steelworkers' redundancy.
 Europe: Glenis Willmott said we should stay in Europe and fight the Tories, who want to water down workers' hard-won rights. Change in Europe must come from within, the UK would have no influence if it leaves.
 Kevin's favourite speech was from John McDonnell. He promised to target corporate welfare and tax dodgers.
 NHS: we need to take account of the effects of immigration and economic policy.
 Is Labour going to crash and burn? No.

Peter Gates asked about Trident renewal. Kevin explained that it did not receive enough support to be debated as a 'contemporary motion' so there was no discussion and no decision.
 Allen Ashmore said the Tories might decide to renew Trident before 2020, and a Labour government would be unable to cancel it.
 Robert Crosby said that we need an informed debate about this issue, not a tug of war. Would the USA allow us to scrap it?
 Peter said he and other members had attended the demonstration outside the Tory conference in Manchester. Trade Unions are in favour of Trident renewal because many jobs depend on it.
 Sandy asked if we should include a debate on Trident at a future GC meeting.
 Jean Stansfield said we should also look at renewable energy.
 We agreed to discuss both (separately).
 Sandy thanked Kevin for his report.

B. REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

Peter Gates said that he and Lizzie Edgerton would be attending the regional conference in Leicester on Saturday 24 October and would report to the next GC meeting. He was one of six candidates for two seats on the Regional Board, but he didn't know much about it or the voting system.

G8. A. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bill Logan reported that he was not receiving bank statements from Unity Trust since they changed their agency agreement with another bank. However, he was able to give a summary: Balance at 31 August £1692.17, Income £55, balance at 30 September £1747.17. Balance in Nationwide account (9 Jan 2015) £1145.93.
 He said that information on the CLP share of membership subscriptions was very slow. He gave a cheque for £274 to Richard to reimburse him for the marked register.
 Colin Gibson (CLP auditor) said that with increased expenses for the marked register and room hire we need a proper budgeting plan.
 Delegates thought that the national party should pass on a bigger share of the membership subscriptions to CLP. Secretary to send a letter to Jeremy Corbyn and the National Executive Committee.

B. FUNDRAISING:

Richard Crawley reported that he had ordered 2000 tickets for the Christmas Prize Draw. The printer was on holiday but he was hoping to collect them this week.
 Various new ideas for fundraising were suggested, including coffee mornings, book sales, social events and pop concerts.
 Fundraising group to consider new ideas: Jane Caro, Nadia Whittome, Gary Edgerton, Richard Crawley.

G9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: (Liz Plant)

Liz reported that the devolution deal for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire was imminent. The new body will have an elected mayor. Its main responsibilities will include transport and economic development. It is not clear what the financial arrangements will be, nor how it will affect existing councils. Labour groups are not happy with it but need to accept it.
 As reported by Steve Calvert last month, the County Council Labour Group is holding joint budget negotiations with the Conservatives, LibDems and Independents.
 The Independent councillor for Selston has resigned so there will be a by-election.
 The leaflets to be delivered in West Bridgford Central and South division have been delayed.

G10. BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT (Alistair MacInnes)

Alistair reported that the revised planning application for Sharphill would go to the Development Control on Thursday 22 October.
(On Friday 23 October I noticed that substantial earthworks had started on the site.)

G11. A. FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Trident
Renewable energy
Campaigning
Skills workshops

B. WEBSITE and other communications:

Website: Lizzie Edgerton and Harry Curtis are rebuilding the CLP website. They have removed all the out of date material and are starting to add new information. They need branches to provide information. The site is provided by NationBuilder, which has an email function which may make it easier to send broadcast emails to members.

Twitter: they have not been able to revive the CLP Twitter account yet. Still trying to find out who has the administration keys.

Facebook: They have set up a Facebook page for West Bridgford Labour.

Newsletter: West Bridgford Branch is planning to launch a new newsletter for members. It could be expanded or shared with other branches.

G12. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

New members' event - to be organised by Jane Caro and Gary Edgerton.

Supporters' event - to be organised by Peter Gates, possibly with speaker Chris Williamson, former MP in Derby. Encourage them to become full members.

Winter Social: Friday 29 January 2016. Speaker: Glenis Willmott MEP. Possible venue Embankment Club, Trent Bridge.

(Standing Order 19 suspended to allow the meeting to continue for five minutes after 9.30pm)

G13. CORRESPONDENCE:

Fabian Society meeting on Tuesday 27 October.

G14. PAUL MORRISSEY 100 CLUB DRAW:

October:	£15	125	Susan Tiplady	(West Bridgford)
	£ 7	6	Anne Sheasby	(West Bridgford)

G15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 16 November

GC-Mins-2015-10

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

General Committee Minutes 16 November 2015

St Giles Church Hall

ATTENDANCE:

Delegates: Gill Aldridge, Peter Brodie, Jude Burgess, Steve Calvert, Jane Caro, Keir Chewings, Sandy Coker, Steve Collins, Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Gary Edgerton, Lizzie Edgerton, Peter Gates, Colin Gibson, Chris Kemp, Bill Logan, Alistair MacInnes, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield, John Walsh, Trish Whittome.

Delegate to LGC but not GC: Allen Ashmore.

Observers: Stuart Brady, Andrew Clayworth, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Zbyszek Luczynski, Rachel Scudamore, Nadia Whittome (there may have been others who did not sign the attendance sheet).

G1. INTRODUCTION: Sandy Coker took the Chair. She welcomed new delegates and observers.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: Sandy proposed taking item G4 (Political Education Workshops) before item G3 (CLP Secretary). Report on Notts Local Campaign Forum to be added after G13 (County Council report). These and other minor changes were agreed.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Kevin Lowe, Pam Thompson.

G2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GC MEETING (19 October):

Item G2 Minutes of September meeting: Jean Stansfield said that the minutes of the September meeting, which incorrectly included an item about the Co-op Party left over from the July meeting instead of what was said in September, had not been corrected.

MATTERS ARISING: Sandy Coker drew attention to various items with 'Action' tags.

Item G2 Minutes of September meeting: Reviving Ruddington and South Rushcliffe Branches: No progress.

Item G7A Elections etc: There were still problems with Contact Creator. Sandy was still awaiting access to current data. Alistair is providing a list of houses in multiple occupation in Trent Bridge Ward for the electoral registration campaign.

Item G7B Resolution from Keyworth Branch: The resolution (calling for greater involvement of CLPs in drawing up the manifesto for the County Council elections in 2017) had been sent to Regional Office and County Council Labour Group but not to the Local Campaign Forum yet. Keir Chewings said that according to Finbar Bowie at the Regional Office the councillors would have the final say.

Item G9 Finance: Bill Logan reported that information on CLP share of membership subscriptions was slow, and so was the money. He estimated that the CLP receives £1.57 per member.

G4. POLITICAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS:

There was a long debate about the events of the previous few weeks. Two workshops had been arranged, for Saturday 14 November and Tuesday 24 November, but had then been postponed.

Gill Aldridge proposed that the workshop on 24 November should be reinstated. Seconded by Jean Stansfield. There was a call for a recorded vote so here it is:

Gill Aldridge	For	Alistair MacInnes	For	Gary Edgerton	Abstain
Richard Crawley	Abstain	Trish Whittome	For	Peter Brodie	For
Jane Caro	For	Nadia Whittome	For	Harry Curtis	Against
Colin Gibson	For	Keir Chewings	For	Steve Collins	For
Steve Calvert	Against	John Walsh	For	Liz Plant	Against
Chris Kemp	For	Jude Burgess	For	Sandy Coker	Against
Robert Crosby	For	Jean Stansfield	For	Bill Logan	For
Lizzie Edgerton	Against	Peter Gates	For		

Total 16 For, 5 Against, 2 Abstentions. Proposal declared carried.

It was proposed that the following people should be on a working group to organise the workshop: Peter Gates, Gill Aldridge, Gary Edgerton, John Walsh, Steve Calvert. This was carried on a show of hands with nobody voting against.

G3. ELECTION OF NEW CLP SECRETARY:

Peter Gates had resigned as CLP Secretary so we had to hold an election.

Two candidates were nominated:

Peter Gates was nominated by Trish Whittome and seconded by Jean Stansfield.

Lizzie Edgerton was nominated by Richard Crawley and seconded by Gary Edgerton.

Both candidates were asked if they were willing to stand and indicated that they were.

Blank ballot papers were distributed and two people who were not entitled to vote were appointed as tellers: Allen Ashmore and Andrew Clayworth.

Result: 12 votes for Lizzie Edgerton, 10 votes for Peter Gates, 1 abstention.

Lizzie Edgerton was declared elected as the new CLP Secretary.

Sandy Coker pointed out that it was 9:05pm. She proposed that Standing Order 19 should be suspended to allow the meeting to continue after 9:30pm but no later than 10:00pm. Agreed.

G5. POLITICAL EDUCATION ORGANISER:

Agreed to postpone this item to January. Colin Gibson proposed that the role should be clarified and this was agreed. Gill Aldridge said she had drawn up a proposal which was amended by John Walsh. To be brought to the December meeting.

G6. CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Trish Whittome reported that the petition calling on Kenneth Clarke to oppose the cuts in Tax Credits received 626 signatures. She said it involved great teamwork and proposed that similar petitions be used in future to support Labour Party policy. Members should also contact Kenneth Clarke with their gripes and visit his surgeries.

Demonstration against cuts to Tax Credits in Old Market Square, 2pm Saturday 21 November. CLP banner to be taken.

She had distributed the campaign plan she had drawn up for West Bridgford Branch and asked other branches to discuss it. She proposed that a new Campaign Group should be set up to prepare for the County Council elections in 2017.

Alistair MacInnes suggested that we should define its purpose and responsibilities. Nadia Whittome suggested we should not wait for another year. Richard Crawley suggested it should be called Campaign Team, not Campaign Group. Liz Plant suggested it should be set up in the new year, with more than a year before the County Council elections.

Steve Calvert suggested the new team should start work in January. He praised the campaign plan from Trish and encouraged other branches to join in.

Keir Chewings suggested it should involve the whole constituency from the start, not just West Bridgford. Meetings should be held in different venues around the constituency. Four branches are active: Cotgrave, Radcliffe, Keyworth, West Bridgford.

Trish suggested that one or two members from each branch should set up the group and get on with deciding priorities. Nominations to Trish. It would be open to other members.

Street Stall on Central Avenue, West Bridgford: 10:30 - 12:30 Saturday 5 December. We need leaflets and young people. Would the County Council leaflet be ready? Leaflet about Tax Credits? (can be downloaded from Labour Party website)

Robert Crosby suggested that we need a leaflet with a local angle, drawing attention to the fact that Kenneth Clarke supported cuts to Tax Credits.

Sandy thanked Trish for all the work she had been doing.

G7. YOUTH CAMPAIGN REPORT:

Nadia Whittome circulated a written report. She had contacted all the young members in the constituency. She was trying to arrange a meeting in the West Bridgford Youth Centre (in the Library building) on Saturday 5 December, after the Street Stall. It would cost £25 per hour. We agreed a maximum of £50.

Details of Youth Elections in Nadia's report.

G8. OFFICER ROLES:

Descriptions of some officer roles were distributed. Some roles are defined by the national Labour Party or the Regional Office. Others can be defined locally.

Jean Stansfield proposed a group to discuss this issue: herself, Sandy Coker, Richard Crawley, Peter Gates, Liz Plant, Bill Logan. We agreed that Jean should co-ordinate the group.

G9. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT:

Lizzie Edgerton said that she was holding regular meetings with Harry Curtis. They were updating the content of the CLP website and were waiting for the domain name. They need details from all branches and the Women's Group to post on the website - branches need to take responsibility for this.

There are problems with Nation Builder.

She had set up a Facebook page and would give more people access to it.

Twitter: Keir said that he set up the original CLP Twitter account using an old email address and could no longer access it, update it or close it down. Lizzie said she would set up a new account.

G10. SOCIAL EVENTS / WINTER SOCIAL:

Gary Edgerton said that he had organised a joint social between West Bridgford Branch and members of Nottingham's Kurdish community on Friday 11 December at All Hallows Church Hall, Pierrepont Road, Lady Bay. It would include a Kurdish buffet, folk music and dancing. He proposed extending it to all branches in the CLP and this was agreed. The hall would cost £50 and it holds 100. He originally proposed free entry with donations, but had realised that this might not cover the cost. We agreed to charge £10 for waged people and £5 for unwaged. Liz Plant suggested sharing any profits between the CLP and the Kurdish group and this was agreed. Gary said the hall does not have a licence to sell alcohol so people should bring their own drinks.

Lizzie Edgerton said she was trying to find a suitable venue for the social with Glenis Willmott on Friday 29 January. The upstairs room at the Monkey Tree would cost £150 and the Embankment Club would cost £250. Keir Chewings suggested the Cotgrave Welfare and said he would enquire about prices.

G11. A. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bill Logan reported that he had prepared a budget for the rest of the year and the first quarter of 2016.

B. FUNDRAISING:

Richard Crawley reported that he had the tickets for the Christmas Prize Draw and gave some to Steve Collins (for Radcliffe) and Allen Ashmore (for Bingham).

G13. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Steve Calvert reported that the new boundary proposals had been delayed and would be published the following day.

Liz Plant said the Selston by-election would be held on Thursday 26 November and she encouraged members to go and help.

G19. CORRESPONDENCE - PCC RE-SELECTION:

Peter Gates passed correspondence about the re-selection procedure for the Police and Crime Commissioner to Lizzie Edgerton. The CLP is required to hold a meeting between 13 November and 18 December of all eligible members (who must have six months' membership at the freeze date of 20 October) to decide whether to make an affirmative nomination for Paddy Tipping.

We provisionally agreed to hold the meeting on Monday 14 December before the GC meeting.

All other items were postponed because we had run out of time.

G22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 14 December

GC-Mins-2015-11

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

General Committee Minutes 14 December 2015

St Giles Church Hall

ATTENDANCE:

Delegates: Gill Aldridge, Stuart Brady, Jude Burgess, Steve Calvert, Steve Collins, Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Gary Edgerton, Lizzie Edgerton, Peter Gates, Colin Gibson, Bill Logan, Alistair MacInnes, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield, John Walsh, Trish Whittome.

Observers: Rachel Scudamore, Chris Ward, Nadia Whittome.

- G1. INTRODUCTION:** Gill Aldridge took the Chair. She welcomed new delegate Stuart Brady from Radcliffe on Trent and observers and asked for confirmation of the agenda. Trish Whittome asked for the items Youth and Student Officer and Campaigns Officer to be moved up to item G4 as there was some confusion as to whether she and Nadia were delegates to the GC. Richard Crawley clarified that Nadia was Youth and Student Officer for WB Branch, and proposed that we co-opt her as delegate. Peter Gates suggested Trish Whittome should also be confirmed as Campaign Officer to the CLP as she was already undertaking the role. Gill Aldridge agreed they would be dealt with under G4.
- G2. Apologies for Absence:** Peter Brodie, Jane Caro, Sandy Coker, Martin Edwards, Chris Kemp.
- G3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GC MEETING (16th November):**
Jean Stansfield said the Co-Op report had been omitted and suggested it was attached as an email. Gill Aldridge had defined the Political Education Organiser role and this had been sent to delegates. Jean Stansfield thanked her and said this would be included in the discussion of Officer roles at the meeting to be held on 16th November. Gill Aldridge asked what progress had been made on the Glenis Willmott event on 29th January 2016. Gary Edgerton confirmed that Cotgrave Welfare had been booked as suggested, and that Vernon Coaker had been approached to speak also as he is resident in Cotgrave. Steve Calvert said it might be a good idea to have someone anti-Europe to speak.
- G4. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR (and possibly Vice Chair) AND YOUTH AND STUDENT OFFICER/CAMPAIGNS ELECTION OF NEW CLP SECRETARY:** Gill Aldridge asked Lizzie Edgerton to take the Chair as she had an interest in this item. Peter Gates asked if there had been an official announcement that Sandy Coker had resigned, and suggested that the two Vice Chairs continued to share the Chair until the CLP AGM. Liz Plant said that the CLP AGM is not until May, so if people were not happy to have the election at this meeting we should have it in January. Gill Aldridge said she was happy for this and it was agreed by those present at the meeting that the elections should take place at the January GC. Richard Crawley was asked to clarify how nominations should be put forward and explained that people should be proposed and seconded either at the next GC or before, and that Branches, if they had met, could put forward nominations. Gill Aldridge asked for nominations for Youth and Student Officer. Liz Plant nominated Nadia Whittome and Lizzie Edgerton seconded. Gill Aldridge asked for nominations for Campaigns Officer. Peter Gates nominated Trish Whittome and seconded by Gary Edgerton. Both appointments were agreed.
- G5. PCC ELECTIONS:** Richard Crawley had offered to run the procedure following Peter Gates passing the information to Lizzie Edgerton, as he had run previous events. He had booked a room in Lutterell Hall for Tuesday 15th December to avoid a clash with this GC meeting. He explained that Members had to be paid up on 20th October and already been members for six months before that. Richard Crawley had sent letters and emails to those eligible to vote, and to those not eligible explaining why not. Peter Gates asked if people not eligible to vote could come to watch. Richard Crawley said he thought not, but would check.
- G6. CAMPAIGNING EVENTS:** Gill Aldridge thanked Trish Whittome for her report. Trish Whittome noted that the Voter Registration Campaign had been a success and would be repeated in September. She said the Stall on Central Avenue had been active handing out the Councillors' leaflets. The Food Bank collection had done very well thanks to people's generosity (two 42 litre tubs had been filled at the Winter Social) with more expected. Trish informed the group of a Campaigns Team Meeting on Wednesday 16th December at the Poppy and Pint to tease out tasks and that she will circulate a document for people to look at and bring comments to the GC in January. Trish Whittome said she has made an effort to

include as many people as possible for a CLP-wide fluid team. She asked if people who haven't already joined Facebook could do so that they can access the information on the Facebook page. Chris Ward suggested that links to those pages should be put on all emails that go out. Alistair MacInnes thanked everyone who turned out for the Voter Registration Campaign. He had followed up on the impact but said this had been difficult because of Boundary Changes, though the overall count had gone down except in Lutterell Ward where it had gone up. Liz Plant said that in Lady Bay the response rate was 91.6%, Trent Bridge 85.07%, Musters 95.42% and Lutterell 92.26%. She also noted that she had met Nigel Boughton-Smith of Ruddington and they are calling a Branch meeting in January. Richard Crawley suggested a follow up campaign in February.

Nadia Whittome asked if she could discuss the Youth Report at this point as it involved campaigning. The second meeting of the Youth Group had met and decided to run a campaign on Mental Health, with workshops in schools and Sixth Forms linked with the Community Interest Group IMARA in the Trent Bridge Ward. Jean Stansfield and Liz Plant thanked Nadia Whittome for the work she is doing.

- G7: OFFICER ROLES MEETING:** Jean Stansfield said there is to be a meeting to discuss roles with the aim of putting together an handbook to present to the January GC.
- G8: SOCIAL EVENTS:** Gary Edgerton reported on the Kurdish Social event, which had been a success. The overall takings were £944.00 less expenses of £132.00 (a breakdown was given). It was requested that a contribution be made to the Kurdish Community for the food provided and this was agreed. A split of the profits had been agreed between the Kurds and the CLP. Peter Gates asked if they were a part of the Kurdish Community Centre and asked where the money would be going. Gary Edgerton said he would find out and get back on that point. Liz Plant asked if a smaller room at Cotgrave was available for the Glenis Willmott event but there isn't one that has disabled access, and it was agreed it is a good idea to move away from West Bridgford. Alistair MacInnes suggested looking at the room in Rushcliffe School that has been used in the past.
- G9: COMMUNICATIONS:** Lizzie Edgerton reported that members were looking at broadening out the role to propose a working group to share the various aspects e.g. NationBuilder, Contact Creator, Membersnet, the website, the Facebook page etc. As the Constituency pays for NationBuilder it was necessary to agree it at GC level. Peter Gates said he knows of people who are experts who can be drawn on. Trish Whittome agreed it was a good idea to throw it out to Branches to ask who would like to get involved. Gill Aldridge pointed out the people involved didn't necessarily need to be GC delegates. Stewart Brady said it is a good idea to reflect on how we communicate with members generally. Alistair MacInnes said we need to make better use of the information we have (not just about members but about voters). Colin Gibson observed that not everyone uses Facebook and that communication is always a problem. John Walsh wanted to underline the urgent need to contact members and supporters and suggested a team be got together now rather than wait. Robert Crosby said we are here to be a campaigning organisation and should look at what works. Liz Plant raised concerns about Contact Creator as it is important in terms of the election and to decide who uses it across the CLP, and agreed we could go ahead now, which Steve Calvert agreed with and asked if someone from each branch could find out who has skills that could be used.
- G10: CO-OP Party Report:** Jean Stansfield reported from the meeting of the Co-Op Party on 19th November 2015 (report attached).
- G11: POLITICAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP FEEDBACK:** Peter Gates reported back from the Political Education Workshop held on Tuesday 24th November (report attached).
- G12: COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT INCLUDING NEW BOUNDARIES:** Steve Calvert summarised what has been decided for Rushcliffe and advised that people could pick up in the various branches the details (available on the CC Website). In Rushcliffe there has been an increase in Councillors from 9 to 10, and the changes have been in line with the draft recommendations. In Tollerton the only change is to change name from Tollerton to Cotgrave. For Keyworth no change from draft recommendations. For Ruddington and the Soar Valley there previously had been two divisions – recommendation now is to have a single two-member division, Radcliffe on Trent no changes but the two areas of concern had

been inclusion of Shelford and a part of West Bridgford (Gamston North) to be included into the division. West Bridgford no change to what was proposed, three single divisions. West Bridgford North will be winnable but WB South very difficult. WB West changes slightly – at the moment it is Conservative controlled but it includes a bit of the Lutterell Ward, which was a surprising win in the Borough elections so this may be winnable. Maps and changes can be found here <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4142>. Liz Plant reported on the disappointing result of the Selston By-election, but a lot of work was done which would stand them in good stead for future elections. Devolution has stalled now, as the needs of each area are very different, the Mayoral issue is a problem, so although it is still going ahead it is on pause. Liz Plant also reported that the Budget consultation has begun with only one person voting against the proposals. Alan Rhodes the leader is coming to the GC in January so it was agreed a bigger room should be booked. There were some concerns that there is a lot to get through at the January GC. Gill Aldridge said we do encourage people to produce written reports in advance. John Walsh asked if it is the case that the branches will be based on the new boundaries and asked a question from Chris Kemp, which was to ask when the changes would take place (1st January?), an issue with the number of members the Branch has and therefore how many delegates branches can have. Robert Crosby pointed out that an important part of the boundary changes was to get out campaigning where we haven't been before. Peter Gates said that if we want more people to stand or come out campaigning we could think about having a workshop to tell people about the Council. Lizzie Edgerton mentioned a discussion about 'coffee with the Councillors', an evening event and a daytime one. Trish Whittome suggested working together and dovetailing information and training. Gill Aldridge suggested Liz Plant, Steve Calvert, Alistair MacInnes, Peter Gates and Gary Edgerton work together to develop this. Richard Crawley suggested anyone interested in standing could attend a Council meeting.

- G13: BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:** Alistair MacInnes reported on two issues. Cotgrave – (controversial) news on the development of a £5.5 million refurbishment of the shopping centre with multiple financiers, although unfortunately no anchor store has come along, which affected the funding. The second issue was the Local Plan, which has two parts, the Core Strategy regarding the approval of housing numbers and land taken out of the Green Belt. Rushcliffe has to deliver 13,000 homes by 2028. These will be at Sharphill, Gamston, Tollerton and Clifton. This clearly has implications for infrastructure, transport, education etc. The document will be available in January on the Rushcliffe Borough Council website with a consultation period of six weeks, with publication of the final draft in December with submission to the Secretary of State in February 2017.
- G14: FINANCIAL REPORT:** Bill Logan said that the backlog of subscriptions from July – October have started to come in – a total of £429.66. Expenditure is mostly room rental, with other costs for Regional Conference (£115.00), printing of the lottery tickets (£72.00) and affiliation to the Fabian Society (£42.00) leaving a balance of £1597.83, although some cheques had not cleared so the actual balance in the account was £1880.83. He thanked Gary and Lizzie Edgerton for the work they have done on the social event and the contribution to funds which will be reflected in the next report, and a £20.00 donation from a long-standing member. He also reported that there is £1145.93 in the Nationwide account.
- G15: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Richard Crawley reported that he did not have Membership figures as he had been busy selling draw tickets, but he had been asked to speak about Boundaries, and said that traditionally we have drawn Branches along County Council divisions though have modified them to suit ourselves. Anything we do has to be approved by Regional Office (by NEC but Regional Office look after it for them). He suggested that Branches hold their AGMs as usual in January and that the Executive Team meets to discuss what we are going to do to change the boundaries, so the new delegations wouldn't take effect until May. Branches may need to hold meetings to elect their delegates in March. He stated that the number of delegates (which was mentioned) doesn't change on 1st January but changes from the Constituency AGM in May. Gill Aldridge asked Richard to confirm that he would inform Branches in the run up to May what the delegations will be. Richard Crawley said he would, presuming that GC keeps to the rule of 1 delegate per 20 members as has been done traditionally.

G16 MOMENTUM: Gary Edgerton said that he had attended the initial Momentum meeting in Nottingham and that both he and Lizzie Edgerton had been voted as Rushcliffe CLP delegates to the steering committee. Liz Plant asked if this was Nottinghamshire wide and Gary Edgerton confirmed it is, so it was queried what the Rushcliffe Momentum group is, as there was a meeting planned for Thursday 17th. Gary Edgerton confirmed he had heard there was, although he was not part of the original invite around it, but had heard about it subsequently, but understood that Peter Gates and John Walsh had organised it. Steve Calvert said this was confusing. Nadia Whittome said she does not support Momentum in Rushcliffe but at the moment it has the potential to be divisive and we should be focusing on Party unity. Chris Ward said he had come to the GC because of this agenda item and that he did not think that there is the need for Momentum, that solidarity is needed, that we need to project the anger we feel towards the Tories. He suggested the Constituency adopt a one-sentence summary of what we think the aims of the Party are. Gill Aldridge expressed concern that Momentum was including non- members and suggested it should be a topic for further discussion. Robert Crosby said we should fight for common aims and not waste energy and score points from each other, that it is the party as a whole that matters. Jean Stansfield said a lot depends on the aims of Momentum and that there were a lot of groups springing up. Gary Edgerton agreed we have to be unified and said he was concerned it was a stick to beat the party with and pointed out Momentum is not affiliated with Labour. Steve Calvert suggested there was a report to GC about the Momentum meeting where it could be decided if it was going to be of use to the Party. Gill Aldridge said it was easy now to recruit people via email and Lizzie Edgerton asked where the data to recruit people to the Momentum meeting had come from. Gill Aldridge replied that she did not know and had only recently heard of Momentum.

GILL ALDRIDGE MOVED SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS FOR TEN MINUTES

G17 FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: Momentum, Alex Norris from the Co-Op, Jon Ashworth MP, Clarion Choir.

G18 CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION: Richard Crawley passed on Labour Euro Safeguards Campaign material, Labour Environment Campaign and a Tory Leaflet that has been produced.

G19 ITEMS FROM SUPPLEMENTARY LIST: No one had requested anything from the list.

G20 PAUL MORRISSEY 100 CLUB - Draw for November and Bumper Christmas Draw: Winners November – 52 Gill Aldridge (South Rushcliffe) £15, 57 Ivan Westaway (Radcliffe on Trent) £7. December – 22 Rupert Bear (Bingham) £75, 122 John Bannister (West Bridgford) £25 (Gill Aldridge was drawn again but asked for a redraw).

G21 CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW: Richard Crawley announced the money raised - £10 from South Rushcliffe, £25 from Bingham, £70 from Radcliffe and £745 from West Bridgford, making a total of £850.00. Winners were 1358 Richard Beaver (West Bridgford) £50, 1263 Chris Hendry (West Bridgford) £30, 1573 Jenny Sims (Radcliffe on Trent) £20.

G22 DATES AND VENUES FOR MEETINGS EARLY 2016: Monday 18th January, Monday 15th February, Monday 21 March, Monday 18th April, AGM Monday 16th May. Liz Plant suggested the January meeting should be held in the Methodist Hall because of the speaker Alan Rhodes. Lizzie Edgerton said she would book this. Nadia Whittome asked for permission to book a venue for the Youth and Student Group. Bill Logan suggested a budget be set aside for the Youth and Student Group and the Women's Group.

G23 LIFTS HOME: None required

G24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18th January 2016. Richard Crawley reported that someone had said they couldn't attend meetings because of childcare, and that some years ago both the West Bridgford branch and the Constituency had agreed they would be willing to make contributions towards care costs (although no one has ever asked for it) and would we still be willing to do this. Gill Aldridge said she didn't know how much this involved but it could be discussed at another meeting. She thanked everyone for attending and wished them a Merry Christmas.

GC-Mins-2015-12

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

(Draft) General Committee Minutes 18th January 2016

Methodist Church Hall, Musters Road

ATTENDANCE:

Delegates: Gill Aldridge, Allen Ashmore, Annette Beaumont, Stuart Brady, Peter Brodie, Jude Burgess, Steve Calvert, Keir Chewings, Steve Collins, Jane Caro, Sandra Coker, Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Gary Edgerton, Lizzie Edgerton, Martin Edwards, Peter Gates, Colin Gibson, Chris Kemp, Bill Logan, Kevin Lowe, Alistair MacInnes, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield, John Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Nadia Whittome, Trish Whittome.

Observers: Maisie Caro, Mia Colley, Andrew Clayworth, Marc Gibson, Harriet Heaven, R. Houghton, Sarah Jamieson, Rachel Scudamore, Alan Tiplady (possibly others who didn't sign attendance sheet)

G1. INTRODUCTION: Gill Aldridge took the Chair and welcomed new delegate Cllr Martin Edwards.

G2. Apologies for Absence: Nigel Boughton-Smith.

G3. GUEST SPEAKER: Councillor Alan Rhodes, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council. Alan congratulated Steve Calvert and Liz Plant for the hard work they do as County Councillors. He spoke about his work at the County Council without a majority, but still making a difference, changing small but significant things, such as replacing the Spanish Civil War memorial and the memorial in recognition of the Child Migrant's Trust. A big change Labour introduces was to pay a living wage for over 2.5 thousand staff. Labour had a pledge card of the things promised to do and is delivering on these – e.g. a 20mph speed limit outside all schools, modernising the libraries, keeping street lights on at night, and investing in children's centres, despite the Tories making cuts to budgets. Alan Rhodes spoke about having had to redefine ways to deliver services, for example Labour couldn't afford to deliver the Highways service in the way it had been run – but were able to retain it within the public sector and make savings, setting up a Trust to protect our libraries despite inheriting a £133m deficit. He also brought us up to date with the situation regarding devolution, which has slowed down though discussions are still on-going. Steve Collins asked how the process of selecting candidates for County Council might be improved when in the past two had proved to be disloyal. Alan Rhodes said when you are elected you have responsibilities and unfortunately two had walked away from those responsibilities, and it was unfortunate that the system of selection had failed on two occasions. Annette Beaumont asked what safeguards are in place to make sure partnerships are ethical. Alan Rhodes answered that it's important not to go for the cheapest option. Stuart Brady asked Alan to say more about what devolution would mean for the County Council. Alan Rhodes explained it would allow the Council to combine expertise and resources with partner organisations, but it would take out the Police and Crime Commissioner role. Jean Stansfield asked Alan to confirm they will be using all the information about the Tories leaving a deficit as part of campaigning materials. Alan Tiplady asked how ordinary members could have input, Alan Rhodes replied to say they could be fed to him through Steve Calvert and Liz Plant. Gill Aldridge thanked him for coming to speak to the group.

G4. MINUTES OF GC MEETING 14th DECEMBER. It was agreed these were a correct record of the meeting. **MATTERS ARISING:** Glenis Willmott event – Gary Edgerton explained that the event had been moved to Friday 18th March, but that a venue has not yet been confirmed. Gill Aldridge asked about progress on a meeting with John McDonnell. Lizzie Edgerton explained that she had called John McDonnell's office as she had seen he is coming to speak at an event in March, and they had been enthusiastic about him speaking to the constituency, but she had had to pass the details to Regional Office, as any request for the leader or deputy leader has to be dealt with via them. Peter Gates confirmed that the date of John McDonnell's visit is March 5th. **Donation of the Kurds' share of the profit from the Winter social event:** Gary Edgerton explained they had asked their share to go to a Refugee Relief Appeal, which is based in Lesbos, this was agreed by the group and Stuart Brady thanked Gary Edgerton for the paper he had circulated giving details of the charity. **Women Delegates to GC** Richard Crawley said this was to remind people that branch delegations must be at least 50% women, and that now there is one extra place for a woman delegate from Rushcliffe Women's Forum.

- G5. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR (and possibly Vice Chair)** Gill Aldridge asked Robert Crosby to take the chair. Robert Crosby asked Lizzie Edgerton to confirm nominations for the role of Chair. She said there had been one nomination of Gill Aldridge, with Robert Crosby nominating and Richard Crawley seconding. Robert explained the process for the election, and invited Gill Aldridge to speak for up to three minutes, with a secret ballot of 'Yes' or 'No' votes being taken. Tellers were Andrew Clayworth and Alan Tiplady. Gill Aldridge introduced herself and explained she has been Chair of the constituency several times and described what this involves, such as having a leadership role, looking at procedures and systems within the constituency. She has also been a candidate in local elections, and has experience of chairing various bodies including School Governor meetings and TU Meetings. There were 27 delegates present. Gill Aldridge was voted Chair with 26 'Yes' votes and 1 'No'. Robert Crosby congratulated Gill Aldridge and passed the chair back to her. Peter Gates proposed a vote of thanks to Sandy Coker. Gill Aldridge began the process for voting for a new Vice Chair. Lizzie Edgerton said that there had been two nominations, Richard Crawley, who had been proposed by Annette Beaumont and seconded by Bill Logan, and Peter Gates, proposed by Keir Chewings and seconded by Peter Brodie. Gill explained that each candidate would be given three minutes to speak but that the other candidate would leave the room. Lots were drawn to see who would go first. Richard Crawley was first and Peter Gates left the room. Richard Crawley introduced himself, saying he has held several roles in the constituency, including Secretary, Membership Secretary, Agent and Candidate, and Fundraising Officer, he has organised selection procedures. He said he is very familiar with procedures and Labour Party rules, and also knows most of the members of the GC personally. He said he would like to serve as Vice Chair and can bring suitable skills to the role, and would support the Chair and other officers in building up the CLP and leading the vastly expanded membership to fight local and national election campaigns. If not elected he said he would continue to serve the CLP to the best of his ability. Richard Crawley then left the room and Peter Gates returned. Peter Gates thanked Keir Chewings and Peter Brodie for nominating and seconding him. He said it was interesting that Lizzie Edgerton had had to ring Regional Office to find out how to run an election and he saw this as a choice for people to decide what they want in terms of a Vice Chair. Peter Gates said that we needed to recognise that over 50% of the Party is now new members and that it is a different party to a year ago, which causes some tensions but that we need to recognise that it gives us power. He said as a Vice Chair he would want to recognise the power the Constituency has and how we give support to other branches and to start a discussion about the role the Vice Chair has. He said he would be interested to look at the Membership, that Richard Crawley does a good job but Peter wants to work with branches to actively get more members in and get them engaged in activities and 'champion the rights of the member'. He said we have an important job to do and we should not waste time fighting each other, either nationally or locally. A secret ballot was held. Richard Crawley was voted as Vice Chair with 18 votes, Peter Gates received 9 votes.
- G6. COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY CHANGES:** Richard Crawley led the discussion and handed out maps. He explained that the County Council boundaries will change next year and that there had been a strong feeling that we should make our Branch boundaries match as much as possible. It isn't completely possible because a constituency boundary goes right through the middle of two of the divisions. Bingham East has two parishes coming into our constituency and Bingham West has four. Richard Crawley proposed that some parishes move from Keyworth into Cotgrave (Kinoulton and Owthorpe) and some other parishes move from Ruddington into Keyworth (Costock) and from South Rushcliffe into Keyworth (Rempstone??), Tollerton into Cotgrave, and Plumtree into Keyworth. This would leave Ruddington a bit smaller, South Rushcliffe a bit smaller, Cotgrave much bigger and Keyworth and Radcliffe on Trent about the same. Richard Crawley and Harry Curtis had had a discussion whether to transfer Gamston North to Radcliffe on Trent, but had decided it wouldn't be sensible as it's definitely a part of the West Bridgford conurbation. This means that the West Bridgford Branch would stay the same. Another proposal is that Ruddington and South Rushcliffe merged into a single Branch, as it's now going to be one single two-member division. Richard Crawley said he felt it would be better to keep two separate Branches but to have joint meetings (which is done in other parts of the country). He produced a Membership Report, showing what it is now and what it would be under the proposals. He explained that the total number of members in the constituency has more than

doubled and offered to take questions. Keir Chewings thanked Richard Crawley for all the work he had done. He said he felt the changes should reflect the County Boundaries and if it's not in line with them we should go to Regional Office for permission for it not to reflect county boundaries. Richard Crawley said that in most other counties they actually go by Borough boundaries and not County boundaries, Rushcliffe is quite unusual. Gill Aldridge said that the rule just is that branches can't cross constituencies. Richard Crawley said that the other issue that may come up is that the constituency might change in which case we would have to think again. Steve Calvert asked for clarification about Gamston. Richard Crawley said there are nine members, none of whom come to the meetings at the moment, five or six in Gamston itself and three or four in Holme Pierrepont. Richard Crawley also suggested we might consider dividing West Bridgford into two or even three in the future. Gill Aldridge asked if everyone was happy that we progressed with the changes as outlined by Richard Crawley. No one raised an objection and Gill Aldridge confirmed that these changes would take effect from Branch AGMs.

- G7: OFFICER ROLES MEETING:** Jean Stansfield said there had been a meeting but more time was needed. The group is meeting again on 16th February and that she felt it was very important that the roles get defined. Gill Aldridge asked if Jean Stansfield would like to add anyone to the group but it was felt that the original group was sufficient, and also the meeting is at Ena Stansfield's house, so there was a limit to space available.
- G8: CAMPAIGNS UPDATE:** Trish Whittome said everyone should have had a copy of the Campaigns Document. These are divided into three groups. The first group is electoral style campaigns, the second is grassroots campaigns and the third is outreach campaigns. The idea is that members put their names to the campaigns and that someone will choose one or two people to lead the teams. The document itemises tasks that have been consulted on. Trish Whittome said the strategy is that these campaigns will feed into each other and the aim is to gain votes for Labour and to win seats on the County Council and at the General Election. She said she envisaged people who are already councillors or are prospective councillors will want to get involved. The grassroots campaigns are aimed at persuading people who don't currently vote Labour to vote, this will suit creative people who can design materials. The outreach campaigns include the foodbank, Trish Whittome said that Linda Burdett and Ian Munro are co-ordinating donations for the Hope foodbank in The Meadows, and said she hoped someone else might like to volunteer at the Friary and help register people to vote. The other outreach campaign is working with the unions and Trish Whittome said that Jane Caro and Robert Crosby had expressed an interest, with the idea being to identify people through unions to help during election campaigns. The document is supported by Gary Edgerton and Zbyszek Luczynski's Skills Survey and Young Labour, and Nottingham South is ready to help once we start the campaigns. Trish Whittome said that Contact Creator is a work in progress and that we will be able to use it. She asked the CLP to adopt the campaigns strategy so it can be used as a working tool to be used by the CLP now that all feedback had been considered. Gill Aldridge thanked Trish Whittome for her hard work, and she in turn thanked John Walsh for identifying the discrete areas. The document was accepted by the CLP. Alistair McInnes paid tribute to Trish Whittome for her skills, enthusiasm and energy and Gary Edgerton thanked her for her support and help.
- G9: COMMUNICATIONS:** Trish had referred to Contact Creator under the previous item and there was nothing to add.
- G10: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Liz Plant asked how many people in the room had had a letter asking them if they would like to stand for County Council elections. Keir Chewings said he had had an email which he had queried as he understood it had to be a letter. Gill Aldridge said the cut off date for membership was October and you had to have been a member for at least six months before that, so anyone who joined since the last election would probably not qualify, which is why not everyone would have had a communication. Liz Plant asked if it could be taken back to branches to be identifying people who are interested. Steve Calvert said people had to express an interest by Monday 1st February and Gill Aldridge said they wouldn't shut people out who wanted to apply after that. Robert Crosby said it is important to avoid what happened last time in Ruddington, where we didn't get expressions of interest. Nadia Whittome asked who should be contacted to express an interest, Gill Aldridge advised it is Finbar Bowie at Regional Office. Keir Chewings said the reason the deadline is 1st February is that they want to have the candidates selected early for a long campaign and

Gill Aldridge added that the first candidates are selected for winnable seats. Chris Kemp said it is almost impossible to guess which are going to be the winnable seats but come Autumn we will be scraping round trying to get people to stand for other seats. Richard Crawley said there was nothing more to add re Membership.

G11: COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: Steve Calvert spoke about the Minerals Local Plan, which has been running for the last two or three years to identify the sites for new sand and gravel minerals should be located. Hidden within the plan is a policy about hydrocarbons (shale gas is one). The plan went to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on Jan 4th where there were a lot of people in the public gallery. All the land in Shelford between the River Trent and the village is earmarked for sand and gravel, there are lots of concerns about flooding but also transporting it. The ES Committee heard lots of objections against it but there was a claim that the plan was over-estimating the quantities needed by 2030. Steve Calvert said he had said there had been a lot of representations from the Green groups about the policy but there had been no justification for separating the conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbons (eg gas and coal vs shale gas). People who follow the shale gas argument feel there is a huge difference and Steve Calvert had made a strong comment that he did feel there was a justification for having separate policies, which led to an amendment to the policy. The Minerals Local Plan only deals with planning and a marker had been made. The plan went to full council on Thursday 14th January and went through with the Tories abstaining. This is the beginning of what will be a rocky few years re Fracking with a lot more controversy when the planning applications come in and Labour will have to have a more definitive view about it. Applications are already coming in for testing with bore holes. Stuart Brady said it's a massive missed opportunity if we don't get our ducks in a row regarding air quality. Gill Aldridge said we should have the environment as a future topic for discussion. Steve Calvert said there is tension within the Party regarding fracking. Chris Kemp said Keyworth is likely to get fracking and the branch is very much in agreement that it's not a good thing. Liz Plant added that there had been a motion from Kay Cutts supporting a unitary authority, which was supported by all the Tories (despite 20 of them also being District or Borough Councillors!).

G12: BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT: Alistair MacInnes spoke about the developments at Trent Bridge - £7m is going into extending the new pavilion to have a 120-seater restaurant and a broadcasting centre with very little going into developing the stand, which would have generated more income. Also a planning application has come in to knock down the Class building at County Hall and temporarily use it as a car park while it's decided what to do with it (11 acres). The plan is on Rushcliffe's website. Martin Edwards spoke about the selling off of art that had been donated to Rushcliffe Borough Council. He had asked for the sale to be withdrawn (it was not) and he went to the auction at Mellors and Kirk. One painting had gone under the hammer at £22k, which was much less than the reserve price, and is much less than the amount the collection was estimated to sell for. At full Rushcliffe Council on December 10th Martin Edwards proposed a motion that the money that was received from all sales should be invested in arts in the Borough to support the lifestyle of the Borough residents and framed it in such a way that the Conservatives couldn't object to it. Although he wasn't able to stop the sale at least the Tories aren't taking the proceeds of the sale, it will be ring-fenced in the budget.

GILL ALDRIDGE PROPOSED SUSPENDING STANDING ORDERS AND CONTINUING THE MEETING UNTIL 21:45

G13: FINANCIAL REPORT: Bill Logan said we need to discuss finances at the next meeting. Richard Crawley said that regarding fundraising The 100 Club took in just under £900 and spent £300, leaving a profit of £600. The Christmas Draw took in £850, all of which goes to Branch campaign funds, the constituency pays for the tickets. There was no need to give a donation to the Test Match this year. Copies of the Financial Report were distributed, Bill Logan offered to answer any questions regarding this and said he would bring a budget to the next meeting.

G14: SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT: Gary Edgerton reported that he is putting together a list of potential events that will be circulated to members to get a feel for what type of events people are interested in and from that will be developing a diary of social events.

G15: FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: Gill Aldridge said we want to get as much political discussion as we have time for at our meetings, it had been suggested we have something

on the environment and fracking. Nadia Whittome gave a Young Labour report, she asked if Young Labour could have an additional delegate to the GC and for permission to have £30 for a banner. Richard Crawley said there is already provision for another delegate and Bill Logan agreed to the money for the banner. Andrew Clayworth said he would welcome a discussion on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). Robert Crosby said we had agreed at a previous meeting we wanted a discussion on defence/Trident. Stuart Brady said we need information on the European Referendum in terms of knocking on doors. Gill Aldridge said the Glenis Willmott meeting would be a good time to do this. Chris Kemp said there is a facility on Contact Creator to ask how people would vote in the referendum. Jean Stansfield said that she had in her notes that we were going to invite Alex Norris from the Co-Op Party to speak and there was also the Clarion Choir. Gill Aldridge clarified that we were going to invite the Clarion Choir to perform. Nadia Whittome said Young Labour would like to discuss affiliating to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Gill Aldridge said they can affiliate separately. Jean Stansfield said the Women's Forum had had a speaker on Palestine and they were going to send a motion to the branch regarding policy on Palestine. Richard Crawley said that affiliations were usually done at the first Executive meeting after the AGM. Nadia Whittome said she was happy to wait until then.

G16: CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING ACTION: None received

G17: ITEMS FROM SUPPLEMENTARY LIST : Keir Chewings said there is a by-Election in Cotgrave and asked the CLP for a contribution to the leaflet that had gone out (£200), which was agreed. Andrew Clayworth said he is a new member from South Rushcliffe and asked if he could be co-opted onto the GC, which was agreed.

G18: PAUL MORRISSEY 100 CLUB DRAW Winners were 125 – Susan Tiplady (£15) and 5 – Lizzie Edgerton £7.

G19: LIFTS HOME: None requested

G20: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 15th February, proposal from Lizzie Edgerton to have the meeting at St Peters' Rooms in Keyworth, which was agreed. Some people may need a lift. Gill Aldridge offered her apologies as she is having a knee operation and will not be mobile for most of February

GC-Mins-2016-Jan

**Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party
Draft Minutes of GC Monday 15th February 2016
St Peters' Rooms, Ruddington 7:30 pm**

Those present: John Berridge, Stuart Brady, Jane Caro, Andrew Clayworth, Sandy Coker, Mia Colley, Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Harry Curtis, Lizzie Edgerton, Colin Gibson, Marc Gibson, Chris Kemp, Bill Logan, Kevin Lowe, Alistair MacInnes, Ian Munro, Alison Ramsden, Jill Reedman, Paul Reedman, Penny Shields, Nigel Boughton-Smith, Jean Stansfield, Patrick Walsh

- G1.** Introduction, welcome to new delegates, confirmation of agenda
- G2.** Apologies for absence: Gill Aldridge, Peter Brodie, Steve Calvert, Steve Collins, Martin Edwards, Gary Edgerton, Peter Gates, Lucy James, Liz Plant, Nadia Whittome. Alistair's apologies for first part of the meeting but would be joining us later.
- G3.** Minutes of GC meeting held on 18th January and Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere). Minutes were agreed as being accurate. There were no matters arising.
- G4.** Radcliffe on Trent Motion on the EU Membership Referendum for consideration at the CLP plus discussion about the EU Referendum (e.g. Campaign dates/Constituency and Branch organisers). Stuart Brodie presented the Motion, proposing it to the CLP as he felt that the EU Referendum result very much depends on whether the Labour Party can mobilise its supporters to vote to remain. He went through the motion (attached), which had been unanimously carried at RoT Branch and is also national party policy, so he was bringing it to the CLP to take it forward. He had set out some practical steps that can be taken, notably appointing a Referendum Organiser at CLP level and having organisers at Branch levels. He said the social event in March with Glenis Willmott is a great platform to start our campaign and we have the potential to have street stands around the constituency. Jean Stansfield said we need the publicity and leaflets soon, and said we should also focus on sending letters to the local papers, as the case for staying in needs to be put strongly. Stuart Brady said he had drafted a press release so that if the motion was carried he would send out. Lizzie Edgerton said we were ordering our maximum allocation of 2,000 leaflets, to be delivered on February 25th and would speak to Marc Gibson as we have been encouraged to do as much as we can with social media, for example encouraging members to 'like' Glenis Willmott's Facebook page. Andrew Clayton asked if the constituency had a European Coordinator already and if so could that person do the role. Lizzie Edgerton confirmed that Gill Aldridge is the European Officer, but that Glenis Willmott's office had requested a European Referendum Campaign Co-ordinator also. Bill Logan commented that there was an interesting report on the radio where Cameron had been at a Tory Party meeting with 70 members and that, of those, only one had said they would canvass/leaflet, so it is down to us to get the message across. Jill Reedman reported that she and Paul Reedman had attended a conference about Europe and that it had been said that the constituency would be provided with information, stressing the urgency to get materials out as soon as possible. She said it had been an interesting conference and they had been assured the materials would be provided to the constituency free of charge, with the focus on those who were as yet undecided, and to encourage postal votes. Paul Reedman said there was a useful app for mobile phones called 'Doorstep EU', ideal for using when door knocking as it gave the key issues and all the most recent news. Jane Caro said she was not opposing the Motion but neither did she think the EU was necessarily a great thing, particularly mentioning Greece, where the EU had imposed austerity. She said she was in favour of staying in Europe but it must be a Europe that works for ordinary people, and would like to find out more about some of the movements that are campaigning to stay in the EU but also to address some of the issues. Stuart Brady agreed this was an important point but the choice is straightforward as to whether we are in or out of Europe and the nuances can get lost. He said if we look at some of the countries outside the EU, like Norway, they still have to adhere to EU rules but aren't in it to change any of them. If we go out we still have to agree to things like free movement of labour, this is an important message to get across. Jane Caro agreed and said the campaign needs to be a very positive one but it also needs to have space for those who have genuine concerns. Robert Crosby said there is an issue too about Cameron's bogus re-negotiations and that a lot of things we think are good about the EU Cameron would like to get rid of. Marc Gibson said he was concerned about making the EU Referendum the main focus of our campaigning. He thought that economics was equally important. Stuart Brady replied that it should be the primary focus is that if we lose the referendum there is no going back. The economy is important but we are an organisation that exists to win elections and the referendum is the most important election we have coming up. He said that there are a lot of economic issues (such as workers' rights) in the EU Treaties, a lot of environmental issues and other things bound up in the referendum, we have no council elections before June so this is the main front to fight. Robert Crosby said he didn't disagree with Marc Gibson about the Tories' economic policy but whether we like it or not the electorate do like the Tories' economic policies. They possibly don't understand it, or the implications of it, but the Tories have just got back in with a thumping majority because people did like their economic policies. Andrew Clayworth said he is concerned about when we start a campaign and asked if we had to wait until

the Referendum was actually called. Colin Gibson said he had already had leaflets from the 'Out' campaign. Richard Crawley said as he understood it the crucial meeting was to be Thursday, as if Cameron doesn't get what he wants he won't call the Referendum yet. He also said that we have got local elections before the Referendum in May for the Police and Crime Commissioner, and it is very important that we get Paddy Tipping re-elected. Colin Gibson said we can talk about the economy when the time comes. What we are faced with now is campaigning for something that is going to happen soon. He said as regards the balance between Paddy getting in as PCC and staying in the EU are not in the same, and that the EU is absolutely crucial. Robert Crosby said if Paddy Tipping isn't re-elected that will be a blow but we also have the continuing conjecture about whether the PCC post will continue. Ian Munro raised concerns that 2,000 leaflets were not enough and asked if there were any funds available to buy more. Robert Crosby said we as a CLP are trying to respond to information we have been given and we need to establish what we can have. Jill Reedman said Gordon Pattison is in charge of the EU Referendum Campaign. Stuart Brady said Gail McDade is co-ordinating. Richard Crawley asked if we can purchase more. Nigel Boughton-Smith said it is a great opportunity for the Labour Party to do some campaigning. Jill Reedman said the most likely date for the Referendum is June 23rd, and that there are national campaigning days planned for 27th February and 19th March and that the Party is liaising with the 'Stronger In' campaign. Stuart Brady asked if he could propose the motion with the rider that we appoint an organiser and branch organisers as actions, get in touch with Regional Office on the matter of leaflets and consider what funds might be required for further leaflets, and that he would email the press release out. Chris Kemp said that Contact Creator sheets for canvassing could be run off by him, Sandra Coker for West Bridgford and Keir Chewings for Cotgrave. Robert Crosby proposed that we support Stuart Brady in the position of Organiser, and this was agreed. The Motion was proposed by Stuart Brady and seconded by Jean Stansfield. At a vote it was unanimously carried.

- G5. Report from Local Government Conference.** Chris Kemp gave an interesting report on the Conference (attached). Jean Stansfield said it was a very informative report and thanked him.
- G6. Financial Report & fundraising discussion** Bill Logan said it is important to agree an annual budget. Regarding donations he said Officers get donation reports from the Party and people's membership is rounded up and suggested we should perhaps thank people for their donations. We need to have funds to fight campaigns. He raised the issue that we have been asked to renew our subscription to NationBuilder (which provides a website and database facility and the ability to target different communications to different people amongst other things). This is £240. He said he has set out what he thinks our income is likely to be and what our expenditure might be (based on previous years) and made the point that the ultimate purpose we have is to win General Elections. The last one cost us £6,000 and if we had one tomorrow we wouldn't be able to fight it as we don't have the money. He said although it is unlikely there will be one soon we have to make sure that by 2020 we have enough funds. Colin Gibson said we are spending money quickly through nothing other than routine business plus a £500 donation to the election fund so presumably we are potentially losing £1,000 a year. Until we have social events/fundraising efforts to increase that in a couple of years we will be bust with no money for delegates' expenses or room hire. Robert Crosby said at a recent EC meeting we had had this discussion. We have had a lot of new members and people want to have meetings but going forward we have to manage our finances even more diligently. Looking at the figures that Bill Logan has produced there is no doubt we have some serious choices to make. Ian Munro said with the increase in membership can we ask for a few pounds from each person. Robert Crosby said there are two arguments here. One is what has the influx in new members brought the Party nationally a bit more money but this hasn't been devolved to constituencies or branches and he couldn't see any time soon CLPs getting a more generous settlement. That leaves the option of passing the hat round to people, many of whom are paying £47 a year already. Jean Stansfield said we need more money-raising events. She also drew attention to the Women's Forum, which raises its own money. It is now the Constituency forum and she asked if Branches would ask their women to come along. Robert Crosby said we have to be more creative and in broader terms we need to think what we do with our money. New members may not like it that they've just joined the party and are being asked for money. We may not be able to sustain the room hire costs we have been having. Sandy Coker asked Richard Crawley whether the membership of the Paul Morrissey 100 Club had gone up in the same way as membership locally has and he said it had not. Bill Logan said that members had been generous, that during the General Election we raised about £1,500 from members with the social and generous donations. Nigel Boughton-Smith asked for clarification about NationBuilder and whether we need it. Robert Crosby said it is the software package that powers the website. Bill Logan said a few years ago the Party cut the amount of money that comes to constituencies in order to pay for things like Contact Creator and European Elections centrally. Lizzie Edgerton said that NationBuilder was previously paid for by David Mellen for his campaign, and now the subscription has run out. She said she thought it is a good idea to have it, though there had been no formal training on it but the coming Saturday she and Harry Curtis were attending a day of training. She suggested that they report back following the training. Mia Colley said we have to look at ways to raise money without cutting back on activities people want to get involved with. Ian Munro said he didn't think asking members to give £1 each time they attended a meeting would be too much. Richard Crawley suggested that when the weather is warmer we could meet outside. Bill Logan said he has provided £800 for delegates as it may be that we want more than one delegate, although we

may decide the money would be better spent on leaflets. Kevin Lowe said going to conference was a great experience but said you can handle it on your own. Alistair MacInnes said we could give a fixed amount and then ask delegates if they wanted to share that money and work out between them how to split it. Jean Stansfield said this is going to be a very important conference with the newly elected leader; we are going to need some good reporting back and should send two people. Robert Crosby asked if there had been any deadline for when we decide and Lizzie Edgerton said the end of June. She added that previously the Leader's speech had been on the Tuesday and now is on the Wednesday, so that is one extra night's accommodation for delegates. Robert Crosby said we have plenty of time to discuss and should defer the decision and think about it further. Chris Kemp suggested it was considered at the next Executive Meeting. Re. room hire Bill Logan said he had perhaps overestimated costs as he had calculated not only for the Constituency but also for West Bridgford Branch Treasurer. He confirmed that booking The Methodist Church hall costs £19.00 per hour and many members were shocked to hear this. Nigel Boughton-Smith said that to book St Peter's for the whole evening was £17.60 but that he may be able to negotiate a discount if we book regularly. It was agreed that for larger meetings we use Ruddington facilities whenever possible. Colin Gibson suggested we revisit the figures and separate out business expenses (things we can't avoid e.g. data protection cover, licences, affiliations) and then see what we have available for 'what to do' things (e.g. delegate expenses, leaflets etc.) Richard Crawley said that the next two GC Meetings could be at St Giles at £10 per night, but after May we will have twice as many delegates and it won't be big enough. Robert Crosby confirmed that we will take this issue back to the EC and come up with some figures so we can make more informed choices.

- G7. Membership update.** Richard Crawley said that we have had a few members join since the beginning of the year and two or three resigned, so no great change. Mia Colley asked if we have any idea of the numbers who have rejoined. Richard Crawley said we don't get that information from the system. Nigel Boughton-Smith said one member who had resigned from Ruddington because of the issue about discussing disarmament.
- G8. Item from Ruddington re Fracking.** Nigel Boughton-Smith said that Ruddington had its first branch meeting recently and Fracking had been discussed because that area is one of the prime potential sites and several planning applications have been made in Rushcliffe. He asked if we know the Labour Party's position on Fracking. Robert Crosby said that this issue has been raised at two or three meetings and said that most of the members who attended are hostile to Fracking. He said that the issue that has been raised by Steve Calvert and Liz Plant is that the County Labour Group has yet to reach a view as there are Labour Councillors in the north of the County who are attracted to the idea of Fracking because it might mean jobs. John Berridge said he was at the meeting as a concerned Labour Party member but that there is a campaign (Frack-free Nottinghamshire), one of 300 organisations across the country. He said there is the Widmerpool Trough and a similar shale bed under Missen, which stretches across part of South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire, not surprisingly because it was once a coal mining area. He said that if this goes the way it did in Lancashire, whatever decisions Nottinghamshire makes may well be taken away by Central Government, which is going through some process to put all of this decision-making into the environment department so local authorities won't have the right to decide. He said the best way to stop this happening is for landowners to 'close the gates', which means parish councils being able to persuade them. Some will live locally, some will be corporates, and some will be big landowners. There are extremely good arguments why they would not want to despoil their land. He said hydraulic fracturing is only one of three unconventional methods, another of those may in the future be used on the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire border where there are coal deposits that have methane. Nigel Boughton-Smith said he wants to know where we can get clear statements from the constituency, the county and from the Labour Party. Robert Crosby said it has been discussed in the Keyworth Branch and that members were keen to find out what they can do in terms of campaigning. He said he hadn't heard anyone who was in support of Fracking, and while the Labour Group hasn't reached a position on it, we are to an extent 'hamstrung'. Nigel Boughton-Smith asked which way our democracy works. Robert Crosby said he felt if the Labour Group comes to what we feel is the wrong decision many of us will not like it. He said we have asked our councillors, Steve Calvert and Liz Plant to feed our views back to the Labour Group. Alistair MacInnes said there is a forum for doing that, which is called the Local Campaign Forum. Mia Colley said that West Bridgford has 577 members and Fracking is a hot topic in the Newsletter. She will collate those views as they are reflective of a large part of Rushcliffe that can be fed upwards. Nigel Boughton-Smith said we can put our own Motion forward. Nigel Boughton-Smith said that we should be making representations to councillors and trying to influence them. He asked how many people at the meeting would vote against Fracking and could we do something now? Robert Crosby asked if he had a specific proposal to put to the meeting. Nigel Boughton-Smith said 'That this Constituency opposes Fracking'. Chris Kemp said it would be useful if West Bridgford Branch discussed it first, also that if we are going to do a Motion all the members of the GC should have seven days' notice, but there was no reason why it couldn't be done next month. John Berridge said that as we speak there may be oil and gas extractor industries who are making applications for areas that have already been designated by government above the Widmerpool Trough. They may already be in touch with landowners and begun to offer the kind of incentives. The Party needs to be informed, he was concerned about the thoughts of northern county

councillors, as the information from Northern North America and Queensland in Australia is that there are very few jobs for locals, except as guards to keep protestors out. There is no goldmine of employment and profits for Nottinghamshire County Council, plus in ten-fifteen years there will be clean up expenses, by which time the extractors will be long gone. Robert Crosby said he wanted to point out again that we are the Labour Party and if Labour Councillors take a different view for whatever reason we have a practical issue to address. It has been clear what the mood of members is and it would be helpful for us to formalise the CLP position as soon as we can, with people taking it back to Branches for resolutions. Richard Crawley said he was aware Ruddington Branch was meeting soon and so they would be able to put forward a resolution to the next GC and that by then we would have feedback from the West Bridgford newsletter too.

G9. County Council Report including Local Campaign Forum request for interviewers for candidates for the 2017 elections. Robert Crosby noted that neither of our County Councillors was present to deliver a report. Lizzie Edgerton said that we have been asked by the Local Campaign Forum to put forward names of anyone who is interested in interviewing prospective candidates to be councillors.

G10. Borough Council Report. Alistair MacInnes said he had circulated a report with two key issues, Council Tax and building affordable housing which he delivered. Nigel Boughton-Smith asked how much money had been set aside for housing, because when he was a councillor the council never spent its allocation and Alistair MacInnes said it was £600,000 over the last ten years. Bill Logan asked if there was any idea of the numbers on waiting lists for affordable housing. Alistair MacInnes said waiting lists no longer exist, people go on to a list which looks relatively low with just three or four hundred on it, but the requirement for low-cost housing is much greater. Housing is allocated on a 'need' basis, so the list isn't representative. Bill Logan said it is an important political point and asked if we are deflecting people away from Rushcliffe to the City. Alistair MacInnes said yes, to the private sector. He said one of the problems is Rushcliffe rents are prohibitive, a family house is around £650 but housing benefit maximum is £400. These figures are on the Borough Council website. Robert Crosby said Keyworth branch is looking to put something in to ask that affordable levels be maintained. Chris Kemp confirmed this had been done. Alistair MacInnes said that it varies around the county, but in West Bridgford it is 30%, so of the 1500 houses at the Sharphill Development, 450 of those will be affordable housing for rent.

G11. Co-Op Party Report. Jean Stansfield said Rushcliffe is entitled to four places at the Co-Op party General Committee and that there are empty spaces as only she was elected. People must also be members of the Co-Op Party. Because of financial difficulties they will be meeting less frequently. At the half-yearly meeting on 20th February Chris Leslie will be delivering a parliamentary report and they have a speaker, Dame Pauline Green, who will be talking about the future of the party.

G12. 'Academisation' of Primary Schools in the Constituency. Nigel Boughton-Smith said he is a governor of a local school in Ruddington and that a Bill is currently going through Parliament to force Primary Schools to become Academies, and within this is an agreement with the Church of England that schools that are labelled as CofE, whether historically or not, will be forced to produce joint academies which have directors who are members of the Church of England. In other words they will force schools to become CofE Trusts. This is a concern for local schools but it's a bigger issue nationally. Sandra Coker said that she is Chair of Governors at Lady Bay Primary School and had attended a conference organised by the Local Authority inviting Heads and Chairs of Governors of 'good' and 'outstanding' schools across the county. She said there was no appetite from the floor for academisation a no directive from the LA. She said there was a strong feeling that collaboration was the way forward. She said the feeling is that there is no incentive for primaries to want to become academies, no drive for it, and she was pleasantly surprised that this was not being pushed. The Bill had not been discussed, that the conference was about being proactive and not waiting to be told 'you're going to become an academy'. John Berridge said he was not too clear what deal the government has done with the Church of England (or the Catholic Church) because if a school becomes a controlled school there are implications and obligations for the Church to make a contribution to the governance, and he would be surprised if the Church of England could raise that number of people. Nigel Boughton-Smith said the deal that has been done implies that any school that is labelled CofE will be forced to form an academy where there are directors who are CofE. Locally this would mean that St Peter's could form with Rushcliffe if they are forced into academisation. Robert Crosby said Cameron had made a speech after the General Election saying they were giving every school the opportunity to become an academy. They have had that opportunity since 2010 and a lot have not taken it, and that campaigns by parents and staff are key. John Berridge said the govt has levers it can pull, e.g. changed standards required in literacy which are difficult to achieve for many primaries, so they will be defined as failing and become academies. He said it would be easier for an incoming Labour Government to legislate for all schools to return to Local Authority control. Nigel Boughton-Smith said he would like some feedback from local Councillors and he was asked by Robert Crosby to provide more information for a future meeting.

G13. Young Labour Report. Deferred until next meeting.

G14. Campaigns Update. Deferred until next meeting.

G15. Future items for discussion. Jean Stansfield asked if we can get a speaker from the Trades Council, as there are campaigns we can get involved with (e.g. Sports Direct). She gave an account of the action taken, which was organised by UNITE. Lizzie Edgerton said we had booked Alex Norris to come to the April meeting to talk about the Trade Union Bill, but that we had been approached by Paddy Tipping offering to speak ahead of the PCC election, and the only GC he could do was April, so suggested swapping dates, which was agreed. She also said we have been asked to consider who the constituency wished to support for election to the NEC and would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

G16. Correspondence requiring action. None.

G17. Items from the supplementary list below. None.

G18. Paul Morrissey 100 Club - Draw for February. The winners were Lizzie Edgerton from West Bridgford (£15), who had won the previous month so asked for a re-draw but at Bill Logan's suggestion donated the prize to the CLP, and Ivan Westaway of Radcliffe (£7).

G19. AOB

G20. Lifts home: requests and offers

G21. Date of next meeting: Monday 21st March 2016, 7:30pm, St Peter's Rooms, Ruddington.

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

Minutes of the General Committee EC

Monday 1st February 7:30 pm, St Giles Church Hall

Those present: Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Lizzie Edgerton, Chris Kemp, Bill Logan, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield.

Apologies: Gill Aldridge, Sandy Coker

Robert Crosby took the chair

E1. Introduction, confirmation of agenda.

E2. Minutes of previous meeting (6 April 2015)

E3. Matters Arising (EU Referendum update/Glenis Willmott event/Boundary changes) – Nothing more was known about the EU Referendum. Lizzie Edgerton gave an update on the proposal for the Glenis Willmott event (Friday 18th March) – 17th March is St Patrick's Day so it was suggested to have a social event with a supper and music. Juliet Woodin from the Women's Group is arranging for a band to play Irish music. A venue had not yet been secured as there are issues of which are licensed for alcohol to be consumed. Ticket price suggested was £12/£8 concessions. Lizzie Edgerton said she will be responsible for the catering, and had taken advice from Gedling organisers. There was a debate about what should be served and Lizzie Edgerton said she would look at Irish recipes and come back with suggestions. Chris Kemp said while there are good reasons to take events out of West Bridgford it was perhaps not the time to do it and to stick with somewhere we are familiar with. There were suggestions given for possible halls and Lizzie Edgerton said she would follow it up. Robert Crosby asked if Regional Office might help publicise the event. Liz Plant asked about crockery and cutlery and Lizzie Edgerton confirmed that these were available at the halls.

Boundary Changes: Richard Crawley said there had been some comments from the Ruddington Branch that they were not happy with the Boundary Changes due to possibly losing Tollerton. There was a discussion about numbers of members in branches. Richard Crawley said we will probably lose a few because long standing members renew at the beginning of January, and that numbers on the electoral roll have decreased. Chris Kemp reported that the new register has now been uploaded to Contact Creator and that in parts the electorate is down by 1%, however on the former council estate it is down by 10% and everywhere else it's a fraction up, so it's not just the decrease, it's the decrease in the wrong places. Richard Crawley confirmed that the electoral roll is still determined by the old boundaries. Robert Crosby said that in terms of branch meetings most operate an 'open door' policy for any member to attend any meeting. Richard Crawley explained that there had been a misunderstanding regarding the number of delegates to GC that Ruddington could have but that had been sorted out.

E4. Finance Report and Fundraising: Bill Logan said that now the account is administered by Nat West he had not received the statement so he produced a provisional account, a lot of the expenditure had not been sent so the actual amount in the Unity Trust will be greater. We had £599.06 income, which was a donation of £500 from The 100 Club plus various other affiliations and expenditure was a transfer of £500 into the Nationwide, which is the election fund, and the other major expenditure is Kevin Lowe's delegate expenses of £361.40 and £95 for the Labour Party Regional affiliation, with the rest being room hire.

Totals: £1232.55 expenditure (£2560.81 carried forward) with the balance being £1927.32.

The balance in the Nationwide is now £1648.96, and The 100 Club has £70.78, making a total of £3,647.06.

Jean Stansfield said that at the last Women's Group meeting it had been decided to become The Rushcliffe Women's Forum and not just West Bridgford, which means that the invoices will now be given to Bill Logan for the CLP funds and not the Branch. This also means that when the Forum does a collection this money will be for the CLP and not the branch. Robert Crosby commented that the finances were a bit healthier than he thought they might have been. Bill Logan said we should have a discussion about budgeting at the AGM. While there is £1600.00 in the Nationwide, this was about £10,000 a few years ago, and that elections are very sore on funds, so although on the face of it we have funds, actually if a General Election was called tomorrow we would be in trouble. Robert Crosby commented that although we have had a large influx of new members that has put demands on us but hasn't actually brought much money in. Bill Logan said it is important that as we have four or so years until the next General Election we need to build the funds up. We had set a budget of £3,000 but had overspent. Richard Crawley said we had also spent on the Borough Elections at the same time. Robert Crosby said that what had been disappointing at the last election was that two or three invoices had popped up at the last minute from the Region due to a breakdown in communication. Richard Crawley said it has happened before. Chris Kemp said that he thought the reason they kept virtually all the membership money was to cover for things like this, and that if we are expected to pay we should at least receive a reasonably proportion of membership fees. Liz Plant commented re fundraising that the biggest expenditure is rooms, and that we have to come to some agreement about which rooms we use and how many meetings take place. For example, at the Branch meeting we should book the smaller room and that there should be a fixed timetable for meetings. Robert Crosby said that, good as the rooms are at the Methodist Church, if we keep meeting there month in month out we are going to clean ourselves out very quickly, and even though we have the advantage of Richard Crawley's connection at St Giles to get a good rate it is still a regular commitment, when for a long time we had been paying nothing at all. Bill Logan said that at the last branch meeting in West Bridgford there had been a collection for the Friary but also for the hall, which came to just under £40, and the room had cost £47. Robert Crosby said it can be difficult doing a collection for a charity and then also asking for contributions for the room. Richard Crawley said some people had been unhappy about the bucket being passed round and would have preferred it to be left by the door. He said he thinks it's reasonable to ask people to contribute to branch meetings but wasn't sure about GC meetings because they are effectively coming to work and shouldn't be out of pocket. He also said he wasn't sure whether the room currently used at St Giles will be able to accommodate the GC after May when we have twice as many delegates. Liz Plant suggested we could set the room out differently. Robert Crosby said they had had this discussion in Keyworth, where a lot of work had been put in to revive branch meetings, and they didn't want to start asking for money from members in case it put them off attending. Chris Kemp pointed out the branch meets in a room in a pub, which is free, but then members spend more on a drink than they would have to each to hire a room. Liz Plant said that hopefully we will get a more settled view soon as to the size of rooms we need and have some form of projection. Robert Crosby suggested we take as wide a view as possible and are a bit more creative – for example, we may not always need to hire a room. Lizzie Edgerton said that the Ruddington venue, St Peter's Rooms, had only charged £17 for the whole evening, so compared with the £50+ for the Methodist Church this was good. She asked if there were any pubs that might let us use a room as Monday night is quiet for them. Bill Logan pointed out it had been mentioned in an email that we shouldn't be meeting in pubs in case we offend Muslim members. Richard Crawley said that we shouldn't have been using the room at the Test Match as it wasn't accessible. Nadia Whittome said she had no objection to meeting in pubs, that the only criteria for her was that rooms must be accessible, in terms of religion she didn't see why it would be an issue. Both she and Lizzie Edgerton said that if the GC EC meetings were going to be this size someone's home would probably be big enough. Robert Crosby asked about coffee shops in West Bridgford. Nadia Whittome said the upstairs part of Copper is usually empty. Young Labour had met there on a Saturday morning, although a couple of customers had not been too happy (but the staff at the venue had been supportive). The Stratford Arms was mentioned as a possibility for a small meeting like the EC. Liz Plant said if we really don't have an agenda or business to discuss we don't

need to meet each month. Robert Crosby agreed but said that because of what is happening nationally, but also because of the way some of the recent GC meetings have gone we have to look at what we are doing and run it as smoothly as possible, and if that means going back to ECs that work then we should do it. Liz Plant said perhaps we don't need to meet each month unless there is something that needs discussion so that we have a unified response, perhaps we can meet bi-monthly. Lizzie Edgerton said that if we can reduce the amount of business at GCs we would have a better chance of not overrunning and getting charged extra room time. Richard Crawley said when we did stick to time he thought it was because we also had campaign meetings. He asked if we needed to meet on 7th March and mentioned that he wouldn't be here in any case. Liz Plant asked if we had anything coming up that was likely to be contentious. Jean Stansfield suggested putting a time against agenda items so that people stuck to a slot.

- E5. AOB:** Jean Stansfield asked if we were going to do anything about the Momentum meeting on March 5th. Chris Kemp said it is Momentum's meeting, most members have heard about it and he wasn't sure there was anything for us to do. Nadia Whittome said it was difficult with it being a Momentum meeting as there were some interesting workshops, which was why she was going to go, but that it was a shame that it wasn't a Labour Party event. She said that she doesn't think anyone actually disagrees with the aims of Momentum to support Jeremy Corbyn, but that that is the Labour Party. Robert Crosby said he didn't understand why Regional Office wanted input into us inviting John McDonnell when Momentum had already asked him, but that we should be interested in what John McDonnell has to say because he is Shadow Front Bench. Jean Stansfield asked if we would be wanting anyone to give a report to GC on it. Nadia Whittome said that Peter Gates is helping to organise it so he would probably want to give a report on it. Jean Stansfield said that one thing that worries her about it is that people's energy is going into different things and it's that energy that we want in the Party. Robert Crosby said that for a safe Tory seat we are fortunate to have a lot of people who want to get involved and agreed with Nadia Whittome and Jean Stansfield that Momentum can only detract. He said we were demoralised after the May General Election because we thought we would do a lot better than we did. Liz Plant said that with the increase in membership following the election of Jeremy Corbyn this is a time to come together, to put what happened behind us and move on with all these new members and enthusiasm. The main purpose is to win elections and fight the Tories and we need to get new members with enthusiasm knocking on doors. Robert Crosby said there had been a problem that during the May campaign there hadn't been enough expertise to harness social media to its full capacity, but that we can't just say now it will just be Internet campaigning, that won't work, we need the traditional approaches too. Jean Stansfield said we need to work on developing our organisation, for example having area representatives where a person takes responsibility for a small area and does leaflet delivery etc. – she had seen how successful this sort of thing had been at NALGO. This would mean we could leaflet more regularly and have more contact with our members and get them involved and attract them to us rather than have them get involved in Momentum meetings. Liz Plant said the Party locally has gone through massive transformation and you can't expect such change to go through without any tension whatsoever. People have come in with firm ideas of what they want and we have to accept that with the increase in membership people may have joined the Party now for different reasons, not NOT to win elections, but they want different things from the Party. Nadia Whittome said Momentum offers the space for lively conversations and ideas that the CLP doesn't but the Campaigns Strategy that Trish Whittome devised has a Grassroots element that could be the 'Momentum' within the Party, but unfortunately nobody had wanted to take that on. Robert Crosby said that a few GCs ago we had taken soundings as to what topics for discussion people wanted and Trident came up, and people were looking forward to that, but looking at what is happening nationally now, we had been told there was going to be bottom up discussion, but from what he could see it's now 'top-down', only with a different outcome to what we had been used to, so we may be wasting our time trying to get a speaker to GC. The problem is that we had been promised there was going to be room for members to have a discussion, but we haven't had one. Jean Stansfield said she isn't sure what the Labour Party stands for at the moment, the Shadow Cabinet members are falling out, the media is corrupting things and it may be that after Annual Conference things

are a bit clearer. We need to keep at it and keep getting things done. Chris Kemp said that there are four conferences before the next General Election and if we have a process for getting things agreed in the first two that still leaves two to actually sort them out.

PCC Election: Richard Crawley asked if we had heard anything about what we are expected to do, as it is only three months away. Liz Plant asked if we could ask Regional Conference. Nadia Whittome asked what we do for the PCC elections. Richard Crawley said last time we put out some leaflets and went on Central Avenue and a newspaper went across the county. Robert Crosby said that if there was something about G4S that would be something everyone could get behind.

Young Labour: Nadia Whittome asked Bill Logan about the Young Labour budget. He said it is best if the budget runs from AGM to AGM, and suggested £200 as a starting point. For example Nadia could get leaflets if she wanted them and send the invoice to Bill. He said he was going to suggest a similar amount for the Women's Forum, and while it may not spend it as the group is self-financing, it saves meeting time if anything is needed.

County Council leaflets: Richard Crawley asked Liz Plant if the leaflets had gone out. Liz Plant said as the leaflets are not dated it had been decided to wait until the weather was warmer and also to co-ordinate with the street stall.

E6. Date of next meeting: Mon 7th March (if necessary).

Rushcliffe CLP Executive Team Meetings 2015-2016

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

Monday 1st February 7:30 pm, St Giles' Church Hall

Agenda for Executive Team

- E7. Introduction, confirmation of agenda
- E8. Minutes of previous meeting (6 April 2015)
- E9. Matters Arising (EU Referendum update/Glenis Willmott event/Boundary changes)
- E10. Finance Report and Fundraising
- E11. AOB
- E12. Date of next meeting: Mon 7th March

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

Monday 2 March 2015

Draft Agenda for Executive Team

- E1. Introduction, confirmation of agenda
- E2. Minutes of previous meeting (2 Feb)
- E3. Finance Report and Fundraising
- E4. Borough Council Elections 2015: Selection Procedure - endorse candidates
(see next pages - apologies if I have missed anyone)
- E5. Items for GC Agenda:
Select delegate to Annual Conference
CLP Website
- E6. AOB
- E7. Date of next meeting: Monday 6 April

RUSHCLIFFE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

Executive Team Minutes

6 April 2015

ATTENDANCE: Gill Aldridge, John Bannister, Steve Calvert, Sandy Coker, Richard Crawley, Robert Crosby, Chris Kemp, Bill Logan, Alistair MacInnes, David Mellen, Liz Plant, Jean Stansfield.

E1. INTRODUCTION: Sandy Coker took the chair. Agenda agreed.

APOLOGIES: Keir Chewings

E2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (2 March): Agreed.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

E3. FINANCE REPORT:

- Bill Logan had provided a written report. Summary:

	General Fund	Campaign Fund	Total
Balance at 28 February	5560.30	1145.93	6706.23
Transfer from SR Branch	+ 271.65		
Social receipts	+ 1590.00		
Other donations	+ 5.00		
TU affiliations	+ 24.00		
subtotal	7450.95		
Election pack balance	– 1956.20		
Deposit cheque + charges	– 530.00		
Election Leaflets	– 776.39		
Office Rent	– 475.00		
Room Hire	– 50.00		
True balance 31 March	3663.36	1145.93	4809.29
Cheques not presented	+ 1986.20		
Bank balance at 31 March	5649.56		

- Annual accounts ready for submission to Labour HQ.
- Unity Trust is divorcing from Co-operative Bank and will work with NatWest in future This will mean new account numbers, cheque books etc.
- Invoices for printing and other expenses to be given to agents so that they can submit the returns after the elections.

18. Relevant Minutes of West Bridgford BLP Branch and Executive Committee: July – November 2015

Minutes of Branch Meeting Monday 26th October 2015

Attendance

Liz Plant (Chair), Steve Calvert (Secretary), 48 others

1. Introductions and Apologies

12 Apologies

2. Breakout Session.

Members formed themselves into four separate groups to discuss why they joined or rejoined the Labour Party and what they wished to get from the branch meetings. After a 35 minute session each Group gave a brief feedback. Notes of each discussion were taken and these will be summarised at the next Branch meeting. **Action SC**

3. Minutes and matters arising from the previous Branch meeting (28th September 2015)

Minutes agreed.

4. Minutes of Branch Executive Meeting (12th October).

Minutes agreed

5. Report back from Regional Conference

Peter Gates and Lizzie Edgerton reported back as the CLP delegates and Gary Edgerton as a Visitor. Key points

- Standing ovation for Jeremy Corbyn
- National membership now 380,000 and target of 500,000 for 2020
- Tom Watson thanked local Councillors for their support and hard work
- Party must update its structures
- There were informative break out sessions e.g. Contact Creator
- Format of next year's Conference will be very different
- Margaret Beckett supportive of Leader taking time to determine new policy directions.

6. Report back from National Labour Party Conference

Our CLP delegate Kevin Lowe from Keyworth was unable to attend so Steve Calvert read out his written report.

7. Appointment of Branch Officers

The following appointments were approved by Members

- Peter Gates...as the new Branch Secretary
- Lucy James...as the Branch Minutes Secretary
- Gary Edgerton ...as the Branch Political Education Organiser

8. Membership Update

Liz Plant reported a further increase in Branch Membership since last month from 540 to 580. There are now 938 Members in Rushcliffe CLP.

9. Finance and Fundraising

Bill Logan reported a balance of £742 and explained how the membership subscriptions were allocated nationally and to the CLP.

10. Communications Officer

Lizzie Edgerton gave details of the excellent progress in updating the CLP website and the Branch facebook page. Simon Harvey introduced himself and has offered to help with the monthly newsletter. Liz Plant will set up a meeting with him and Richard Crawley on his return. **Action LP**

11. Campaign Officer

Trish Whittome had prepared a written briefing on voter registration for occupants of houses in multiple occupation. This was circulated and Alistair MacInnes explained the details. Trish W will circulate dates for volunteers to work on seeking new voter registrations before 1st December. **Action Trish W**

12. Social Secretary

Gary Edgerton led a discussion about future social events. It was agreed that he would prepare an Events Calendar with bi-monthly events. He is organising an event with a band from Kurdistan on December 11th with more details to follow. He will approach the Nottingham Clarion Choir for a future event. There is a provisional booking for the Monkey Tree on Bridgford Road for the GlenisWilmott event on 29th January. **Action GE**

13. Women's Officer

Sandy Coker reported a very successful event on 22nd October. The original speaker withdrew at short notice but Jean Stansfield was a "super sub" by speaking about her life and times in Politics. (She only got as far as Chapter one!). Cathy Munro has now diared to speak on Palestine at the next meeting on 14th January.

14. Borough Council

Alistair MacInnes, Leader of the main opposition Group, updated the meeting on RBC's policy on supporting housing for refugees.

15. County Council

Liz Plant reported on the latest position on the devolution agenda in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It is anticipated that there will be a Government announcement on a deal around the time of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 25th November.

16. Date of next Branch meeting 7.30pm Monday 23rd November 2015 in Room 5, Methodist Church, Patrick Road, off Musters Road, West Bridgford.

WB MINS Oct 2015

West Bridgford Branch Executive Meeting

Minutes of meeting on Monday 12th October 2015

Attendance

Liz Plant (Chair), Steve Calvert , Nadia Whittome, Bill Logan, Jean Stansfield, John Bannister, Sandy Coker, Richard Crawley, Jane Caro, Gary Edgerton, Lizzie Edgerton, Peter Gates, Colin Gibson, Trish Whittome, Alistair MacInnes

1. Introductions, Purpose of meeting and Apologies

Liz Plant explained the background to the meeting which was the first of its kind in many years. It was being held as a response to the massive increase in membership and the six fold increase in attendance at the last Branch meeting.

Apologies from Jude Burgess and Jo Higman.

2. Format of Branch meetings

A long discussion took place regarding the future format of meetings. Key points raised were

- The next meeting should include an “ice-breaker” with small break out groups
- It is important to have a speaker each meeting
- There are 10 meetings per year. 6-7 meetings should address national issues and 3-4 with local issues.
- It was agreed to use the large room at the Methodist Church until further notice

3. Branch Officer vacancies

The following appointments were proposed

- Social Secretary...Gary Edgerton
- Secretary...to be advertised but Peter Gates has expressed an interest
- Youth and Student Officer...Nadia Whittome

4. Communications

Lizzie Edgerton reported back excellent progress with developing a Facebook page for the Branch. She will be meeting the Regional Press Officer tomorrow to discuss communications generally and is liaising with Harry Curtis who has IT responsibilities for the CLP.

Richard Crawley has volunteered to continue with the monthly newsletter. Peter

Gates said he had met a local journalist and member named Simon Harvey who was keen to help.

5. Campaign Co-ordination

Trish Whittome tabled a comprehensive table of Campaign ideas for discussion. Key issues arising were

- Historically, a CLP Campaign Group has met in the lead up to local and national elections.
- There were a number of volunteers to join a Campaign Group including Trish Whittome, Peter Gates, Nadia Whittome, Lizzie Edgerton, Gary Edgerton and Jane Caro. Alistair MacInnes and Richard Crawley offered to be advisors to the Group.
- There needs to be training on the use of Contact Creator.
- Nadia has several good ideas for developing a Youth and Student Group.

6. Political Education

John Walsh from the Keyworth Branch is preparing a proposal to be discussed at the next CLP General Committee meeting on 19th October.

7. Electoral Registration and forthcoming Election campaigns

It was agreed that someone (who?) would prepare a briefing note on the timing of future local and national elections and the EU Referendum.

Richard and Peter to liaise regarding the process for encouraging electoral registration.

8. Forthcoming Regional Conference, 24th October

Steve Calvert has paid the fee for our two delegates, Peter Gates and Lizzie Edgerton and for one visitor, Gary Edgerton. Jeremy Corbyn will be attending.

WEST BRIDGFORD BRANCH LABOUR PARTY

Minutes of Executive Team meeting

Monday 11 January 2016

B1. ATTENDANCE

Liz Plant (Chair), Steve Calvert, Jane Caro, Sandy Coker, Richard Crawley, Lizzie Edgerton, Peter Gates, Colin Gibson, Bill Logan, Zbyszek Luczynski, Jean Stansfield, Nadia Whittome, Trish Whittome, Alistair MacInnes (late)

Apologies: John Bannister, Gary Edgerton, Terry Morrell.

B2. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Liz Plant welcomed members to the meeting. Richard Crawley offered to take the minutes.

B3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (12 October 2015): **Agreed.**

B4. REMIT, MEMBERSHIP AND FREQUENCY OF BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

- Need an Executive Team now branch meetings are so large, to deal with routine business matters and report decisions to the branch meeting for endorsement. We would delegate more items to the Executive, with fewer reports and more politics at branch meetings. Branch meetings may settle down and delegate more items to the Executive Team. Several points were raised:
 - members like to have speakers at branch meetings.
 - we need fewer reports and more politics at branch meetings.
 - branch meetings could include political education, training and break-out sessions.
 - we need political education meetings as well as campaign meetings, and more social activities.
 - we don't need financial reports every month. County and Borough Council reports are useful.
 - we are required to have a financial report at every meeting, but they could be written, with an opportunity to ask questions.
 - even with more open meetings, they still need to be planned. We need to organise speakers. Some people don't like small groups.
 - members want to contribute to meetings, they don't just come to be entertained.
 - need different types of meeting.
 - feedback forms, asking members how we can improve the meetings.
 - Some meetings would be Selection meetings for candidates.
 - Panel of Candidates for the County Council elections would be set up by Nottinghamshire Local Campaign Forum.
- **Treasurer:** we are required to have a financial report at every meeting, but they could be written, with an opportunity to ask questions.
- **Membership:** Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer + 4 elected members. Other officers can attend as required. Agreed add the Women's Officer, and Youth and Student Officer.
- **Frequency:** monthly, second Monday each month, at St Giles Church Hall. Next meeting 8 February. Steve and Liz said that the second Monday was difficult for County Councillors.

B5. STRUCTURE OF BRANCH MEETINGS

- Mixed feelings about a need for Council reports. Suggested County Councillors could report one month and the borough councillors the next month. Reports are sometimes repetitive for members who attend branch and CLP meetings. It is difficult to know what members will find interesting. Liz said that councillors are required by party rules to provide regular reports. Nadia said they might be shorter, with written reports. Councillors said they did not have time to write reports for every meeting but agreed that verbal reports could be shorter, with an opportunity to ask questions.
- Jean said that Gordon Wheeler puts out regular reports to residents in his division praising his own achievements and those of the Tory Borough Councillors.
- Bill said that the LibDems do this too, and we need to do it more often.

- Zbyszek said that the Political Education plan includes public meetings in wards. Nottingham City Council does this.

B6. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT BRANCH MEETINGS

- List of suggestions from the last meeting discussed. Should consider: nuclear disarmament not just Trident, Middle East and Western intervention, EU, fracking, climate change and disarmament, education.
- Members from other branches are welcome attend our meetings as observers.
- **February - The economy.** A positive message to tell people what Labour would do, not just complain about austerity. **Andreas Bieler. (Now arranged)**
- **March: Trident and other defence policies.**

B7. CAMPAIGNING STRATEGY IN THE BRANCH

- Trish had circulated a draft campaign plan. She had had a good response. To be polished and taken to GC. She had set up co-ordinators and teams. Skills survey to be incorporated. Discussed campaign plan, which set up co-ordinators and teams. Focus on telephone and doorstep canvassing. Senior members can identify ideas that have worked or not worked in the past. Contact Creator to be kept up to date. We need to decide on target areas. Prepared election packs which included a list of websites to give to people who asked about policies. Members should be informed how to register for a postal vote to avoid the risk of forgetting to vote on election day when we will all be busy. Liz said she preferred to vote in person at the polling station.
- Alistair said it was an excellent document and would be a great help in the campaign for the County Council elections in 2017.
- Richard said there will be a PCC election this year.

B8. BRANCH AGM + ELECTIONS:

- 8 branch officers were consulted the draft agenda and call for nominations, and a number of amendments to take account of their views. Nominations to be sent in advance, and candidates to submit a statement of around 200 words. Nominations could still be accepted at the AGM.
- Some feared that members would be put off by "a brief statement of support (around 200 words)"; we would not ask for statements from people nominated at the AGM.
- Discussed nominations for GC officers and delegate to Annual Conference to get people thinking. Branch nominations could only be made at the branch AGM.

(Standing Order 19 suspended to allow the meeting to continue until 9:40pm)

B9. SKILLS SURVEY

- Zbyszek talked about the survey form. To be sent to members as soon as possible asking for responses within two weeks.
- Trish suggested the Labour rose should be added. Alistair suggested a question about work with voluntary groups.

B10. POLITICAL EDUCATION PLAN

- Zbyszek summarised the plan. The purpose of it is to raise awareness. To be discussed at next Executive meeting.

B11. FINANCE

- Bill circulated copies of his annual report for 2015 and his proposed budget for 2016.
- There has been a major increase in costs of room hire to accommodate the increase in members. We need to think about more fundraising.
- Budget to be discussed at next Executive meeting.
- Peter asked about public liability insurance because the Methodist Church Hall had asked if we were covered. Bill said he had asked the regional office and was waiting for their reply. (Later he confirmed that we are covered.)
- Printing costs for meetings have risen. Encourage members to print their own papers.

WEST BRIDGFORD BRANCH LABOUR PARTY

Minutes of Executive Team Meeting 8th February 2016

1. ATTENDANCE

Steve Calvert (Chair), Lizzie Edgerton, Peter Gates, Bill Logan Ian Munro Jean Stansfield, , Nadia Whittome , Mark Gibson

Observers: Zbyszek Luczynski, Umaar Kazmi, Mia Colley.

Apologies: Liz Plant, Gary Edgerton

B3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (11th January 2016):

These were agreed as a true record.

B4. MATTERS ARISING FROM ABOVE

- 4.1 Lizzie reported that the branch could now send 4 delegates to the next National Annual Conference because of increased membership. At least two need to be female and one a Young Labour delgate

B5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (25th JANUARY 2016)

- 5.1 Bill reported that he had received a thank you email from the Friary for our donation
- 5.2 Steve reported that a meeting group of people interested in visiting all Supporters in our branch was to be called soon.

Action Steve Calvert, Linda Burdett and others.

- 5.3 Lizzie reported that the meeting with Glenis Willmott on 18th March was now at All Hallows Church Hall.

B6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- 6.1 Peter suggested that the Executive Committee increase the number of Officers invited to attend and vote to include the Black and Ethnic Minorities Officer and the Disabilities Officer. This was agreed. **Action Peter**
- 6.2 It was agreed that we discuss the Standing orders for the EC at the nest meeting on 14th March.
Action Peter agreed to bring draft Standing Orders to discuss at our nest meeting
- 6.3 Peter reported that John McDonnell was attending the East Midlands Momentum Conference is to be held on the 5 March with over400 delegates registered. A discussion followed on the role of Momentum and whether people not in the Labour Party were involved who might be in other political organisations. Peter replied that Momentum consisted of Labour Party members and non-members. Some of us felt we should concentrate our discussion on building our branch's political activities/campaigns rather than Momentum's business at our meetings. It was agreed that since Momentum was an independent organisation with Labour party members but also non-members who might be in other organisations, members who attend Momentum meetings could report back when appropriate and relevant to discussions. However Momentum business should not be a regular item on agendas at meetings of our branch. **Action Peter**
- 6.4 Peter asked the meeting if the March branch which falls on Easter Monday should go ahead. After some discussion it was agreed it be cancelled as it would be poorly attended. This would mean we have the discussion of defence and Trident at the April branch meeting. **Action Peter**

B7. STRUCTURE OF BRANCH MEETINGS

- After some discussion we endorsed a structure of having two parts to branch meetings. The first with a speaker followed by discussion in break out groups for the first hour, followed by reports on activities/business. These Officers reports would need to be written and reproduced in our on line Newsletter.
Action Mark Communications Officer.

B8. COUNCILLOR REPORTING TO BRANCH

- After some discussion it was agreed that Councillors produce written reports to

Branch meetings. Major issues could be raised for discussion when needed.

Action all Councillors

B9. CAMPAIGNING STRATEGY IN THE BRANCH

- Nadia talked about the need to activate this strategy and the members who have agreed to lead on the three forms of campaigning it has highlighted. After some discussion it was agreed that who would organise a meeting of those who had been named in the strategy document together with members who have expressed an interest in this in the branch survey.

Action Gary Zbyszek Peter and Ian would progress this.

B10. POLITICAL EDUCATION PLAN

- Zbyszek summarised the plan. The purpose of it is to involve members in education training and campaigning. Training for canvassing was raised as a priority by Ian Munro He wanted us to prioritise canvassing members first so that they can get the information and training before canvassing the public. This was agreed.

Action Ian was to coordinate with Gary and Zbyszek to get this going.

It was agreed that Gary and Zbyszek would update the plan once they have analysed the results of the survey. More work was needed in getting returns in. The canvassing of members mentioned above would assist in this

B11. COMMUNICATIONS

- Mark Gibson Communications Organiser and Mia Colley Newsletter Editor introduced themselves. Mia wanted to encourage debates and contributions. Mark encouraged involvement in Facebook and Twitter. He would merge the Bridgford Labour Party and Lizzie's Labour West Bridgford twitter accounts.

Action Mia Mark and Lizzie.

B12. REPORTS ON ACTIVITY AND STRATEGY (Standing item)

- Our Youth Officer Nadia reported that the group has had 4 meetings now building a core group which meets monthly.
- Lucy and Jean reported on the Women's group meeting . They are preparing A MOTIOON ON Palestine for discussion at branch.
- Richard's membership report stated we had recruited 4 new members this month . The total stands at 570
- Peter reported that as printing costs for meetings have risen members could print their own or be paperless. This was agreed.
- Bill outlined the Budget for this year as had been circulated at previous meetings. This was agreed. (see attached).
- County Council Report. Steve reported on the County Budget negotiations with the other political groups in which agreement on the optional 2% increase in Council tax could pass with support of independents.
- He reported on the Planning Committee 19 January meeting's agreement for iGas to sink water monitoring holes at Mission Springs. He explained there were no planning grounds for opposing this.
- He stated his opposition to future applications for exploratory bore holes before extraction can take place, but the Labour group needed persuasion on this. After some discussion members agreed that this issue should be discussed urgently at a branch meeting
- It was agreed that we postpone the speakers for the discussion on defence policy scheduled for the April branch meeting till may, in order to have a discussion on Fracking at the 11th April meeting

Date of next meeting 14th March.

WEST BRIDGFORD LABOUR PARTY

Minutes of Branch Meeting 26 September 2016

Attendance: 11 members in WB West division (of whom 8 were eligible to vote in shortlisting), 23 members in WB North division, 16 members in WB South division, 0 members in Radcliffe division. A number of other members arrived after the meeting had started so the total was about 60.

1. **INTRODUCTION:** Steve Calvert took the chair and welcomed members to the meeting. He made a brief statement about the suspension of eight members of the branch. Seven of them were reinstated in July and he gave a particular welcome to them.
Apologies: Marian Beaver, Florrie Calvert, Ros Chapman, Jenny Craven-Griffiths, Gary Edgerton, Marc Gibson, Lucy James, Umaar Kazmi, David Morgan, Cathy Munro, Stephen Rice, Jean Stansfield, Harriet Ward, Beryl Arbery Whitehead, Nadia Whittome, Claire Field Worthington.
Agenda: agreed to include a motion proposed by Zbyszek Luczynski welcoming the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party Leadership in item 3.
2. **Selection of candidate for West Bridgford West division for County Council Elections 2017: SHORTLISTING MEETING:**
 - 2.1 There were no observers from the Nottinghamshire Local Campaign Forum or the CLP Executive Team. Richard Crawley explained the procedure for the meeting.
 - 2.2 Apologies for absence: Gary Edgerton, David Morgan, Jean Stansfield.
 - 2.3 Membership check: Only members who live in the division and had six months' membership were able to take part in this item. There were 125 eligible members and 8 were present, thus meeting the requirement for a quorum of 5% as fixed by the Local Campaign Forum.
 - 2.4 Review of Panel of Candidates: Lizzie Edgerton and Nadia Whittome were proposed and seconded. Other names on the panel were considered but we did not believe that any of them were interested in standing in this division.
 - 2.5 We agreed to shortlist both nominated candidates, so there was no need for a ballot.
 - 2.6 Arrangements for selection meeting: Monday 10 October at Methodist Church Hall. Time limits 5 minutes for speech and 5 minutes for questions and answers.
(Note: Lizzie Edgerton withdrew before the selection meeting. Nadia Whittome was selected.)
3. **DISCUSSION ON LABOUR PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTION AND RESULT:**

Motion submitted by Zbyszek Luczynski:

This branch meeting welcomes the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as our Leader. It notes that the British electorate has now rejected the policies presented by previous Labour leaders in two elections. Therefore this branch pledges to engage fully in the preparation of new policies in an alternative anti austerity programme based on a wide ranging debate among members so that we can work together towards achieving a victory for Labour at the next General Election. Furthermore this branch calls on all members of the Parliamentary Labour Party to do the same.

Proposed by Zbyszek Luczynski, seconded by Joseph Blomefield.

(Some speakers did not give their names and I was not able to identify them.)

Pat Murphy said he supported Corbyn last year but he had lost support in the centre ground. There had been an increase in abuse between members, although Corbyn had condemned it. A member said she had supported Corbyn but did not support the motion. Alan Hardwick said he hadn't supported Corbyn, but he had been re-elected, so we should all support him now. Otherwise the party could split as it did in 1931. Dora Polenta said she supported the motion. She talked about the experience in Chile under Allende. She deplored the suspension of members, the restrictions on voting and the cancellation of meetings during the election period. Peter Knott said he had supported Corbyn. The media including the BBC had been very anti-Corbyn. The new front bench was excellent. We did not need new policies. Jenny Murray said we didn't need the motion. Pat Armstrong said the party's current policies were OK. We didn't need the motion.

David Hulme proposed an amendment to change the first line from 'welcomes the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn' to 'congratulates Jeremy Corbyn on his re-election'.

Zbyszek formally accepted the amendment and it was carried.

Simon Harvey said we should move on. He proposed 'that the motion be not put'.

This was seconded but was defeated by 24 votes to 18.

Steve Calvert proposed an amendment to delete all except the third paragraph (Therefore) this branch... Seconded Pat Armstrong. Peter Knott opposed this amendment. The PLP should stop undermining Corbyn and work with the leadership towards a Labour government.

The amendment was defeated.

A member said he had re-joined the party after 30 years. He did not feel welcomed. Let's fight as a party.

Zbyszek Luczynski summed up the debate. We should include all levels of the party. We may not agree with all of Corbyn's proposals but we need to work up new policies for the next election.

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

To be sent to the NEC, the PLP and East Midlands Regional office.

4. DISCUSSION ON PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW:

Richard Crawley gave a summary of the current situation.

The Boundary Commission's Initial Proposals would abolish the present Rushcliffe constituency and create a new constituency of West Bridgford, which would include Clifton, Cotgrave, Cropwell, East Bridgford, Neville & Langer, Radcliffe, Ruddington and Tollerton.

Keyworth & Wolds, Bunny, Gotham, Leake and Sutton Bonington wards would be transferred to Loughborough, to be renamed Loughborough and Rushcliffe South.

The Labour Party team led by Greg Cook is co-ordinating responses from CLPs. They estimate that Rushcliffe had a Conservative majority over Labour of 25.1%, and the new West Bridgford seat would reduce this to 14.2%. Nottingham South CLP (and Lilian Greenwood) do not want to lose Clifton, because they would gain areas of Beeston which are less favourable, and a Labour lead of 16.0% would be reduced to 5.3%. Loughborough CLP is not keen to gain parts of South Rushcliffe because the notional Tory lead would increase from 18.3% to 20.0%.

Further liaison meetings were planned ahead of the public hearings in Derby (27-28 Oct), Northampton (31 Oct-1 Nov) and Lincoln (3-4 Nov).

Richard said he would not be available from 21-27 September. Steve Calvert and Ben Gray volunteered to take part in the negotiations.

5. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL DELEGATES to Constituency General Committee:

Maisie Caro had moved away so there were 7 vacancies, of which 6 were reserved for women. 12 members volunteered or were nominated. There were three men so we held a hustings, with them each being given one minute to speak. **Joe Blomefield** was elected.

Three of the nine women withdrew, so the six elected were **Trish Archer, Florrie Calvert, Keri Dutczyn Howe, Cathy Munro, Dora Polenta, Beryl Arbery Whitehead.**

These delegates to take office at the postponed CLP AGM on Monday 17 October.

6. COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION CAMPAIGN:

Liz Plant introduced this item. She said that the election would be fought on new boundaries, with three single-seat divisions in West Bridgford and seven more seats in the rest of Rushcliffe.

Labour retained control of the County Council in 2013 by one seat, but subsequently lost overall control when two Labour councillors defected.

We need more candidates to come forward. The Labour Group is drawing up a list of pledges and is offering financial help to target seats.

The campaign in West Bridgford North had already started and she thanked members who had turned out to help with street stalls and delivering leaflets. Canvassing to start on 8 October.

There would be a street stall on Saturday 1 October to campaign against Tory proposals for more grammar schools. Names would be collected on a petition to be presented to Kenneth Clarke.

Lizzie Edgerton said she had ordered 10000 leaflets for the 'Education not Segregation' campaign.

Pat Armstrong said an email about this campaign should go to all members the next day. (Agreed)

David Hulme said three leaflets would be needed in West Bridgford West. As soon as the candidate was selected we needed to get her name out there.

Peter McEntee said the Tories were already campaigning in West Bridgford West.

Liz Plant said the County Council passed a resolution opposing Teresa May's proposals for grammar schools and 100% control of admissions by faith schools. The Tories sat on their hands but voted against the motion. The LibDems supported the motion.

Martin Edwards said we wanted to keep the excellent existing secondary schools – Rushcliffe, West Bridgford, Becket, Emmanuel.

Peter Knott said he had taught in secondary modern schools in Lincolnshire. They discouraged children's ambitions.

Dora Polenta said the council should defy the funding cuts imposed by the government.

Liz Plant said the DfE's Initiative 'Schools that work for everyone' would allocate £50M per year to expand grammar schools, but this was not new money – it would be taken away from other schools.

7. MINUTES OF BRANCH MEETING held on 27 June: Agreed.

Matters arising – Suspensions:

Several members wanted to raise the issue of the members who had been suspended. *(Some speakers did not give their names and I was not able to identify them.)*

In response to questions Steve Calvert said eight members of the branch were suspended in March and seven were reinstated in July. Richard Crawley said the seven had been suspended for disrupting a meeting of the CLP Executive Committee on 7 March. Both of them said they had not been at that meeting so they were relying on reports from people who were there.

Linda Burdett said she was one of the members who had been suspended. She did not disrupt the meeting on 7 March and the meeting had not been described accurately. She was still unhappy with the process. She said we need a better mediation system which does not lead to confrontation. *(Several members stood to support her and she was applauded.)*

Peter Knott said he was not happy about the suspensions.

Brent Abbott said he was also one of the members who had been suspended. He was never told what he had done wrong. All members were prevented from discussing the suspensions. The procedures need to be changed.

Jane Caro said she was also one of the members who had been suspended, and the reason was not made clear. Her daughter had been put off the Labour Party.

Joe Blomefield said the treatment of suspended members should be reconsidered. Nationally some members had been suspended on legitimate grounds, but other members feared there had been a purge.

A member commended those who had already spoken. We had all suffered from this.

A member expressed disbelief. We should be given the evidence.

Zbyszek Luczynski said he was also one of the members who had been suspended. The response was not proportional to the original incident. Warnings would have been more appropriate. The issue should not be brushed under the carpet. Some members of the Executive Committee had wanted the observers to stay at the meeting. Disputes like this should be kept within the branch or CLP.

Another member endorsed what previous speakers had said.

Alistair said agendas for meetings should be clear. The agenda for the meeting on 7 March wasn't.

A member said there should be time limits on suspensions.

Another member said we should move on.

Liz Plant agreed that the agenda and purpose of the special meeting on 7 March was not clear.

The whole issue had been excruciating for all concerned.

Several members suggested that the Regional Director should attend the next branch meeting to explain the suspension procedure.

Richard Crawley said the consensus appeared to be that he should send an email to Gordon Pattison demanding that he or one of his officers should attend the next branch meeting to explain the disciplinary procedures, the reasons for the suspensions, the reasons for the delays, and the unclear letters that were sent to the members concerned when they were suspended and when they were reinstated. This was agreed.

A member said this was the first meeting he had attended. It gave a poor impression of the party.

WEST BRIDGFORD LABOUR PARTY

Minutes of Branch Meeting 26 September 2016

Attendance: 11 members in WB West division (of whom 8 were eligible to vote in shortlisting), 23 members in WB North division, 16 members in WB South division, 0 members in Radcliffe division. A number of other members arrived after the meeting had started so the total was about 60.

1. **INTRODUCTION:** Steve Calvert took the chair and welcomed members to the meeting. He made a brief statement about the suspension of eight members of the branch. Seven of them were reinstated in July and he gave a particular welcome to them.
Apologies: Marian Beaver, Florrie Calvert, Ros Chapman, Jenny Craven-Griffiths, Gary Edgerton, Marc Gibson, Lucy James, Umaar Kazmi, David Morgan, Cathy Munro, Stephen Rice, Jean Stansfield, Harriet Ward, Beryl Arbery Whitehead, Nadia Whittome, Claire Field Worthington.
Agenda: agreed to include a motion proposed by Zbyszek Luczynski welcoming the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party Leadership in item 3.
2. **Selection of candidate for West Bridgford West division for County Council Elections 2017: SHORTLISTING MEETING:**
 - 2.1 There were no observers from the Nottinghamshire Local Campaign Forum or the CLP Executive Team. Richard Crawley explained the procedure for the meeting.
 - 2.2 Apologies for absence: Gary Edgerton, David Morgan, Jean Stansfield.
 - 2.3 Membership check: Only members who live in the division and had six months' membership were able to take part in this item. There were 125 eligible members and 8 were present, thus meeting the requirement for a quorum of 5% as fixed by the Local Campaign Forum.
 - 2.4 Review of Panel of Candidates: Lizzie Edgerton and Nadia Whittome were proposed and seconded. Other names on the panel were considered but we did not believe that any of them were interested in standing in this division.
 - 2.5 We agreed to shortlist both nominated candidates, so there was no need for a ballot.
 - 2.6 Arrangements for selection meeting: Monday 10 October at Methodist Church Hall. Time limits 5 minutes for speech and 5 minutes for questions and answers.
(Note: Lizzie Edgerton withdrew before the selection meeting. Nadia Whittome was selected.)
3. **DISCUSSION ON LABOUR PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTION AND RESULT:**

Motion submitted by Zbyszek Luczynski:

This branch meeting welcomes the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as our Leader. It notes that the British electorate has now rejected the policies presented by previous Labour leaders in two elections. Therefore this branch pledges to engage fully in the preparation of new policies in an alternative anti austerity programme based on a wide ranging debate among members so that we can work together towards achieving a victory for Labour at the next General Election. Furthermore this branch calls on all members of the Parliamentary Labour Party to do the same.

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**West Bridgford Branch Labour Party
Agenda for Branch Meeting
7.30pm, Monday 25th September 2017
Methodist Church Hall
Patrick Road/Musters Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7PQ**



Welcome Apologies Review of Agenda (5 minutes)

1. Branch Campaigns and Communications Strategy

Stef Elliott Branch Communications Officer and Constituency Campaigns Officer

Presentation on involvement of members how we can establish the Labour Neighbour network, and prepare for the next election campaign, using tools such as Contact Creator and Nation Builder. **30mins**

2. Breakout groups to discuss how members can contribute to this strategy

We will then divide into break-out groups to discuss on campaigning and policy issues, including member engagement, Energy, Defence, Europe, Economic and any other topic members want to discuss. **30mins**

3. Minutes of the last Branch meeting held on 24th July 2017

- Matters arising from Minutes of meeting on **24th July 2017 15mins**
- Nominations for vacant officer posts including 2Vice Chairs. Disabilities Officer LGBTI+ Officer, Newsletter Editor Equal Opportunities Officer, plus Delegates to the GC and Constituency Executive Committee (**10mins**)
- **Report on Annual Conference (10 mins)**

4. Motion One for wording see over page

5. County Council and Borough Council reports-(10mins)

6 Officer Reports (15mins)

Bill Logan Treasurer Report

Ben Gray Membership Secretary report

Dora Polenta Campaigns officer report-McDonalds unionisation, Public Services Pay Cap

Nadia Whittome BAME Officer report

Jake Jackson Trade union Liaison Officer report

Parliamentary Candidate selection

5. Future Meetings

23rd October 27th November Annual General Meeting is 22nd January 2018

19. Tasks for the Secretary of the CLP (and WB Branch)

1. Preparation for the monthly meeting

- Write Minutes of previous meeting, or delegate to a Minutes Secretary.
- Set Agenda in consultation with the Chair
- Distribute to all Members but note there are a few not on email!
- Report correspondence and take action as appropriate
- Find a home for the relatively new printer.

2. Liaison with Regional and National Party

- Be the first point of contact between the national and regional officers of the Party and the CLP.
- Manage the nominations and selection procedures for local and national elections... initially with assistance from Richard
- Engage as much as possible in national policy development forums and encourage debate at Branch and GC level.

3. CLP Strategy development

Manage the Review and development of CLP and branch strategies relating to

- The conduct of formal meetings
- Policy on local issues
- Campaigning
- Communications including websites, social media, Newsletters
- Recruitment
- Fundraising

4. Key contacts

- Membership Secretary
- CLP and Branch Chairs
- Finance Officer (CLP and Branch)
- Regional Director and staff
- County and Borough Councillors
- Branch Secretaries

20. West Bridgford Branch e-Bulletins

West Bridgford Labour Party

e-Bulletin

1st December 2015

To: all members of West Bridgford Labour Party.

From: Peter Gates, Branch Secretary

Here are some items you may be interested in. At a time when Labour are forcing the Government to reconsider some of their key proposals, we are in a good position to organise and campaign successfully on other Labour values.

Stall on Central Avenue Saturday 5th December

There will be a Labour Party stall on Central Avenue this Saturday 5th December 10:30-12:30. Come along and meet us; come and help us spread Labour's message.

Young Labour

Young Labour are meeting in the upstairs lounge in **Copper, West Bridgford**, on **Saturday 5th December at 12:00**. All are welcome. Contact Nadia Whittome, Youth Officer for more information (nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk, or 07817 432 090).

"I'm Nadia, Rushcliffe CLP's Youth Officer. I know everyone's keen to get going but it's taking some time to sort out things. In the meantime, make sure you keep in touch by coming along to branch meetings and following the West Bridgford Branch Labour Party on Facebook and Twitter (@BridgfordLabour). Feel free to contact me at nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk or on 07817 432 090"

The West Bridgford Branch Meeting

The West Bridgford Branch met on Monday 23rd January. Attached to this email are the papers (agenda, minutes, reports etc.) of that meeting in pdf. The next meeting is on **24th January**, in the **Main Hall, West Bridgford Methodist Church Hall** on Musters Road/Patrick Road, 7:30-9:30. This will hopefully include a talk by a representative from The Friary Drop-in on homelessness. It will also be the AGM where officer posts are up for election. Why not consider standing for election? Further information will be posted in due course. Feel free to ask if you would like further information.

Syria

At last Monday's West Bridgford Labour Party branch meeting we overwhelmingly passed the following resolution:

"West Bridgford Labour Party calls upon the Labour Party NEC to campaign against further bombing of Syria, and to encourage all parties to focus their efforts on a diplomatic resolution."

Several members went to the Downing Street protest on Saturday 28th. For those of us who were unable to join the demonstration in London, there is an opportunity to protest in Nottingham on Wednesday 2nd December at 17:30 at the Brian Clough statue, and we can walk up to the Mechanic's Institute on South Sherwood street for the Stop the War planning meeting at 19:00.

Refugees and homelessness

Many of us were deeply affected by the talk about the refugee crisis delivered by Louise Regan at last Monday's branch meeting. We are now planning to make food donations before Christmas and review in the New Year. We have been informed that the director at **Hope** will be meeting with others in Nottinghamshire to prepare for the arrival of refugees in Nottinghamshire. We have set up two spots for food donations: **37 Epperstone Road NG2 7QF**, and **46 Blake Road NG2 5JL**. Food can be left in a box in the porch of each house. It will be just food (no clothes or wrapped presents please). They are often short of long-life milk, tins of meat/fish. Around Christmas they like to include a treat (mince pies, chocolate, Christmas pudding etc.)

Nottingham South CLP has confirmed that it does not already make donations to Hope in the Meadows so it makes sense for us to foster a relationship with this organisation as it is fairly closer to West Bridgford. Call Trish Whittome on **07769 683265** for further information.

Members' Workshop

The Rushcliffe Constituency Party recently held a Members' Skills Workshop where 30 members came together to discuss ways of engaging in the Labour Party. Chris Williamson (ex-Derby MP) and Adele Williams (Sherwood Branch) lead the group. Steve Calvert and Gill Aldridge spoke on local councils. It was a great evening with very positive feedback. We plan to hold more of these events to engage members – especially new members – in Labour Party activity.

Branch Social

Rushcliffe CLP mid-Winter Social is being held on **Friday 11th December 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm**, All Hallows Hall Lady Bay. It promises to be an interesting and varied night, with friends from the Kurdish Community in Nottingham talking about the situation in Syria, a buffet of Kurdish food, folk music and dancing. Tickets £10, concessions £5. Contact Gary Edgerton on 07711 136898 or email him at rushcliffe@labour-social.com to reserve a place.

Nottingham Fabians (<http://www.fabians.org.uk/about/>)

The Fabian Society is Britain's oldest political think tank. Founded in 1884, the Society is at the forefront of developing political ideas and public policy on the left. At their next meeting they be joined by two experts to discuss Labour and media coverage. (Dominic Wring, Professor of Political Communication, Loughborough University and John Hess, BBC East Midlands Political Editor). It will be held as usual at UNISON on Vivian Avenue, Nottingham NG5 1AF at 19:30 26th Nov 2015. All welcome. Parking available on site.

Momentum (<http://www.peoplesmomentum.com/>)

Momentum is the successor entity to the Jeremy Corbyn for Labour Leader campaign but it is independent of the Labour Party's leadership. It will work with everyone who supports Jeremy's aim of creating a more fair, equal and democratic society. Momentum is in the process of setting up governance arrangements to represent its supporters amongst the Labour Party membership as well as the wider social movement which is springing up. As it grows, Momentum will develop democratic governance structures at every level of the network. A local Momentum group is forming in Nottinghamshire and a meeting will be held early February with a public meeting in March. If you want to be kept informed please send your name to momentum.rushcliffe@gmail.com.

Facebook

Our Branch is now active on Facebook. If you are a FB user please subscribe to our page: **West Bridgford Branch Labour Party**.

Merry Christmas

In the meantime all the Branch Officers and Executive Board Members wish all members a very Happy Christmas period and a positive New Year. Hopefully one year closer to a Labour Government.

You received this eBulletin because your email address is on our West Bridgford Branch members' list. If you do not want to receive further emails from us, please reply asking to be removed.



West Bridgford

West Bridgford Labour Party

e-Bulletin

1st January 2016

To: Members of West Bridgford Labour Party
From: Peter Gates, Branch Secretary (wb.labour@btopenworld.com)

Happy New Year

All the Branch Officers and Executive Board Members would I am sure want to wish all members a very positive New Year. Hopefully one year closer to a Labour Government.

An update on some Branch News on meetings and activities.

The West Bridgford Branch Meeting January 25th

AGM

The next branch meeting is on Monday **25th January**, in the **Main Hall, West Bridgford Methodist Church Hall** on Musters Road/Patrick Road, 7:30-9:30. The January Branch meeting will be the AGM where you can have a say in the future direction of the branch. Many people joined the Party since May 2015, and many others since Jeremy Corbyn's election, because they wanted "*a new kind of politics*". The AGM is your chance to play a part in that change and to influence the direction of the Party.

The following officer posts are up for their annual election: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chair (2), Membership Secretary, and Woman's Officer. There will also be an election for members of the Branch Executive and West Bridgford delegates to the Rushcliffe Constituency General Committee. Other posts up for election will be those with responsibility for Campaigns, Communications, Social Events, and Political Education. We will also be identifying nominations for the Rushcliffe delegate to the Labour Party Conference in September 2016.

Further information on all posts will be sent out with the agenda. Feel free to ask me if you would like further information.

With a huge influx of new members in West Bridgford over the past year, it is important that the Branch is reflective of the membership .Do come along and vote and even consider standing for election as a way of influencing the future direction of the party.

Branch Speaker – Homelessness

This Branch Meeting will also include a talk by **Alexander Rae** from **The Friary Drop-in** on a brief history of The Friary, some thoughts as to the possible causes of homelessness, and what

the Labour Party might do - practical and in campaigning - to help some people's lives. We will also be arranging a collection for The Friary at the end of the Branch Meeting.

Jean Stansfield and Peter Gates are planning on writing a local policy briefing on this topic for all members.

You can watch the section of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party Conference speech where he refers to the housing crisis at: <http://tinyurl.com/onep2dy>.

West Bridgford Woman's Group

The next Women's Group Meeting is on **Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7:00 pm** in the West Bridgford Library. The guest speaker is Cathy Munro, who will be talking about Palestine. All women members welcome.

Rushcliffe Young Labour

Young Labour, the Party youth Section, is now active and meeting regularly. It exists to involve young people in the Labour Party and ensure that the aspirations of young people are reflected in Labour's policies and campaigns. The group covers all the Rushcliffe constituency and has a **Rushcliffe Young Labour** Facebook Page. All members up to 26 years old are automatically members and are very welcome to its meetings and events. Contact Nadia Whittome, Youth Officer for more information (nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk, or call on 07817 432 090).

Refugees and Homelessness – Food Bank

Members will remember the Branch decided to make food donations before Christmas to two local charities:

- **Hope** to prepare for the arrival of refugees in Nottinghamshire and
- **Friary Drop-in** to support local vulnerable and homeless.

Our informal target was to fill two 42L tubs, one for each food bank but the response has been so overwhelming we could have filled six tubs. Trish Whittome, who organised the collection added: *"Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity, it will make a difference to someone this Christmas."*

Members' Workshop and Political Activity Groups

The Rushcliffe Constituency Party recently held a Members' Skills Workshop where 30 members came together to discuss ways of engaging in the Labour Party. Chris Williamson (ex-Derby MP) and Adele Williams (Sherwood Branch) lead the group. Steve Calvert and Gill Aldridge spoke on local councils. It was a great evening with very positive feedback. We plan to hold more of these events to engage members – especially new members – in Labour Party activity.

Political Reading Group

As a result of the Members' Workshop a number of possible political activity groups were identified. The first to get off the ground is the **Rushcliffe Labour Political Reading Group** which is up and running with the theme of Electioneering. First book is Iain Watson's *'Five Million Conversations: How Labour lost an election and rediscovered its roots'*.

Everyone is welcome to join us. However, if you can't get and read this book in time bring along any reasonably well known work where you want to identify an electioneering theme. If you would prefer to use an ethical supplier, Watson's book is available from **Five Leaves Bookshop, 14A Long Row, Nottingham**. Just mention you are from the Rushcliffe Labour Reading Group and they will give a 15% discount on the usual £12.99 price.

Meeting date: **Tuesday evening 12th January** (If this day or date doesn't suit please indicate alternatives). This is a bit short notice but people wanted to get started. The group will meet regularly so if you can't make this date, do let us know and come to future meetings.

If you are at all interested, please contact John Walsh and he will organise the venue, presumably initially in West Bridgford. (Email: john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk)

Policy and Writing Groups

In addition to the members' **Reading Group**, we are setting up a **Policy Group** and a **Writing Group**. The Policy Group will be looking at putting together policy briefings for local Party members. The Writing Group will be looking at writing in various forms (leaflets, pamphlets, articles, narratives etc.) to support the Labour Party activity.

If you are interested in being part of either of these contact **Peter Gates** (peter.gates3@btopenworld.com)

Rushcliffe Momentum

Report by John Walsh (Keyworth Branch):

"The inaugural meeting of **Momentum Rushcliffe** was held on 17th December and was attended by 16 Party members, including 12 new members. The intention was that following an introduction to Momentum by Steve Battlemuch (Chair of Momentum Nottinghamshire), we would focus on member involvement initiatives and Party democratisation. However, it was clear from the start that Momentum's purpose and position within the Party, including its legitimacy, needed addressing. There was a frank and wide-ranging constructive political debate about the purpose of Momentum, the potential for greater involvement by members in Party activity, defining left and right, the role the increased membership can play in campaigning, democratising the Party and the urgent need for a focus on strategy."

The Next **Momentum Rushcliffe** meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th January, 7pm, in Room 4 Methodist Church Hall**, corner of Musters and Patrick Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7PQ. It is likely future meetings will be held in other parts of the constituency. An Agenda will be emailed a few days before the meeting. The expectation is that we will pick up the two main strands touched on at the first meeting: designing and developing member initiatives and democratising the Party.

For more information, see: www.facebook.com/MomentumRushcliffe

If you would like to attend please email momentum.rushcliffe@gmail.com

Branch Social

The Rushcliffe CLP mid-Winter Social was held on **Friday 11th December** at All Hallows Hall Lady Bay. It was a very successful night and raised over £900. Thanks to everyone who went along, and to colleagues from the Kurdish Community Centre in Nottingham.

Facebook

Our Branch is active on Facebook. If you are a FB user please subscribe to our page: **West Bridgford Branch Labour Party**. If you are not a Facebook user you can still read the page - but won't be able to comment on it: www.facebook.com/westbridgfordlabourparty

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle this year raised £850. Thank you to everyone who supported by buying or selling tickets.

Labour List

LabourList is an independent progressive blog providing a platform for open debate about centre-left issues and the future of the Labour movement. You can subscribe to their regular newsletter at: <http://labourlist.org/>

"Although we are a broad umbrella organisation seeking to draw together the many views and factions of the progressive spectrum, we also believe that progressive ends – such as a robust and resolute welfare state, social and educational equality and a fully funded National Health Service, free to all at the point of delivery – can only ultimately be achieved through the Labour Party."

That's all for now. Best wishes for 2016

Peter

Peter Gates

Branch Secretary

West Bridgford Labour Party

You received this eBulletin because your email address is on our West Bridgford Branch members' list. If you do not want to receive further emails from us, please reply asking to be removed.



West Bridgford Labour Party

e-Bulletin 3

11th February 2016

**To: Members of West Bridgford Labour Party
Affiliated and Registered Supporters**

From: Peter Gates, Branch Secretary (wb.labour@btopenworld.com)

Branch News

1. Branch Meeting 22nd February, Room 4 Methodist Church Hall NG2 7PQ, 7:30 – 9:30

The next Branch meeting will focus on alternatives to austerity with a talk from Andreas Bieler (see below). This will be followed by questions and group discussion activities on Labour policy, campaigning and local Party activity. **All are welcome.**

Global Economic Crisis: Austerity and the Possibility for Alternatives - Andreas Bieler

We are often confronted with the argument that in times of economic crisis and high levels of public debt, austerity is the only possible economic policy. I will challenge this understanding and assert that there is always a range of possible policy alternatives. Looking at austerity policy from a political economy perspective, we can unmask austerity as a project by powerful interests of capital, who use it in order to justify further restructuring. Against the background of a crisis of over-accumulation, capital attempts to open up the public sector for private investment and undermine trade union power further. By contrast, viable alternatives around an agenda based on social justice may include a strengthened public sector, a more progressive income tax regime, a better enforcement of corporate taxation and the scraping of costly and outdated defence projects such as Trident.

Andreas Bieler is Professor of Political Economy and Fellow of the Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham. He is currently also the Vice President of the local University and College Union.

The next branch Meeting will be on 25th April, where we will focus on Energy Policy and Fracking. There will be no meeting on March 28th due to this being Easter Monday.

The May 23rd meeting is likely to focus on Defence Policy and Trident renewal.

2. Format of Branch Meetings

At the Branch Executive meeting on Monday 8th February, we discussed the structure of branch meetings and our strategy for communicating with members. We felt too much time was spent on routine business and reports, and have agreed to drop that from the Branch meetings moving it to electronic means and the Executive meetings. This will mean more time for members to talk to each other, to discuss and develop policy and campaigning ideas.

3. Branch Elections

3. Branch Elections

At the Branch AGM on 25th January, we elected our officers for 2016. These are all listed at the end of this message – along with our local Councillors. We are very pleased to welcome 6 new members as Branch officers:

- Umaar Kazmi (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic Officer)
- Andy Duckering (Disability Officer)
- Jane Caro (Trades Union Liaison Officer)
- Marc Gibson (Communications Organiser)
- Mia Colley (Newsletter Editor)
- Ian Munroe (Auditor)

The rest of the Branch Officers are looking forward to a very productive year for the Party.

Unfortunately we lost Trish Whittome as Campaigns Officer and did not get another nomination, so that post is still open. If you might be interested in that post – get in touch with me and I will provide all information.

We also elected 21 delegates to Rushcliffe Constituency General Committee to represent the branch at Consistency level, of which 10 are new delegates. That is fantastic for engaging our ever-growing membership in the party. We still have 9 vacancies. Again we shall be opening nominations for these positions at the next Branch Meeting. If you are interested, please do get in touch and I can provide information.

4. Branch Newsletter and Communications

Our newly elected Newsletter Editor – Mia Colley - will be shortly pulling together a new format for a larger newsletter which we hope will involve members and others making contributions. If you wish to contribute please contact Mia on miaacolley314@btinternet.com

Similarly Marc Gibson our new Communications Officer will be developing our Twitter feed, Facebook pages, and Website. Please contact Marc if you want to help or contribute in any way – marcgibson@hotmail.com

- If you are on Facebook, we have a public page which you can "like":
<https://www.facebook.com/westbridfordlabourparty/?fref=ts>
- and a private, closed group which you can request to join:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/438162213041659/?fref=ts>
- If you are on Twitter, you can follow us at: @BridgfordLabour

Membership News

5. Membership

Our membership continues to grow - five new members have joined this month – and we are now up to 582.

6. Registered Supporters

A small group of members are planning to contact and visit our 120 registered supporters to talk about possibly becoming full members and becoming involved in the Labour Party, if you would like to help with that, please let me know.

7. Canvassing our membership

Ian Munro – one of our new Branch Officers would like to invite you to a meeting in order to discuss how best we can use canvassing in order to improve dialogue with our membership. Many members support the Party, but are not yet active. By contacting them through door-knocking, we may be able to encourage them to take a more active role with the Party. A proposed meeting can take place after Andreas Bieler's presentation at the Branch Meeting on Monday 22nd February. Please send Ian an email if you are interested in this initiative. (jandmmunro@sky.com)

Community News

8. The Friary Drop-in

At the January Branch Meeting after a talk by Alex Rae, we held a collection for The Friary Drop-in on Musters Road, and collected £209.

9. Meadows Foodbank

Members will remember Linda Burdett is organising Branch donations to the Meadows Foodbank. This forms part of the local campaign strategy relating to outreach work. This food bank has been running for just 3 years and is steadily growing. Originally open once a week it is now open 3 times a week, so all donations are welcome. Dave Shaw, Volunteer Foodbank Manager has indicated they are in need of:

- Sugar
- Juice
- Mashed potato
- Mixed veg
- Washing up liquid
- Disposable razors
- Men's deodorant and shower gel

But currently have lots of

- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Tea
- Soup
- Baked beans

So no more of these products at present please!

Any donations you can make should be delivered to one of the collection points - including bringing along to the next Branch meeting:

1. Bring donations to WB Branch Meeting
2. Bring donations to Rushcliffe Women's Forum Meetings
3. Nadia Whittome (Young Labour) - 37 Epperstone Road
4. Linda Burdett - 65 Byron Road (Tel. 07762004196 Friday preferable)
5. Sylvia Schwarz - 46 Blake Road

Other News

10. John McDonnell - Shadow Chancellor

You have a chance to see John McDonnell, the Shadow Chancellor when he comes to Nottingham to address the East Midlands Momentum Conference on Saturday 5th March.

There will also be a number of workshops, including: Europe, Trident, climate change, fighting austerity, Council cuts and devolution.

Information and (free) tickets can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com@MomentumTickets>

Information on Momentum can be found at <http://www.peoplesmomentum.com/>

Best Wishes,

Peter

Peter Gates

Branch Secretary

West Bridgford Labour Party

West Bridgford Branch CLP GC Delegates 2016

	Name
1	Brent Abbott
2	Linda Burdett
3	Steve Calvert
4	Jane Caro
5	Maisie Caro
6	Mia Colley
7	Andy Clapham
8	Richard Crawley
9	Gary Edgerton
10	Lizzie Edgerton
11	Peter Gates
12	Colin Gibson
13	Marc Gibson
14	Lucy James
15	Umaar Kazmi
16	Bill Logan
17	Zbyszek Luczynski
18	Ian Munroe
19	Liz Plant
20	Rosa Stansfield
21	Nadia Whittome
Coop Party	Jean Stansfield

Borough and County Councillors

Rushcliffe Borough Lutterell Ward	Martin Edwards	Cllr.MEdwards@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Rushcliffe Borough Trent Bridge Ward	Liz Plant	cllr.liz.plant@nottsc.gov.uk
Rushcliffe Borough Trent Bridge Ward	Alistair MacInnes	Cllr.AMacInnes@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Nottinghamshire County West Bridgford Central and South	Liz Plant	cllr.liz.plant@nottsc.gov.uk
Nottinghamshire County West Bridgford Central and South	Steve Calvert	cllr.steve.calvert@nottsc.gov.uk

21. Members' Workshop Programme

Members' Skills Workshop

Tuesday 24th November

Methodist Church Hall, Musters Road/Patrick Road

West Bridgford, NG2 7PQ

1. Introduction - Where are we now? (20 Mins)

Chris Williamson - Ex-Derby North MP

Chris Williamson joined the Labour Party in 1976 and became a councillor in 1991 and became Leader of the Labour Group on Derby City Council. He was Leader of Derby City Council on two separate occasions. He is a member of the League Against Cruel Sports and is vice chair of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Forum. He was the second newly elected MP of the 2010 intake to make his maiden speech in the House of Commons, speaking in response to the Queen's Speech on 25 May 2010. In October 2010, he became a shadow minister for communities and local government after only four months as an MP but after the reshuffle of the party in 2013 his role as shadow minister was replaced by Lyn Brown and he was elected onto the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. He was one of 16 signatories of an open letter to Ed Miliband in January 2015 calling on the party to commit to oppose further austerity, take rail franchises back into public ownership and strengthen collective bargaining arrangements

In this opening session, Chris will talk about the Labour Party, looking specifically at what members can and need to do to support the Party locally. He will focus on the following questions:
What can the Labour Party do for you?

- Labour Party History (brief), structures, rules
- How is Labour different from other Political Parties?
- How you can use these structures to get involved more effectively in the Labour Party?

What can you do for the Labour Party?

- Campaigning at election time – getting out the Labour Vote
- Campaigning between elections – raising the profile of the Labour Party in Rushcliffe
- Organisation – what skills can you offer?
- Policy Development – what knowledge/experience can you offer to policy discussions?

2. Developing Skills in working in the Labour Party (60 Mins)

Adelle Williams

Adele Williams is Branch Secretary of Sherwood Branch. She was an active campaigner in the Jeremy Corbyn leadership campaign over the summer. Adele is an activist in Unite the Union, Nottingham People's Assembly, and previously with Nottinghamshire Unison. She is now a branch administrator and organiser for a trade union branch.

In this second practical session, Adele will facilitate members in thinking about their strengths and possible contribution. She will also talk of building an active party Branch from her experience in Beeston/Broxtowe

- Introductions, who you are and why you joined?
- What sorts of local activity can Labour could do
- What skills / interests / resources / contacts do you have
- What trade union or campaigning organisation are you a member of?
- Break, to read posters
- Re-group into action groups on projects identified
- put together a task list for the projects and sign up to activity

3. The Working of Notts County and Borough Councils (20 Mins)

Cllr Steve Calvert

Councillor Steve Calvert was elected as a Labour County Councillor for West Bridgford Central and South Division of Nottinghamshire County Council in May 2013. He is Vice -Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee. He worked as an officer for the same local authority for 30 years. Accordingly, he has a special insight into the relationship between senior officers and Councillors in the world of Local Government

Gill Aldridge

Gill Aldridge is currently Vice-Chair of Rushcliffe CLP (Constituency Labour Party) and Vice-Chair of Nottinghamshire LCF (Local Campaign Forum). She works as a school governor trainer for Nottinghamshire County Council. She is a member of regional and national governance for the WEA (Workers' Educational Association), the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education

The next major election affecting Rushcliffe (but not Nottingham City or Derby City) is the County Council Election in May 2017. This session will introduce the process of selection and campaigning as well as looking at the roles of local councillors.

- Opening up the panel of candidates – for self-nomination – in January 2016
- Who can be a candidate? – Eligibility rules
- Commitment to increase the number of women in winnable seats
- Encouragement of other under-represented groups
- Interview and selection process
- Time commitment for elected councillors, the importance of following the Labour Whip
- Selecting and campaigning for your local candidate

4. Summary - Where to Next? (20 mins)

Chris Williamson

In the session Chris will pull together the feedback from members looking at practical ways of moving forward to support Labour up to and including 2020.

22. Members' Workshop Report

Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party

Report of Members' Workshop

Peter Gates

Workshop Facilitator

I thought I would update GC colleagues on the Members' Workshop which was discussed at the previous GC meeting. You have already been sent the final programme for this workshop.

The workshop was held on Tuesday 24th November as planned, and had 30 participants - and 7 members of the GC attended. We had members from Cotgrave, Ruddington, Keyworth, Radcliffe and West Bridgford (and Gill from South Rushcliffe!). We had Party members aged from 17 right up to ... 80's (I estimate). Lots of new and returning members; all new/re-joining members I spoke to had joined because of the election of Jeremy Corbyn.

Chris Williamson gave a fantastic speech on the history of the Labour Party, why it needs our support and the importance of being involved. I think everyone really enjoyed it and was thoroughly enthused. He is such an engaging speaker and can draw on 40 years of activity in the Labour Party.

Adele Williams from Sherwood Branch worked with the members to help them explore their possible involvement and political interests etc. in a way that really engaged people and which mirrored what John Walsh had originally designed. Chris stayed for quite a while also working with groups of members.

The event finished with Steve and Gill talking about local councils and the process of standing for elections. Thanks to both of them. I was left with the feeling we can do even more to engage our increased membership in becoming active in council elections and campaigning.

Overall this was a very successful event. I want to thank John for his original idea for the event, and for all those GC members who supported the event by turning up and by voting for its continuance at the GC.

The ideas generated at the Workshop and the feedback received since, both demonstrate the broad conception of what constitutes political activity that underpinned the original design of the skills workshops. Members are keen on a number of member-led activities including reading, writing, and community engagement.

The following feedback I received after the event is, I think, is particularly encouraging.

Feedback from participants

I came away excited and unable to sleep soundly; in fact I spend the night dreaming I was campaigning for labour and was exhausted by morning! I felt the possibilities were endless, that it was worth fighting for, committing to, that I was not alone, that we can't expect to agree on everything but we can decide democratically. Democracy and justice is not dead!

In re-joining the Labour Party the member skills workshop was an example of exactly the type of party I want to be a part of. The opportunity to talk with colleagues about ways to make our borough, constituency and country better was a powerful experience. The group I was a part of explored everything from door knocking strategies, social media and blogging to Trident and Europe. This gave an opportunity for some of the vital micro-level and macro-level conversations which are both at the heart of a new type of politics, and vital to forming what we believe in, to be explored by the membership. It seems to me that events such as the member skills workshop is part of empowering the membership to have a voice which is not only recognised, but which directs the policy narratives of our party. I would like to thank the organiser for mediating the opportunity for such a well-attended and impactful event.

Thank you it was uplifting.

Thanks for this, and thanks so much for organizing the meeting. Rejoining the Labour Party after the May election was my first tentative, toe-in-the-water foray back into politics for a very long time. (Although I was a party member from somewhere after 97 up to 2006, I was not at all active -- probably because I never felt inspired by the Labour leadership before.) I still haven't attended a branch meeting, but that will happen. I found the atmosphere at Tuesday's meeting warm and inspiring -- I really liked the enthusiasm of the speakers, particularly Chris Williamson, and the sense that it is possible to come together locally and have some influence nationally.

I LOVED the exchange of ideas at the Tuesday meeting -- stuff I never would have thought of (like gathering personal stories -- brilliant! And that fits right into my skill set as a writer with a degree in folklore. Something I would be very interested in collaborating on!).

Great speaker, really inspirational. Breaking into groups again was excellent and colleagues I sat with were knowledgeable and interesting. I would like to have focus on social housing as this is a key issue on which to build animosity towards the Tories. A well publicised food bank run by our members would help to show our good intentions and I would be prepared to help run on a rota. After all, universal credit will hit the neediest in our society when fully introduced so the reprieve given yesterday will only be short-lived.

It's hard to manage time well to get meaningful group feedback, and the overall time constraints were a bit tight...perhaps setting time bounds both for the activity and the feedback slot would help. Maybe it's better to have one or two reserve topics if time allows, and just focus on the meat (or quorn) at this stage. I still didn't come away with necessarily knowing what the party line might be on a variety of subjects, and I guess the change factor which is current is part of the reason for that.

I still consider myself politically un-savvy, but I got the feeling from the meeting as a whole, and from talking to a few individuals, that there is a lot of support for those of us who want to learn, and I am looking forward to maybe dipping a whole foot in and then, who knows -- could go up to the knee. Thank you again for organizing the meeting. I would have loved it if more people from the wider CLP (rather than just W Bridgford) had attended, but I thought that overall it was a good turnout. And thank you for your enthusiasm and welcoming spirit. I am hopeful that things really can start changing, both in the Labour party and in the country as a whole.

After submitting this report to the GC, I received yet another email from Gary, which I interpreted as further passive-aggressive attempts to create antagonism. As such I decided it best not to reply, no one else expressed any such suspicion.

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:gary@two-edge.com]
Sent: 14 January 2016 03:56
To: peter.gates3@btopenworld.com
Subject: Workshop Output Document

Dear Peter

Just catching up on email

Saw your work-shop document. Congratulations on the feed-back - extraordinary.

Can I ask why it's anonymous? I'm sure the delegates wouldn't mind their names being published as we know who was there.

The only reason I ask is because if we publish anonymously it can give the impression that it's all just made up or that we've asked our mates to contribute or, at the very least, it's editorially embellished.

I'm sure you just haven't consider this but I know from my professional experience of these things that that could be the impression left.

Very best

Gary

23. The "Particular Set of Skills" Exchange

*This section contains all the relevant email exchanges related to the "particular set of skills ... " comment from Gary Edgerton, discussed more fully in **Section 4.1**.*

From: John Walsh [mailto:john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk]
Sent: 20 October 2015 11:42
To: pat_j_walsh@hotmail.com; trish.whittome@ntlworld.com; rachel.scudamore@designforpurpose.co.uk; g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com; kevpalowe@gmail.com
Subject: CLP skills Workshops working group

Dear All,

Welcome to the CLP skills Workshops working group.

From what I could see at yesterday's GC meeting, the people who want to be involved are Pat, Rachel, Gary, Kevin and Trish - please let me know if you think I've missed anyone out.

Here's an outline of where we are - NB with all of this, please chip in at any point.

The immediate task in hand is to make the two 'listening to members' events happen asap: the imperative being to tap into the Corbyn 'movement' enthusiasm, on the assumption that it will evaporate over time if we don't address the 'members can get involved' expectation. After the two workshops, we then look through the feedback and take findings (and proposals if there are any) to GC.

To do list

1. Book venue - the most pressing issue.

Spec (ideally): capable of holding 40 people in a cabaret style table layout (the room opposite where the GC is held is a good size); available on two Saturday mornings (10-12) in November; located in Bridgford; low cost.

Given that time is of the essence, we will most likely have to compromise on the above. In order of importance (the spec element we least want to compromise on first): room size, November, cost, Saturdays, 10-12, Bridgford.

Any input on this would be appreciated. I'll email Richard Crawley and Liz Plant. Who else might know about venues? - please contact people who could help.

2. Contact all CLP members by email - three options ..

a. Nationbuilder software would make this easy and would keep track of who has replied etc. It will, however, need some work to get up to speed with functionality (and there's no room for error - people generally don't react well to an 'oops I didn't mean to do that' email if the wrong button gets accidentally pressed).

b. I have some emailing software which is similar to Nationbuilder, but this would take some time to get into shape.

c. batches of emails done via a regular ISP account. The main problem here is collating responses if lots of people actually respond.

There might be more options - anyone with any thoughts or specific expertise here?

3. Workshop ancillaries - printing of handouts / refreshments etc. (what else?). Does anyone have access to cheap printing?

4. The Workshops - these will be facilitated by Rachel and Peter Gates. Not much to do here. Other than maybe someone to 'open' the workshops, it is best to leave all to Rachel and Peter - they will get the results we are after. Clearly, if people are willing to come to the workshops they have enthusiasm - the job at the workshops is to nurture and translate enthusiasm into activities. R and P will get a far higher nurture and translation rate than if, for example, I was involved or if it the workshops were run using a training or teaching model of interaction.

5. Collating responses to the workshops - perhaps the most interesting part and the most work. If there hasn't been the need to meet up beforehand, this is perhaps when we should get together and discuss how to proceed.

Hope that all makes sense - as said before, please contribute wherever you can.

Regards
John

On Tue 20/10/15 17:03 , "Gary Edgerton" g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com sent:
Hey John

This week I have some space and need to chase down venues for other events so I'll look for one for the workshops too

Just FYI I too am a facilitator and so happy to contribute as is required

Meeting up beforehand, if we have the opportunity, would be useful I think

Best

Gary

From: John Walsh [mailto:john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk]
Sent: 20 October 2015 19:36
To: g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com
Cc: pat_j_walsh@hotmail.com; trish.whittome@ntlworld.com; rachel.scudamore@designforpurpose.co.uk; kevpalowe@gmail.com
Subject: RE: CLP skills Workshops working group

... thanks for that Gary. Points in order ...

Pat has suggested asking Rushcliffe BC (I'm on to that) and that if we knew a school governor or similar schools could be a cheap option. RBC might be a bit expensive, we'll see. Keep me updated with anything you find and I'll do the same with RBC.

Thanks for the facilitation offer - you're on the reserve list (can you say what you do - e.g. who with and where it fits with the workshops' purpose?).

Let's catch up at the next GC meeting and meet again after that if we need to - did you have something particular in mind to discuss (I'm mindful that there will be lots to do after the workshops: that's where the main call on people is).

Thanks again
John

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com]
Sent: 21 October 2015 12:43
To: john.walsh@designforpurpose.co.uk
Cc: pat_j_walsh@hotmail.com; trish.whittome@ntlworld.com; rachel.scudamore@designforpurpose.co.uk; kevpalowe@gmail.com
Subject: RE: CLP skills Workshops working group

I will keep you updated if I find a venue but we seem to be already across options

Thanks for putting me on the 'reserve list' as facilitator

Though aside from the briefest of introductions I don't know what anyone does or who they do it for but I'm happy to share as you ask. We run a boutique consulting group specialising in working with global organisations (corporates) undergoing organisational transformation. We (I say we as I include my partner Lizzie - who has a PhD in Social Policy Development) engage at primarily board level with the development of organisational design and subsequent implementation, but don't let that put you off as we are actually really nice people. Anyway a big part of what we do is facilitation, as you say, '... getting the results ...'

Aside from that we have previously been very active in the party where we amassed (to quote that bloke from 'Taken') '... a very particular set of skills ...', I'm sure you know how the line goes.

Hope those last two paragraphs help.

With regards getting together I thought it a good idea to do so in order to discuss roles and the overall approach but looking back on your Tuesday morning email, sent following Monday evenings meeting, you seem to have it pretty much worked out.

Best regards

Gary

24. Emails Over the Members' Skill Survey

This is, of necessity, a long exchange of emails because an allegation has been made by Gary Edgerton that I deliberately sabotaged the design and distribution of the members' survey (discussed in **Section 4.1** of this Response). The email exchange below illustrates that was not the case and that I was attempting to take the most effective course of action to improve the quality of a rather poor survey, and avoid wasting members' time.

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:gary@two-edge.com]
Sent: 27 December 2015 16:52
To: liz.plant2@btinternet.com; peter.gates3@btopenworld.com; william.logan3@ntlworld.com; s.coker@ntlworld.com; richard.crawley2@gmail.com; trish.whittome@ntlworld.com; nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk; l.edge@mac.com
Cc: zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com
Subject: WB Branch Member Skills Survey

Dear WB Branch Officers

Find attached a 'Skills Survey' that Zbyszek have put together in support of developing a Political Education strategy for our Branch.

We would be grateful for your input around amendments and/or additions.

We have already run it by a few people and the Women's Group and we have been trying to reduce content to just the important points.

We have decided against using 'Survey Monkey' or similar as we feel it provides less flexibility when it comes to seeking answers to more specific questions, also we prefer the personal touch.

The template that we will use we are still putting together so don't worry about that when you look over. We would like at this point your input with regards to the questions. Clearly we would like to discuss at the Branch EC where we would also like to recommend a programme of Political Education events for the Branch across 2016 - we will distribute to officers ahead of the EC.

Best

Gary

On 28 December 2015 at 20:45 peter.gates3@btopenworld.com wrote:

Thanks for this Gary. I did speak to Zbyszek and we were going to get together to talk this through but somehow it never happened. I guess life got in the way. For the past 15 years I have taught research design including survey design to social researchers and PhD students across the University Social Science faculty. So I know how hard it is to design a good survey, especially if one is not a professional as it were. And I know what mistakes people make.

What you seem to have done here is to have identified a few questions you think are important - but it doesn't yet feel like its near a form to send out. It is good to have reduced it. That helps. As for Survey Monkey, there's a good reason why its probably one of the most widely used survey delivery platforms. Its designed by experts and makes you think hard about the structure of questions. It also undertakes some of the analysis. However as I explained to Zbyszek, the free version only allows 10 questions and 100 respondents. I would not recommend us getting a licence. Too pricey for little use. However it certainly provides flexibility and allows personalising. So don't discount it out of hand. (I suspect you will be very lucky to get 100 responses but its difficult to estimate.) There are ways round the 100, but I do wonder if 100 responses is a little on the optimistic side - but who knows. Suck it and see.

There are a lot of questions that need asking about this survey and some redesign before we get to a stage of a good draft for this.. but I am very happy working with you two (G and Z) and any others on a second and subsequent redrafts. You should not separate the "Template" - whatever you mean by that - from the questions themselves. I am presuming you mean layout.

- There are too many open questions which carry a lack of clarity and lack of definition of terminology.
- A good question to ask oneself when designing a survey is .. "why am I asking that question?"
- The opening paragraphs are too long, and need working on; keep to a minimum; improve grammar
- A key issue for survey design is motivation.. motivating the participant to complete it. This is achieved in a number of ways.
- A second issue is GIGO.. ask a bad question, get bad information. There is a difference between data and information.

Bill's comment made me think that actually this is larger than political education... this is about much more, member engagement, etc.. So I am thinking we need to treat it professionally. As a start we need to think about:

- purpose
- design and layout
- response structure
- delivery
- analysis

Sending out something before it's ready will not only provide us with dodgy information but might make us look a bit amateurish.

However ... well done for getting this far "every journey of a thousand miles..."

Happy to help as always.

Peter

Peter Gates
Secretary
West Bridgford Labour Party

From: LUCZYNSKI Z [mailto:zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com]

Sent: 29 December 2015 16:19

To: Elizabeth Edgerton <l.edge@mac.com>; Patricia Whittome <trish.whittome@ntlworld.com>;

Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>; Bill Logan <william.logan3@ntlworld.com>;

Nadia EW <nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk>; Gary <gary@two-edge.com>;

Richard Crawley <richard.crawley2@gmail.com>; Sandy Coker <s.coker@ntlworld.com>;

peter.gates3 <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>

Subject: Re: WB Branch Member Skills Survey

Thanks Peter for your advice. It is not too late to meet up as I know we need to get it right before members get it.

I am sure Gary and I would appreciate your professional input.

I think we could get 100 replies and would be prepared to use Survey Monkey. We too have been thinking that this survey needs improvement and input on all aspects of Branch activity.

I know we have other members who have a social research experience such as Stewart Berry. Suggestions from him as well as branch officers would make sure all aspects are covered.

I suggest we meet up before the Branch EC on January 11th.

How about Wednesday 30th, Sunday or 3rd Monday 4th? At mine3 or Gary's place.

Just make some suggested times.

Zbyszek

On 29 December 2015 at 17:34 Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com> wrote:

Hey Peter

Important to keep in mind that this is a draft, sent out early in order to illicit as much input as possible and is clearly not intended for publication right now - the EC isn't until the 11th so lots of time.

We seem to have a surfeit of talent in this field. Without outlining my CV I too have some expertise in the area and I'm sure if we can meet up, Monday or Tuesday next week (as I think Zbyszek suggested) we can do an ever better job and pull the survey together into an even tighter format ahead of presenting to the EC - clearly we will distribute before the meeting.

The only way to get a good idea is to get lots of idea which is why we work together in the first place.

Bests and thanks

Gary

On 29 December 2015 at 19:23 peter.gates3@btopenworld.com wrote:

Believe it or not the next possibility I have to meet is 26th Jan! I'm about to go to Malaysia (training social researchers!) for almost a couple of weeks- back (only just) for EC on 11th, then chokka in evenings. So no way before the EC – which I don't think is a real problem because I would like the EC to discuss the strategy before implementation ...and as you say its been sent out early... some strategic possibilities:

1. Just do a member skill survey for now. So fewer questions than you have here, more closed questions with fixed options.
2. Look at a larger broader membership survey - including sections on skills, policy, activity etc. etc.

These things take time guys. But be good to develop something.... maybe even whilst we are at it ... I'm going blue sky here.. an instrument that might test opinion over time. It depends on what we really want to do. I'd be happy taking that direction on if you didn't think that was what you were signing up for. In which case we go for 1 - which is probably what you thought you were doing.

Which means taking what you have now to EC and seeing where our discussion takes us - I can ask a colleague at NTU who is into research design too if that helps.

So .. name your day .. 26, 27, 28 Jan?

Peter Gates

From: PETER GATES [mailto:peter.gates3@btopenworld.com]

Sent: 30 December 2015 13:02

To: LUCZYNSKI Z <zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com>

Cc: gary@two-edge.com

Subject: Re: WB Branch Member Skills Survey

Hi yes I tend to agree on strategy. Engaging new members particularly is crucial or before long they will give up and drift away. However we do need to have clarity on purpose. Is it skills or is it something else. What are the skills particularly. What is our audience? Open questions can be useful when worded correctly. But otherwise IF we got 200 replies (and I feel that would be optimistic) imagine analysis of all that unstructured data. Much better to get a sense of the response set and close down the data you get. That's why it's particularly critical to design these carefully.

If on the other hand this is not a survey that is going to influence us but is s "mobilising device" - much like most of the petitions that get thrust on me -we need to think differently. So it's decisions like that the branch exec needs to be able to help with.

I remember I designed a survey recently for the city looking at the experiences and needs of teenage fathers. We had a particularly experienced research team working in men's issues. It took us 19 drafts! Now I don't expect anywhere near that (hopefully!!) but these questions might not easily fall out.

I think Feb is a goer that would allow us to maybe get a few testers from wb branch.

We don't need to send out a survey to get policy groups going. There are key policy areas we know about already.

So why don't you two have s look at the draft you have and

1. Reduce the intro text to a minimum.
2. Think of attractive engaging layout.
3. Try to reduce the open questions.

Feel free to email me but I'll be 8 hours ahead and very busy. I'll try to help I Just can't meet up yet.

Let's see about wed Jan 27?

Peter Gates

From: LUCZYNSKI Z [mailto:zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com]

Sent: 30 December 2015 12:41

To: gary@two-edge.com; peter.gates3 <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>

Subject: Re: WB Branch Member Skills Survey

Pity you cannot meet before the EC.

I would like to go with a shorter survey and delay your blue sky thinking instrument to later in 2016.

I see this survey as a mobilising initiative for membership involvement rather than a perfect piece of research.

new members must be given a chance to influence branch and national policies as soon as we can.

I think the EC discussion will get officers on board on that basis.

I would love to get the educational /discussion groups going on aspects of policy as soon as possible.

That means sending out the survey in January /early February.

The idea open questions is involvement of new ideas and member ownership. Lets see how the EC reacts and go from there. I am free on those dates so its up to you both when we meet.

Zbyszek

On 31 Dec 2015, at 12:04, Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com> wrote:

Hey Peter

Hope they're flying you business

Either way, happy landings

Best

Gary

From: PETER GATES [mailto:peter.gates3@btopenworld.com]

Sent: 31 December 2015 12:24

To: Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com>

Subject: Re: WB Branch Member Skills Survey

Usually. The previous 9 times. But not this time. Malaysia is paying. Didn't feel right.

Last time I flew this time of year I had 12 business class seats to myself. And several New Years.

Thanks.

Peter Gates

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:gary@two-edge.com]

Sent: 12 January 2016 03:50

To: liz.plant2@btinternet.com; peter.gates3@btopenworld.com; william.logan3@ntlworld.com; trish.whittome@ntlworld.com;nadiawhittome@yahoo.co.uk;l.edge@mac.com; richard.crawley2@gmail.com

Cc: zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com

Subject: Re: WB LP PEO Submission to EC Meeting

Dear Peter

Following last nights meeting Zbyszek and I will modify both the invite below and the survey - in accordance with suggestions. We will then get both back to you for distribution this week.

Thank you

Best regards

Gary

>

>

> Dear West Bridgford Labour Party Branch Member

>

> This email has been sent on behalf of the West Bridgford Labour Party

> Political Education working group.

>

> The West Bridgford Labour Party has a full year of campaigns, social

> events, training and party meetings ahead.

>

> We are keen to ensure that all of these activities meet the needs of

> the Party as a whole and you as an individual member. To that end we
> invite you, using the attached document, to send in your requirements
> or any ideas you may have for activities.
>
> As we are an organisation that depends upon volunteers for its
> activities, the attached questionnaire therefore also asks about any
> particular skills or talents that you are willing to share with others
> and if there are areas of expertise you have which you feel others
> could benefit from.
>
> We have kept the questions as open as possible as we want this to be a
> part of an dialogue with the membership and we feel that the best way
> to do this is to encourage people to be able to freely respond to
> questions rather than having to choose from a multiple choice list.
>
> We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the year
> ahead. Further, if you would like to actively contribute to the
> Political Education working group, do please let us know. We are keen
> to hear from as many members as possible as the only way to get a good
> idea is to get lots of ideas.
>
> Best
>
> Gary and Zbyszek

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:gary@two-edge.com]
Sent: 17 January 2016 14:21
To: peter.gates3@btopenworld.com
Cc: liz.plant2@btinternet.com; zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com; Richard.crawley2@gmail.com
Subject: WB Labour Party Skills Survey

Dear Peter

Please find attached the Members Survey with all of the amendments suggested at the Branch EC last Monday 11/01.

Finally it's now ready to go as agreed at the EC.

As it was recommended that we suggest a two week window for this it would be preferable if it could go out tomorrow (Monday 18/01). This way it can be out for a week, we can give it a boost at the AGM and then there will be another week in which to follow-up.

If you have any issues logistically with sending, do please let us know as we can send with Richard's newsletter this week or we could bring to the CLP meeting tomorrow and possibly send constituency wide if people agree.

We would be grateful if you could send the attachment along with the introductory note on our behalf and, as we said previously, we would like all returns to go to the Political Education Working Group (either Zbyszek or I).

Thank you very much in advance

Gary (on behalf of the PE WG)

Dear West Bridgford Labour Party Member

We hope it's not too late to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Please find attached a survey, which has been sent to all members of our Branch.

Whether you are a new or long-standing member of the Labour Party, this survey is intended to identify the issues that you want to explore as well as ascertaining any skills and/or experience that you might want to share with other Party members.

Please complete electronically and return via email by Monday February 1st to:

Zbyszek Luczynski zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com or Gary Edgerton gary@two-edge.com

Alternatively it can be printed and brought along to the next Branch Annual General Meeting, January 25th or you can post to:

PEO, 8 Wordsworth Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7AN

Once members' skills, interests and/or experience have been identified, members will be contacted to get involved and coordinate activity.

Additionally, this survey will also be used to develop a calendar of both Social Events and Political Education activities within the Branch

All information will be kept for use by the West Bridgford Labour Party in political/educational activities and campaigns and will not be shared outside Labour Party structures.

Any issues, email, as above, or call: 07711 136898

Thank you in advance

West Bridgford Labour Party, Political Education Working Group

This mailing list is taken from the Labour Party's Member Centre. If you wish to have your name removed from this list please reply to this email with 'Unsubscribe' as the email subject. Thank you.

You can view Labour's Privacy statement here:

<http://www.labour.org.uk/pages/privacy>

From: LUCZYNSKI Z [<mailto:zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com>]

Sent: 18 January 2016 10:56

To: Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com>; PETER GATES <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>

Cc: richard.crawley2 <richard.crawley2@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: WB Labour Party Skills Survey

Thank you Peter for your cooperation.

I know you are extremely busy with all your duties as secretary of the branch. We will of course share all the information we gain for the survey with all branch officers.

I am sending in a couple of nominations for the AGM in a separate email.

Zbyszek

I then had a conversation with Liz Plant about the most effective way of distributing the survey in order to try not to overburden members with too much information at one time:

Date: 21 January 2016 at 09:00
To: Peter Gates <wb.labour@btopenworld.com>
Cc: richard.crawley2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Minutes of Branch Executive

Dear Both- my view is that members are being overwhelmed with emails and have been for quite a while, and have yet to receive all the AGM nominations. Receiving the EC minutes will just be another snowflake in the blizzard and members should certainly be informed of EC business and decisions.

Regards,

Liz

On 21 Jan 2016, at 09:37, Peter Gates <wb.labour@btopenworld.com> wrote:

I do agree with liz - and it might become counter productive. I'm sending out the AGM And nominations but I think the newsletter and survey should come later.

Ec meeting is on the branch agenda and I can report that verbally or give out a short written paper. Our problem is we still

Have no idea on what progress is being made in the website where a lot of this can go. It would be better giving members the power to go and pick up the information there. It just seems to have stalled.

Can we agree then to hold fire on the newsletter and member survey for a short while ?

Peter

Peter Gates

On 21 Jan 2016, at 13:28, Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com> wrote:

Sorry Peter I obviously didn't make it clear what I meant. I meant that so much is emailed out to members that including the EC minutes and skills audit won't make much difference. We did agree to send out the skills audit and members should have the EC minutes - if in a shorter format. I think the issue of what is emailed out & what goes on the web- site needs addressing ASAP as members will be fed up of the amount of stuff going out & simply won't read it.

Regards,

Liz

On 21 Jan 2016, at 14:46, Peter Gates <wb.labour@btopenworld.com> wrote:

My feeling on the skills audit is we want to maximise the response rate. To do that I think we have to send it separately. Get the AGM over. Let Gary talk about it at the meeting THEN send it out. To improve the integrity of the data we get, it needs to be isolated from other influences. Such as washout.

Peter Gates

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Date: 21 January 2016 at 17:51:46 GMT
To: Peter Gates <wb.labour@btopenworld.com>
Cc: richard.crawley2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Minutes of Branch Executive

Peter- we did agree at the EC to send the skills audit out ASAP. To save any aggro, if you're not going to send it out with the AGM stuff I think you need to inform Gary and Zyb-----and agree with them when it will go out.
Regards, Liz

Sadly, even this attempt to improve the survey did create the "aggro" that Liz Plant points to; she was clearly aware of the personalities involved.

On 21 January 2016 at 17:53 wb.labour@btopenworld.com wrote:

Gary, Zbyszek,

I've been talking to Liz and Richard about sending out information about the AGM and the newsletter.

I think we are all a bit concerned about potential overload on members.

I am also personally concerned about any effect that might have on reducing the response rate of the survey. I also don't think its a good idea sending out the survey along with other material. My experience suggests that only dilutes the effectiveness leading to threats to the integrity of the data we get back.

Information about the AGM is going out today and tomorrow and I think Richard's newsletter is ready to go.

Can I suggest a strategythat one or both of you talk about the skill survey at the Branch Meeting (that's the second half after the speaker) and prepare people for it, and explain its purpose etc.. (you could even have some paper copies on the night!). Then pretty soon after the AGM (Wednesday?) we send it out in a dedicated email?

You might just need to adjust the return "window" a little.

I think that will be more effective. We might need to make especially sure we get to it though! We can keep our eye on the time and place it at such a point that it gets time. Maybe after Trish's Campaign item before the reports (that we might not have time for!)

Is that ok?

Best wishes,

Peter

Peter Gates
Branch Secretary
West Bridgford Labour Party

From: LUCZYNSKI Z

Sent: Friday, 22 January 2016 10:44

To: wb.labour@btopenworld.com, Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com>; Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>;

Gary and I have discussed this.

We are disappointed that the survey did not go out in time for the AGM. We need to involve the membership as soon as possible in every way possible.

We need to mobilise the skills and experience there in the membership.

We need to give leadership that will energise those talents. You have delayed that.

If this continues we will lose the impetus the surge in membership has provided.

We need to prioritise issues and campaigns based on a well educated membership putting forward credible alternative policies.

Already the Alistair Campbells and Peter Mandelsons and MPs in parliamentary group are trying to drag us back to New Labour's failed neoliberal policies.

We cannot afford the division emerging in our branch. Pushing Rushcliffe Momentum is not the way we win members; it is a duplication of what we are doing to build the activist base in the branch.

It is a diversion from the political campaigning and education that the branch has started.

How can we ask new and old members to engage with the new alternative politics when we are bickering about who is more left wing or who is right wing in the branch.

We have to work together debate our politics in an open manner involve the membership and reach out to people in communities with the right alternative policies we have agreed.

United we win divided we fall.

So lets start at the AGM. THEN GET THAT SURVEY OUT STRAIGHT AWAY NO DELAYS!

yours fraternally

Zbyszek Luczynski

On 22-01-2016 11:49, wb.labour@btopenworld.com wrote:

Let me clarify...if you want me to send it out today - I'll do that. As you say we don't have time to be arguing amongst ourselves. That's not what I'm in the Party for.

My proposal was - as I said - in the interests of improving the response rate and quality of data. I still strongly believe that. That is my sole position on this.

In the last few days WB members have had an email from Lizzie about the CLP, an email from me about the AGM and an email from Richard with the newsletter. I thought the idea was for the newsletter to go out sooner, but it didn't - we are all busy. It might have gone out with that. But it didn't. They also got a letter from Jeremy Corbyn asking for £25!

We have to see it from the members' point of view. We don't want to contribute to saturating them. That won't help the quality of the survey.

My view is it should go out Tuesday. But if you are insistent on it going out before --- say so and it will. I will go against my better judgement in the spirit of collegiality.

How's that?

Peter

Peter Gates
Branch Secretary
West Bridgford Labour Party

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:gary@two-edge.com]

Sent: 23 January 2016 12:42

To: wb.labour@btopenworld.com

Cc: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>; LUCZYNSKI Z <zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com>; Richard.crawley2@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Skills Survey

Dear Peter

Let me clarify.

The Political Education working group developed a strategy for getting the survey out as that's a part of our responsibility (not just content).

The strategy was to get it out early last week (the idea of sending anything end of the week being preposterous, as I'm sure as a professional you understand), a week ahead of the Branch AGM. We would then follow up and push at the Branch AGM itself and issue a second communication promoting completion the following week. That was the strategy and why I asked you to send last week, in the spirit of collegiality, as agreed at the EC.

What you have put forward is not a ... strategy, it is simply your deciding to do something else which is not the same thing.

Now we will have to launch it cold at the meeting Monday and you will need to, as you so graciously suggest, send the day after (Tuesday 26th) with the accompanying email note that the working group drafted and sent to you - clearly without further change or embellishment in either the document itself or the accompanying note. We will then need send a follow-up email the week after, which again the Working Group will draft.

I am copying both Liz and Richard into this as your initial note below suggests that they were both a part of your decision making process.

I trust all of this is fine with you.

Best regards and thank you

Gary

On 25 Jan 2016, at 22:10, Gary Edgerton <gary@two-edge.com> wrote:

Hey Peter

Final 'Skills and Interest Survey' attached

Thank you for all of your assistance and looking forward to working with you in the year ahead

Best

Gary

<WB Labour Party Members Survey.doc>

On 26-01-2016 14:18, PETER GATES wrote:

Thanks Gary. Me too.

Can you send me - just to be on the safe side - the final version of the letter you want to go out with this.

My plan is to start sending out tonight.

Ok?

Peter Gates

From: Gary Edgerton [mailto:gary@two-edge.com]
Sent: 26 January 2016 16:21
To: PETER GATES <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>
Cc: zbyszek.luczynski@ntlworld.com
Subject: Re: Final Survey

Sure thing

Thanks Peter

I think now it's correct. Thanks for the check-point - I would definitely have failed to change dates

Note: It includes the standard unsubscribe footer

I've attached as a doc

Thanks again

Best

Gary

In conclusion, I return to five key emails in which I communicated with Liz Plant about the distributing of the survey. My reading is that she was aware of potential aggression ("*To save any aggro...*") but that she was happy to support my decision.

From: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>
Date: 21 January 2016 at 17:51:46 GMT
To: Peter Gates <wb.labour@btopenworld.com>
Cc: richard.crawley2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Minutes of Branch Executive

Peter- we did agree at the EC to send the skills audit out ASAP. To save any aggro, if you're not going to send it out with the AGM stuff I think you need to inform Gary and Zyb-----and agree with them when it will go out.
Regards,
Liz

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Peter Gates

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Regards,
Liz

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Ec meeting is on the branch agenda and I can report that verbally or give out a short written paper. Our problem is we still

Have no idea on what progress is being made in the website where a lot of this can go. It would be better giving members the power to go and pick up the information there. It just seems to have stalled.

Can we agree then to hold fire on the newsletter and member survey for a short while ?

Peter

Peter Gates

On 21 Jan 2016, at 09:00, Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Both- my view is that members are being overwhelmed with emails and have been for quite a while, and have yet to receive all the AGM nominations. Receiving the EC minutes will just be another snowflake in the blizzard and members should certainly be informed of EC business and decisions.

Regards,

Liz

25. Exchange with Robert Crosby over the November GC

From: Peter Gates <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>

To: Robert Crosby <robertcrosby35@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, 19 Nov 2015 10:52

Subject: GC

Robert. You expressed on Monday night that you didn't understand what had gone on. Let me try to explain from the different perspective than you got Monday night. The perspective I was not allowed to give. The rest of the chronology. I am sending this to you as vice-chair and as a decent bloke. I do not write this for any circulation. So please treat it as such. I just think you need to know. It is a description from my perspective which I feel others such as you should know.

Some background. As you know I strongly support Corbyn. You may also not know I have a muscular condition called dystonia in my hand which makes writing and typing difficult. They will become important later.

John Walsh joined labour along with Rachel his partner in order to engage people in labour politics. He was part of the wave of people who came in. John got elected into the GC by keyworth and wanted to use their expertise to play a part in building the party. He put a proposal to the GC having discussed it with several people and the GC approved it. Someone and I'm not sure who now suggested a working group. (Often suggested as a form of democracy but often also a way of controlling and slowing innovation). Gary put himself forward for that - as with lots of other things as you will have noticed (John's "hoovering up" comment) John communicated with the group by email and asked me (40 years in education) and Rachel (25 years in facilitation of cpd at the university) if we might facilitate the session. Gary apparently didn't like this as he seemed to think he had all the skills required and didn't even like John asking him what experience he had (seems reasonable). This is at the root of all the problems.

We talked to Richard and Chris kemp and Chris got all CLP member emails from members centre. I emailed all members. Within two hours enthusiastic replies were coming in.

It seemed to John that Gary didn't like being second place and he felt that he proceeded to send John email after email ending up with one email written in huge font which included a short quote from a film. Taken. This quote starts and it is this Gary included: "I have a special set of skills" Gary added alluding to "you know how the line goes". If you google "Taken quote" you will find it. You can watch the video. It ends "I will look for you, I will find you and I will kill you" It is a well known quote. I know it all, John knows it and Gary obviously knows it. Whatever the intent it was the interpretation by John that is important for subsequent events. I have to say I find the use of the quote odd. I can show you a copy of the email.

You may also recall the moment at the GC where Gary turned to me shouting "don't touch me comrade." A pretty scary but very chilling moment which I now wish I had pursued. However I was wary of getting a punch in the face.

Back to the workshop planning. Gary's email went to the working group including Pat Walsh and Kevin. At this point all communication in the working group stopped. Neither Pat nor Kevin have engaged since. I think John felt the two were connected. John stopped communicating and Gary proceeded to send John with more emails until John had to block him. Interestingly two days after sending this Lizzie emailed John to ask if he'd got the email. During this time Lizzie and Gary were working against John with Sandy who out of the blue and in a rather abrupt way I felt, sent me five questions to put to John. These as it happened were the things Gary and Lizzie kept on about in emails. John answered the five questions about planning and costs in very detailed answer. John had actually offered to pay for the venue himself because he was so committed. John supplied very full answers but was feeling got at, attacked and frankly undervalued, threatened and harangued. Added to the above subtle threat, John decided for his own safety and security to just withdraw. I knew what he was going through and supported him. I think that is the comradely thing to do. I think we should all be concerned for each other. Did you notice how immediately after you tried to calm things down at the CLP and smooth them over, Lizzie immediately cranked it up again.

I was then left in the middle trying to resolve it as the person responsible for the GC and was faced now with Gary wanting to move the dates which all 50 members has signed up to just so he could facilitate the sessions (with me he said) now John had gone.

It's here I tried to contact sandy and liz. And WAS ignored for three days. Sandy said after she had a sore throat - which I don't understand how that meant she couldn't text or email from a colleague asking for help.

Now it's here the first two bits come into play. Sandy has never ever had a positive word to say to me or about me. I have always believed it was my politics and for some reason my disability meaning I couldn't take minutes. (Notice the snide comment when Lizzie was "nominated". About "will you take the minutes".) now remember my disability which sandy knew about. How is that for subtle discrimination. Oh and where did those ballot papers come from Richard! Once I became secretary sandy came over to me saying "what else does the secretary do than take the minutes".

After I tried again to contact sandy and liz Neither sandy nor liz was prepared to help me and refused to meet me to discuss it until they could both be there together. This meant several days wait. I've described the temper of the meeting. All new members were criticised for talking a lot but doing nothing. Well Gary and Lizzie were not criticised. Even trish was criticised for doing nothing. Ignoring her two street stalls, Hmo event, 38 degree petition.... Nadia is all over the place with a national presence!!

I realise now with the benefit of hindsight I should have involved you and gill. But I was new to all this. I've learned a huge lesson.

After the haranguing I got I agreed reluctantly to cancel the workshops. It felt like getting members politicised was not something liz or sandy wanted. I came home really pissed off. It took me several days to get time to sort out the emails (possibly why I might have missed two from Ruddington though I suspect I didn't. I think that was fabricated or they turned up on spec.)

I found 11 for the session on Saturday and 20 odd for Tuesday. My gut feeling was ... We have a huge influx of members here wanting to be involved. It would be a tragedy to just cancel it. But actually it wasn't our right to cancel when the GC had agreed it. So I thought I'd do my best to pull something together. I didn't want to ask Gary given the past threats and intimidation.

Once it got to 28 (it's now over 30) I felt more pressure and responsibility to respond to members. Hence I asked around. I used Facebook as I have several hundred local and national Labour Party people on there. I found a national figure who Corbyn had spoke of in positive terms and a local activist I've got a lot of time for. I got a room for £30! I was feeling well chuffed. Told sandy and liz. Nothing for three days. Told again. Got curt response that she was unhappy I was planning the event, that still after 6 days I hadn't cancelled and was taking advice. I also got an email almost simultaneously from liz complaining I'd booked a room for WB branch meeting without asking her (I am the secretary by the way !) even that I did so without asking the branch exec - which has only met once in about nine years I'm told.

You know what, at this point - I'd had enough of the suspicion, lack of respect and lack of trust I was subjected to. I apologised to Trish, steve and Jean all of whom has supported me and they emailed me back almost immediately expressing their upset and sadness. I sent the email to sandy and liz - silence. For about 9 hours then within about 10 mins of each other their replies came in. "Thanks..." I found that appalling!!

The rest you know. I appreciate now I ought to have gone to call a GC meeting or rather come to you and gill. But all people I was close to were unavailable. John and Rachel had gone. Trish and Nadia were away. Richard was on holiday and steve had made it clear he wanted to pull away.

Where are we now? The workshop is going ahead more or less as I planned. And only four voted against....Lizzie, Gary, sandy and liz

The attack I was subjected to at the GC I am now clear was orchestrated and vicious. It contravened our standing orders at the very least by sandy remaining in the chair. It was hardly objective.

There will be a range of views on this. But it needs dealing with in a professional and appropriate way without descending into personal abuse. I do not know where this all goes. But I do not intend to go down the route of personal attacks in spite of those made against me. But neither can I feel comfortable just leaving it. Already one GC member has resigned from the GC over how I was treated. I managed to convince them to change their mind. Now sandy has resigned. This all needs to be put right so we can move on.

I didn't join labour for all this Robert. I didn't expect to be vilified and abused for trying to do a good job.

I hope that helps!

Peter.

Peter Gates

From: Robert Crosby <robertcrosby35@aol.com>

Sent: 19 November 2015

To: rushcliffe.labour@btopenworld.com

Subject: FW: GC

Robert thanks, I do fully understand and am happy for Gill to see this. I do fully trust and respect you both and think you took honourable positions on Monday. It has taken me two days to write this. Please do not treat it as me making allegations because I do not want to start all that process off. I just need people like you and now Gill to know my side of things.

I do hope we can resolve them locally and comradely - everything else is just unhelpful, but I won't be treated as the bad guy here ... When I think I've been nothing of the sort.

First we need I think you two to take things on board ... I actually do think the whole process on Monday was illegitimate which leaves me thinking the election of secretary is not legitimate. The GC was not even given the chance to consider my resignation for example. And one candidate was able to say why she should be elected and I was not.

It is your call totally. If there is an emergency GC and a rerun of the election I would seriously consider standing again. As long as the story was clarified by someone objectively and unemotionally.

Thanks ... And I truly am sorry you both have been caught up in this. I know where I lay the blame but I prefer to remain silent on that. I would appreciate a conversation With you both before I finalise any complaint I think I might want to make.

Regards,

Peter

Peter Gates

On 19 Nov 2015, at 11:07, Robert Crosby <robertcrosby35@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Peter

Thanks for your message. I promise you that I will read it and that I will approach all of these issues as impartially and objectively as I possibly can. I won't try to address any of the assertions that you have made in the form of a reply, certainly at this stage, and hope that you will understand that that is solely because I do not want to pre-judge any investigation that Regional Office staff may choose to initiate.

I have copied this reply to Gill because I think it is important that she sees what I see and again, I hope that you understand why I have done that.

I hope that we can resolve all of these matters as soon as possible.

Best wishes

Robert

From: gill.aldridge@btinternet.com
Sent: 23 November 2015 13:50
To: rushcliffe.labour@btopenworld.com
Subject: FW: GC from gill

Hi Robert, and Peter

Thankyou for passing on Peter's detailed chronology. Recent words and deeds have clearly caused a lot of anger and bitterness and I don't want them to be resurrected. In particular, I don't want anyone to re-raise them at the meeting on 14th December unless things have moved forward in a positive way.

Was Monday's process illegitimate? Messy, acrimonious and not following the ethos of the Labour Party as a democratic, socialist organisation – YES.

The outcomes of the process:

- An overwhelming vote in favour of continuing with the workshop, which I hope will be a success.
- The election of a TEMPORARY secretary. Since you, Peter, had clearly resigned it was essential that we did not have a vacancy in this key post. You still seemed to be uncertain whether you wanted to be involved. We will have another opportunity to elect a secretary in May when, I hope, things will have calmed down.

I also don't want anyone to try to re-raise the issues at the workshop next Tuesday. The focus should be on working together to develop the skills of new-ish members.

Regards
Gill

26. Email Exchange with Gary Edgerton over the Workshop

From: g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com
Sent: Sunday, 8 November 2015 13:04
To: Sandy Coker, Bill Logan, Rushcliffe Labour Party, Colin Gibson, 'Rushcliffe Labour'
Cc: Liz Plant, stevecalvert39@gmail.com

Dear Comrades

Since brining the idea of a winter Social Event with the Kurdish community to the last WB branch meeting, I have been working with them to develop a potential social evening. There is a small but vibrant community of Kurdish people in Nottingham and they are keen to forge alliances with other socialists.

The proposal is to have a lead off from representatives from the Kurdish community regarding the current situation in Syria followed by a Q&A, a buffet of Kurdish food, folk music and dancing. Date and Time : Friday 11th December, 19:30-22:30 (not first choice but so close to Christmas it's been difficult to find a suitable venue and I felt was important to do this to provide the opportunity to bring together members both old and new around an issue which has great relevance).

Venue: Old Hallows Hall, Pierrepont Road, Lady Bay, West Bridgford (again, not first choice for venue as there is only a small car park, but I have spoken with the caretaker of the hall who said they have an arrangement with the Poppy and Pint and The Lady Bay pubs to use their car parks if necessary. In addition I will coordinate car sharing to minimise the number of vehicles).

Budget: Room hire is £50 (including setting up and taking down time) and I would like to budget for a further £50 to cover glass hire, plates etc. **Bill**, could you let me know if that is acceptable?

Food is kindly being provided by the Kurdish community in the form of a buffet. The hall is licenced for alcohol to be consumed but not sold on the premises so if budget will allow I suggest a welcome drink then people can bring whatever they like to drink. The hall holds up to 100 people. The Kurds would like to bring 20 guests and I am absolutely confident that we get a high attendance from CLP members if I can start to market it soon.

I suggest no charge for attendance but a request for a donation of a minimum of £5.00, even if people only gave this amount then we would make a decent profit. I am sure people will be generous as it should be a great night, the Kurds are very enthusiastic, the lead off (which I have seen) is interesting and informative as well as being incredibly topical, and their music and dancing are great fun. I'm working on other fund raising ideas such as a raffle etc.

Could Officers please let me know if this is acceptable, as I would like to start to design a leaflet and promote the event as soon as possible and to have full details for the CLP GC so that delegates can take it back to their Branches too.

As a precursor if it is ok I would like to put this into context by having a few minutes to speak at the next Branch meeting to summarise the situation in the Middle East, it might be helpful especially for new or younger members.

Best regards

Gary

From: rushcliffe.labour@btopenworld.com [mailto:rushcliffe.labour@btopenworld.com]
Sent: 08 November 2015 13:42
To: g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com; Sandy Coker <s.coker@ntlworld.com>; Bill Logan <william.logan3@ntlworld.com>; Rushcliffe Labour Party <rushcliffe.labour@ntlworld.com>; Colin Gibson <c.gibson12@ntlworld.com>
Cc: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>; stevecalvert39@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Rushcliffe Winter Social Event Proposal

Hi Gary, that sounds great. I'm looking forward to it. Well done.

The next Branch meeting is on refugees - so its perfect timing. We have an external speaker whom I know well. I think I'm happy with all this. The idea of donations is a good one - and it might become our normal way of doing things. I know the women's group do something similar, and I'm suggesting we do that for branch meetings too.

By the way I've sent lizzie a text and you an email....

Peter

Peter Gates
Secretary
West Bridgford Branch Labour Party
Rushcliffe Constituency Labour Party

On 8 Nov 2015, at 16:46, Gary Edgerton <g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com> wrote:

Dear Peter

Sorry for not getting back earlier, we were out walking with the dog. We are away this week-end in the Brecon Beacons and while I have access to the Internet it's in the property only and I don't have access to a phone signal and Lizzie has neither, hence no phone communications

My phone will have your missed calls, texts and/or voicemails when we re-join civilisation so I'm sure it will be beeping 'message received' for an hour or more on the way home tomorrow

On your 12:35 email you say you've got '... got people lined up to come and offers of help'. By this I assume you mean other members of the constituency working group and that you have, again I assume, organised with them this week.

In our last email exchange, Wednesday gone, the one which finished by you suggesting I '... go for a run (paraphrasing)', in the chain, in fact in the email before I asked: 'As you say it's important we get together before the GC, which is on the 16th. The meeting on the 24th is a week after that so I'm a little confused. Were you asking if I'm free on the 24th for some other thing? If so what is it?', and offered, 'Apart from this weekend and the 9th, free to meet ANY time.'

Still not sure I understand what you've been organising and planning and obviously don't want to reach out to other Working Group members to enquire.

Anyway, enjoy what's left of your day of rest.

Best regards

Gary

From: Rushcliffe Labour [mailto:rushcliffe.labour@btopenworld.com]
Sent: 08 November 2015 17:24
To: Gary Edgerton <g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com>
Subject: Re: Rushcliffe Winter Social Event Proposal

Hi Gary. I presumed that was the case. It's sometimes refreshing to have no internet !

By the way I sent three emails to you today as I presumed you were back on line.

The working group really is not effective given Pat is away and Kevin hasn't responded. So in effect there isn't a working group. I thought we might work well on email on this.

When I met sandy and liz the plan was to cancel both workshops. However the day after I got several more people wanting to come on 24th.

I wasn't too sure of the best way forward so I wanted to talk to Finbar and decide what to do with advice from the region. I was seeing him in Friday. That's why I wanted to know if you were around on 24th to be at the workshop with me and support it. I remember you saying you were in America but didn't know when that was.

I needed to work quickly over the weekend which was why I was trying to contact you. It's unfortunate it happened when you were off-line. (I think I made a passing reference to Morecambe And Wise!!) but I presumed we were OK to trust each other.

However one thing liz, sandy and I discussed was having sessions that drew on people who knew about the party. Long standing members etc. Finbar offered to get local people even an MP to lead the session if it went ahead. I thought local people might be best.

So after a bit of work this weekend I've managed to get Chris Williamson (you will remember him being referred to by Corbyn and others at regional conference, he was on the shortlist for Oldham) and Adele Williams a Branch sec in Nottingham east and union organiser. They are happy leading part of the workshop each and liz and steve will be there too and can lead on local council stuff. I've also got a room. I think the expertise amongst those four will be top notch.

So it will be good for us to see how that goes and how we can learn from all pulling together on that. I hope you are happy with that. It seems a positive outcome and will give us a chance to have a political event with members sooner rather than later.

As for the running ... I've put off and put off running for decades but have just started on a NHS app that leads you through 9 weeks. I've been surprised how much I've enjoyed it. I'm not up to the marathon yet but .. Maybe by 2020!

Ok. Thanks for emailing mate. Can we get together next week?

Peter Gates

On 9 Nov 2015, at 10:00, Gary Edgerton <g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com> wrote:

Peter

Sorry, I haven't been off-line. I don't have phone access is all. I have all your emails and I'm still confused.

I'm not questioning the credentials of the people you list below.

Who decided the working group was not effective and at the same time to reconstitute it outside of the auspices of the CLP? It was elected by the CLP. Plus I was on it and this is the first I've heard any of this, not just people confirming they would help but them even being asked to do so as a part of a strategy.

Re. the working party, out of you and I, I'm the only member on it.

I know nothing of what you Liz and Sandy decided only that, as far as I remember from your email, the workshops had been cancelled and deferred to New Year.

Also, I'm not comfortable replying to an open email in private, I presume you just clicked 'reply' and not 'reply all' so I've only copied in the officials you name below. I think anything else would just create too much additional confusion and leave more things to be explained later.

Absolutely fine to get together, always have been. We can talk about it and arrange to meet.

Best

Gary

From: Rushcliffe Labour [mailto:rushcliffe.labour@btopenworld.com]

Sent: 09 November 2015 10:22

To: Gary Edgerton <g.edgerton@edgerton-consulting.com>

Cc: Liz Plant <liz.plant2@btinternet.com>; Sandy Coker <s.coker@ntlworld.com>; Steve Calvert <stevecalvert39@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Rushcliffe Winter Social Event Proposal

Hi Gary. I think I replied to you because that seemed most appropriate. I was talking to you. I was also aware of a conversation with liz and sandy about the volume of emails.

I can get together on Friday if that's ok with you. I'm tied up till at least 8:30-9:00 every other day.

Peter Gates