



3.2

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON 14TH APRIL 2021**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Sis. S ABACHOR, Bros. D AGBLEY, J ALLAM, D ALLAN, R ALLDAY, Sis. D BELL, Bros. C BOWEN, G BUCHAN, C CADMAN, Sis. M CALLAGHAN, Bros. M CASEY, E CASSIDY, Sis. L COLQUHOUN, Bros. J COOPER, M DARLINGTON, Sis. P DAVIS, Bro. T DAVISON, Sis. J DOUGLAS, Bros. K DRURY, A DYER, N GIBSON, J GILL, Sis. W GILLIGAN, Bros. J GODDARD, M GOULD, A GREEN, Sis. R HAYES, Bro. S HIBBERT, Sis. T LANIGAN, L MANSELL, Bro. J MASON, Sis. S MATTHEWS, H McFARLANE, T MOLONEY, Bros. T MITCHELL, F MORRIS, T MURPHY, K OWENS, T PEARSON, H PERCIVAL, S ROSENTHAL, D ROTHWELL, Sis. M RYAN, Bro. T SEAMAN, Sis. J SHEPHERD, K SMITH, M SMITH, Bro. K SMITH, Sis. M SORICE, J STEWART, Bro. N STOTT, Sis. F TATEM, J TAYLOR, Bros. S THOMPSON, N WAREING, D WILLIAMS, P WISEMAN, T WOODHOUSE, C YOUNG

EX OFFICIO: Bro. L McCLUSKEY (General Secretary)
Bro. H BECKETT (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. T BURKE (Assistant General Secretary)
Sis. I DYKES (Head of Constitutional Administration)
Sis. S GRAHAM (Executive Officer)
Sis. D HOLLAND (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. A MURRAY (Chief of Staff)
Bro. S TURNER (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. A WEIR (Assistant Chief of Staff)
Bro. D ALLAN (Observer, Disabled Members)
Bro. C DUO (Observer, Gibraltar)

IN THE CHAIR: Bro. T WOODHOUSE

The Chair opened the meeting by thanking the Executive Council members for their support through his illness which had been a great help to him.

**Minute
No.207**

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Formal permission had been requested by Nigel Atkinson, Hayley Garner and Zimeon Jones to be absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED: “That necessary leave of absence be facilitated.”

**Minute
No.208**

2. GENERAL SECRETARY ELECTION

The General Secretary reported that the time had arrived for the Union to elect a new General Secretary and the Policy Conference has been moved to October to allow the newly elected General Secretary to outline their vision for Unite going forward. He advised that he will step aside to create the vacancy for the new General Secretary to be elected in August 2021.

Ballot Guidelines for the General Secretary Election had been circulated to members of the Council and were verbally supplemented by Chief of Staff, Andrew Murray.

The Chief of Staff drew the Council's attention to the timetable for the election which was displayed on screen, highlighting various dates in the process. The procedure for the election starts today, 14th April 2021 and is also the date when the line is drawn under the membership of the Union who will be entitled to vote. It will be a longer balloting period than normal as the summer holiday period has been taken into account. The ballot will be counted on 24th & 25th August and the EC should receive the report on the 26th August 2021. The new General Secretary will be in place before the EC meeting on the 6 – 10 September 2021.

The Chief of Staff drew the Council's attention to the Ballot Guidelines, highlighting a few small changes to be made within the document.

The Union is required by law to have an Independent Scrutineer responsible for conducting the ballot and ensuring its conformity with legislation and this will be Civica Election Services (CES). The Union's rules also provide for an independent Returning Officer responsible for the administration of the election and for an independent Election Commissioner to adjudicate on complaints by candidates or the Executive Council. For this election CES is acting as the independent Returning Officer and Lord John Hendy QC and Baroness Christine Blower are acting as joint independent Election Commissioners.

The Chief of Staff further highlighted new points in the guidelines that have not appeared in previous elections which included:

- The threshold for nominations which is now 5% of branches following a rule change agreed at the last Rules Conference in 2019. The threshold currently stands at a 174 nominations required, but this number could vary depending on checks on workplace eligibility.
- Workplaces with more than 50 members which are not in a constituted workplace branch having nominating rights
- Communications with members in connection with an election
- Financing candidates' campaign
- Conduct of candidates

Detailed questions and comments from members of the Council including proposed changes to the guidelines were responded to.

The General Secretary advised that an EC Statement would be drawn up to complement the Ballot Guidelines and would be brought back to the Council for their agreement.

The Chief of Staff reminded the Council of the changes to the guidelines that had been suggested and further questions and comments were responded to.

The outstanding areas of disagreement were put to the vote of the Council as follows:

To extend the cut-off date for membership eligibility by two weeks was voted against by the Council with the exception of Cliff Bowen, Chris Cadman and Eddie Cassidy voting in favour.

To send details to all candidates was voted against by the Council with the exception of Tam Mitchell, Chris Cadman, Tim Davison, Steve Hibbert, Tony Seaman and Helen McFarlane voting in favour.

To reduce permissible campaign expenditure by half was voted against by the Council with the exception of Steve Hibbert and Tony Seaman voting in favour.

A discussion took place on the formation of a sub-committee of the Executive Council to oversee the General Secretary Election. This was put to the vote and fell with 24 voting in favour and 27 against.

A discussion had also taken place in relation to the timetable of the election and the Chief of Staff gave a commitment to speak to the Returning Officer to ascertain the possibility of any movement within the timetable, having highlighted potential practical problems. The Council agreed the timetable subject to that commitment.

At the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: "That the Ballot Guidelines for the General Secretary Election be adopted in line with the preamble to this Minute."

**Minute
No.209**

Documentation

The Executive Council noted that all documents specified within the Minutes had been circulated to all members of the Council and were filed on the records of the Council.

**The Meeting of the Council
thereupon terminated**