



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES AND RECORD OF THE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD AT THE ACC, LIVERPOOL ON

17 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT:

EC MEMBERS: Suzanne Abachor, David Agbley, Julian Allam, Dave Allan, Richard Allday, Gary Buchan, Chris Cadman, Mary Callaghan, Mick Casey, Eddie Cassidy, John Cooper, Mick Darlington, Patricia Davis, Jenny Douglas, Ken Drury, Andy Dyer, Jas Gill, Wendy Gilligan, Jacob Goddard, Matt Gould, Ruth Hayes, Steve Hibbert, Lesley Mansell, Susan Matthews, Helen McFarlane, Tam Mitchell, Therese Moloney, Tom Murphy, Kerry Owens, Tony Pearson, Howard Percival, Simon Rosenthal, Tony Seaman, June Shepherd, Michelle Smith, Kathy Smith, Ken Smith, Monica Sorice, Jane Stewart, Fiona Tatem, Jayne Taylor, Steve Thompson, Nick Wareing, Dave Williams.

EX OFFICIO: Sharon Graham (General Secretary)
Tony Burke (Assistant General Secretary)
Irene Dykes (Head of Constitutional Administration)
John Earls (Director of Research)
Diana Holland (Assistant General Secretary)
Amy Jackson (Director of Executive Policy)
Rob MacGregor (National Officer)
Andrew Murray (Chief of Staff)
Steve Turner (Assistant General Secretary)
Adrian Weir (Assistant Chief of Staff)
Christian Duo (Observer, Gibraltar)

In the Chair: Tony Woodhouse.

Minute 351

Apologies and Leave of Absence.

Apologies were submitted for this meeting and the whole policy conference.

EC Members:

Nigel Atkinson – work commitments
Debi Bell – annual leave
Mick Casey – TU business (this meeting only)
Lisa Colquhoun – illness
Tim Davison – illness
Andy Green – TU business
Zimeon Jones – personal
James Mason – exams
Maggie Ryan – work commitments (this meeting only)
Nigel Stott – annual leave
Chris Young – work commitments
Phil Wiseman - illness

Ex Officio:

Howard Beckett and Gail Cartmail, (Assistant General Secretaries) - illness

Policy Conference leave of Absence

Matt Gould – Monday AM - TU Business
Julian Allam – Monday and Friday – medical appointments
Mick Darlington – Tuesday – TU Business
Steve Thompson – Tuesday AM – TU Business
Richard Allday – Wednesday – Funeral
Simon Rosenthal – Wednesday AM – TU Business
Gary Buchan – Thursday/Friday TU business
Nick Wareing – Thursday/Friday family reasons
David Agbley – Friday – personal
Mick Casey – Friday – personal
Jas Gill – Friday – personal

Minute 352

Chairs Welcome and Opening.

The Chair welcomed Council members to the policy conference and expressed his pleasure at attending the first conference that Sharon Graham would attend as General Secretary.

Minute 353

General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary went through the order of business for the Policy Conference with the Council and stated that it was her belief that the conference would continue until Friday given the agenda before them and the fact that the conference was commencing later than usual.

She drew the Council's attention to the hybrid element of the conference with delegates attending in person in the hall as usual and online in a Zoom like format that would allow them to fully participate in the conference.

Minute 354

EC attitude to motions on the agenda and EC Speakers

Adrian Weir, Assistant Chief of Staff and John Earls, Director of Research, reported on the motions that were outstanding from the September meeting of the Council on which decisions regarding recommendations to the conference were required. Following discussion the following decisions were recorded:

Motion 108 – Workplace Rights and a hard Brexit – Support

Motion 151 – Covid-19: Economic Recovery through Investment in Education and Skills - Support

Following the September EC meeting and on further clarification from the General Secretary the Council agreed to amend their original recommendations on the following motions and amendment:

Motion 30 – Meaningful Sector Employment for People with Disabilities – Support

Motion 143 – Support for Trades Councils – Support

Amendment to Motion 54 – Palestine - Support

It was also reported that through the offices of the Standing Orders Committee remission to the Executive Council was being sought for the following motions:

Motion 20 – The road from casualisation

Motion 25 - Paternity Leave

Motion 72 – Addressing Fossil Fuels and Climate Change – Oppose if not remitted.

It was further reported that through the offices of the Standing Orders Committee the following motions had been remitted to the Executive Council:

Motion 56 – the movers have already agree to remit

Motion 76 – the movers have agreed to remit

Motion 77 – the movers have agreed to remit

Motion 84 – the movers have agreed to remit

Motion 103 –the movers have agreed to remit

Motion 109 – the movers have agreed to remit to Irish EC

Motion 130 – the movers have agreed to remit

Motion 151 – the movers have requested the right to move the motion but have agreed to remit before vote is taken

Motion 30 – this motion from Scotland had originally been submitted with incorrect text. Through the office of the Standing Orders Committee this situation has been rectified and in these circumstances it was agreed to recommend Support.

Emergency motions:

Two emergency motions had been received before the conference and were yet to receive approval from the SOC to go before the Conference. However, in

anticipation of this it was necessary to seek the recommendations of the EC at this meeting. Following discussion the following recommendations were agreed:

Emergency Motion #1 : State Pension – Triple Lock – Support

Emergency Motion #2 : Campaign against cuts to face to face debt advice services - Support

Executive Council Speakers on motions:

With the agreement of the Executive Council it was agreed that the following speakers would put the Executive Council position to the Conference on the motions indicated:

Motion 72 – Addressing Fossil Fuels and Climate Change (seeking remission) – if not remitted, Assistant General Secretary Steve Turner

Comp 2 – Collective Bargaining – John Cooper

Comp 10 – Climate Emergency - Jane Stewart

Comp 14 – Preferential Voting – Tony Woodhouse

Comp 15 – Clause IV – Dave Williams

Comp 24 – Covid 19 and Equalities – Susan Matthews

The General Secretary reported that the Finance Report for 2020 had been finalised and while it had already been posted on the documents page of the conference website a hard copy would be with delegates on Tuesday morning. In accordance with previous practice delegates have been asked to submit questions in writing to the interim Finance Director and written responses will be given.

Minute 355

Any Other Business

Howard Percival reported that some hotels were asking delegates on arrival whether they wanted daily room cleaning using COVID 19 restrictions as the reason. He advised members that all should be urged to opt in to house-keeping in their hotels to protect and preserve jobs.

Minute 356

Conclusion

In conclusion the Chair asked for members' support in what would be a difficult conference with the inclusion of online participation. He advised that he would be endeavouring to make it a pleasant experience for everyone.

He pointed out that conference would be bidding farewell to the former General Secretary, Len McCluskey on Wednesday afternoon and expressed the wish that he would get a good send off.

Finally he expressed the hope that Sharon Graham would get a good build up as General Secretary for her programme going forward.

The meeting thereupon closed.