

1. **Apologies:** Martin Dawson, Sue Davies

2. **Minutes & action points of the last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed.

3. Reports from officers and correspondence

a. Chair

- Jo thanked the Committee for the organisation of the Branch meeting with Sion Simon MEP on 25 January. She would write to Sion to thank him for coming to speak to the Branch about his election campaign for West Midlands Mayor.
- The Committee held a full exchange of views on how the Branch should react to events surrounding the Article 50 Bill currently going through Parliament. With the support of the Committee, it was agreed that Jo would write to the Leader setting out our concerns about the process and emphasising in particular the need to protect the rights of UK citizens in the EU.

b. Secretary

- Points raised under other agenda items.

c. Treasurer

- Accounts in credit.
- Other points taken under item 4 – preparations for the AGM.

d. Membership secretary.

- Agenda point postponed to next meeting due to absence of membership secretary.

4. Branch meetings and other events in 2017

- **Friday 10 February** – Meeting with our sister parties on the theme of 2017 elections. The meeting will be hosted at the Headquarters of the Belgian PS. Isobel has circulated information and registration details to the Branch, and will send a reminder this week.
- **Keir Starmer meeting – February/March:** Keir Starmer has agreed to speak to the Branch on a forthcoming visit to Brussels, final date still to be confirmed. Jos is in contact with his office. Arrangements to be made once date confirmed.
- **Wednesday 22 March AGM** – Isobel explained the formal notification requirements: at least one month in advance (by 22 February) Isobel will circulate to the Branch the formal notification of the AGM plus draft agenda, nomination form and any proposed constitutional changes. Supplementary documents (such as draft AGM 2016 and EGM minutes, officer reports), could be circulated closer to the date of the meeting.

The Committee approved the draft minutes of the 2016 AGM (subject to one correction) for forwarding to the AGM for adoption.

In advance of the meeting Belinda had circulated proposed changes to the constitution. It was agreed to submit these proposed changes to the AGM for decision. It was agreed further that for the coming year the Committee would not propose any items of expenditure above 500 EUR.

Jo will contact potential speaker to address the Branch after the formal AGM business. Arrangements to be discussed further at the next meeting.

5. Communications, website, mailings, Germinal

- Germinal: Martin is working on next edition to be published in time for the AGM.
- Website and Facebook are up-to-date.
- Next mailing to include Jo's letter to the Leader, and details of the 10 February sister party meeting.

6. Sister parties

- Discussed under item 4.

7. LI

- The Committee noted that there would be elections to the LICC in March.

8. AOB: None.

9. Next meeting: Friday 3 March @ Belinda