

**1. Apologies:** Tim Allan, Martin Dawson, Paul Hagan

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

### 3. Reports from officers and correspondence

a. Chair

- Jo thanked those who had attended the sister party meeting on 10 February 2017 on the theme of "Election Year".
- Jo thanked Jos for organising the very interesting and well-attended meeting with Keir Starmer MP on Wednesday 1 March, and the Committee for their help during the meeting itself. Jo would write to Keir Starmer to thank him and Jenny Chapman MP for coming to talk to Brussels Labour.
- Jo took the opportunity to thank the departing members of this year's Committee- Belinda, Isobel and Martin – for their many years of service to the Branch.

b. Secretary

- The Committee noted with concern the high number of resignations from the Branch in the past month. It was agreed that Isobel will write to the secretary of Labour International regarding resignations/changes of membership communicated directly to Labour International.
- Other points taken under item 4 – preparations for the AGM.

c. Treasurer

- Accounts in credit
- Belinda has submitted the necessary information to the auditors to enable the accounts to be prepared for the AGM.
- Belinda has requested from the Bank the necessary forms to prepare the handover to the new officers following the AGM.

d. Membership secretary.

- Sue has identified members whose subs have lapsed and will follow up bilaterally with them.

### 4. Preparations for the AGM – 22 March

- **Wednesday 22 March:** Isobel sent the formal notification of the AGM to the Branch in accordance with the terms of the Constitution (one month's notice). Prior to the AGM Isobel will re-circulate the draft agenda and a reminder about the nomination deadline of 15 March. In addition, Isobel will circulate any written reports of the officers, and the draft minutes of the 2016 AGM and EGM of October 2016. FEPS is booked and the AGM will start at 19:30. Sue and Isobel to arrive at 18:45 to help set up the meeting. Belinda to get refreshments – budget of 50 EUR agreed. Jo is in contact with a potential speaker.

### 5. Branch meetings and other events in 2017

- **Monday 27 March:** Hillary Benn MP is confirmed to speak to the Branch on a visit to Brussels on 27 March, from 17:30 - 18:30. Rosemary and Jo will check whether FEPS is available.
- **Wednesday 26 April** – Arrangements for the meeting to be discussed at the first meeting of the new Committee.

#### 6. LI

- The Committee noted that there would be elections to the LICC in March. Isobel will send a mailing to members emphasising the importance of voting in the LICC election.

#### 7. Sister parties

- Paul had submitted a written report in his absence. Paul had recently attended an sp.a meeting entitled "I vote where I live" designed to motivate sister parties to get involved in the campaign for the Brussels local elections in 2018. The next meeting will be in April when 1 May activities will be discussed.
- Our Dutch sister party (the PvdA) will hold a meeting on 7 March on the theme of the Dutch elections.

#### 8. 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. Paul and Tim will meet to discuss interaction between the Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Next mailing to include reminder about AGM nomination deadline, March for Europe on 25 March and Hillary Benn meeting on 27 March.

#### 9. AOB: None.

#### 10. Next meeting: Wednesday 29 March