

## 1. Apologies: Eleanor

## 2. Minutes & action points of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved

It was noted that Claire Moody MEP still needed to be contacted regarding LME participation in a joint fringe event at Conference.

Jo will follow up with Sir Jonathan Faull regarding publication of his John Fitzmaurice lecture

## 3. Reports from officers and correspondence

### a. Chair

The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, particularly the new members. As Eleanor will be in London until July, he suggested for future meetings we ask her to dial in via skype/facetime etc

Rosemary to contact Eleanor to arrange her participation in future meetings

### b. Treasurer

- The account is in credit.

### c. Secretary

- There were no outstanding issues from the Secretary.

### d. Membership Secretary

- Sue has obtained the list of LI members in Belgium, and will contact those individuals who are not currently BL members. She will clarify who has paid their BL membership before the AGM. Sue is also responding to requests from LI regarding the size of the BL membership

## 4. Committee responsibilities

Committee responsibilities were discussed and agreed as follows:

| Position                 | Responsibility | Actions Arising   |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| Membership Secretary     | Jo and Isobel  | Jo, Isobel and Rosemary will contact Sue to arrange a handover, and Rosemary will Contact the LI Secretary to enable access to the LI membership database. Another issue is the need to establish contact with LI members outside Brussels and develop ways to involve them in Branch activities. |
| Campaign Coordinator     | Keir           |   |
| Sister parties liaison   | Keir/Tom       | It was suggested to organise a Sister Parties event ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections. Charlotte Billingham also volunteered to help organise such an event.  |
| Website and social media | Simon          | Simon to contact Paul for the relevant passwords. Simon will look at how to maximise use of the website to promote BL activities and and how we can use it to communicate Labour Party initiatives eg NPF consultations, LI updates etc. Rosemary and Jos offered to arrange a handover           |
| Social Secretary         | Eleanor        | A number of events were suggested which also  |

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|                          |              | have some fundraising and membership possibilities – see below  |
| John Fitzmaurice Lecture | Jo           |   |
| Germinal                 | Imogen       |   |
| LME                      | David/imogen |   |
| Brexit coordinator       |              | Imogen will ask some MEPs assistants if they are interested to be part of a Brexit group with David. David will contact Sue Bird to ask if she is also interested in being involved, given her previous involvement in Pro-Europa |

## 5. Branch meetings and other events in 2018

### a. Branch Meetings

**25 April:** Mete Coban, a Labour Councillor from Hackney is coming to Brussels on 25-26 April, and his work with My Life My Say, campaigning for a better Brexit for young people, and it has been agreed that he would speak at the Branch meeting.

**23 May:** It was agreed that this meeting should focus on the NPF Consultation – see more details below

**27 June:** It was agreed that this meeting will focus on the Communal elections with speakers from the PS and SP-a, and the Summer Social will now take place on 11 July. A further Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for the 18 July.

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| Rosemary to contact Mete Coban regarding the logistical arrangements and include details in the next Branch mailing |
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| Jo to contact PS and Paul Hagan regarding a SP-a speaker |
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### b. UK Local Elections Campaigning

UK Local Elections: It was agreed to organise a campaigning weekend in London on 28-29 April, offering the possibility for those interested in doing so to take part in activities on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May which is a Belgian holiday. Possible locations were Islington (Saturday) and Wandsworth (Sunday) It was agreed to offer up to 5 grants of 100 euro each to support Branch members to take part in campaigning, subject to the usual caveats

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| Rosemary to confirm to David Poyser regarding campaigning in Islington on 28 April and send information to the Branch |
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| Keir to contact Wandsworth Labour to find out if they would be interested in having support from Brussels Labour on Sunday (29 <sup>th</sup> ) |
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### c. Labour Party Conference

It was agreed to ask LME if they would be interested in co-organising a fringe event at Conference on the theme of stopping Brexit. A number of possible speakers were suggested to approach from the Labour Party, trade unions, sister parties and anti-Brexit campaigners and groups

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| David/Imogen to approach LME and apply for fringe event |
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### d. Social events

A visit to the WW1 battlefields and a Belgian beer tasting were two events suggested by the previous Executive Committee, and it was agreed to continue with their organisation, involving previous Committee members if possible

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| David to contact Paul to ask if he would like to organise the WW1 battlefields visit, possibly before the summer |
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| Rosemary to contact Sue to ask if she would be interested to organise a Belgian beer tasting, possibly in September |
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| Imogen to investigate if there will be a follow up to the Great British Get-together |
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## 6. LI

It was noted there will be a Labour International meeting in Dublin on 14-15 April. It was also suggested to increase visibility of the Branch in LI by writing an article for the LI newsletter.

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| Rosemary to ask Colin O'Driscoll to provide a written report of the meeting for the next edition of Germinal |
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| Jo to write an article about Brussels Labour for the LI newsletter |
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## **7. NPF**

Jos explained the process for contributing to the ongoing NPF Consultation and that BL could make a contribution as a Branch and as part of LI.

He suggested that a small team of volunteers be recruited, who would present aspects of the topics out for consultation of most interest to the branch, which could be presented at the April Branch meeting. The volunteers would work on a possible submission which would be discussed at the meeting in May.

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| Rosemary to include call for NPF volunteers in the next Branch mailing |
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## **8. Sister parties**

Actions were already discussed elsewhere in the agenda.

## **9. Communications, website, mailings, Germinal**

Imogen will produce the next edition of Germinal for after the local elections, and asked Committee members to contribute some information about themselves which could be included.

GDPR- the implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation was discussed and the implications for Branch communications. As this is on the agenda for the LI meeting in Dublin, Rosemary will ask for an update and advice from LI as a first step.

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| Rosemary to contact Colin O'Driscoll for an update on the GDPR discussions in Dublin |
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## **10. AOB**

### **11.. Date of next meeting 2 May.**

Paul Hagan to be asked to host, following his earlier offer.