

1. **Apologies:** Imogen, Tom, Isobel

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

3. **Reports from officers and correspondence**

- a. **Chair:** Nothing to report not covered elsewhere
- b. **Secretary:** Nothing to report not covered elsewhere
- c. **Treasurer:** The draft accounts will be sent to the auditors on 5 March. The only issue still outstanding is the payments relating to the fringe event with FEPS at the 2018 Labour Party Conference. The Treasurer advised that he was sure that it could be resolved and suggested arranging a meeting with the FEPS Finance Officer. If these aren't successful, it was suggested that the amount still outstanding should be written off in 2021.

It was proposed that the following items should be added to the draft budget, currently being compiled by the Treasurer – a microphone and tripod so that we can stream branch meetings; provision to update the website; and a new banner.

- d. **Membership secretary:** the new and returning members notified by Labour International have been added to the mailing list and sent a welcome email. The issue of missing ballots and some LI members being advised that they weren't eligible to be members of the Labour Party and vote in the current leadership elections was discussed. The Secretary will write to branch members advising them what to do, and to let LI (who are currently pursuing the issue with the Party) know if they have problems.

4. **Branch meetings and other events in 2020**

- **AGM 25 March:** the mailing, giving notice of the AGM, and inviting nominations for the next Executive Committee has been sent. Keir gave an update of the proposed changes to the BL constitution and standing orders. Some additional changes were identified, which Keir will communicate to the Secretary to include in the next mailing. It was proposed to invite Ilaria should there be questions about the proposal to move to the Circolo. Jude Kirton-Darling has been invited to be the speaker, and there may also be the possibility of a UK Labour Party delegation joining, if their visit coincides with the meeting, assuming there are no new measures from the Belgian Government regarding the current coronavirus crisis.

Jos will promote the possibility of standing for the Executive to the whatsapp supporters group set up during the 2019 general election campaign

- **Branch Meeting 29 April:** It was proposed to have a "meet and greet" for the other members of the House of European Progressives, so that the branch would have an opportunity to meet members of the sister parties also taking part, assuming the proposal is approved by the AGM.

5. **LI:** Rosemary will circulate the agenda for the next GC to the GC Branch delegates.

6. **Sister parties**

- **House of European Progressives – BL participation:** the last Branch meeting to discuss joining the House of European Progressives went well, and there seems to be strong support for the proposal. It will be voted on at the upcoming AGM.

7. **Communications:** Rosemary and Tom to organise a meeting to discuss the Branch communications with the Youth Officer.

8. **AOB:** none

9. **Next meeting:** 8 April