

Apologies: Matthew Hogarth

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

### 2. Reports from officers and correspondence

- a. **Chair:** The meeting with Democrats Abroad went well and a good connection has been made to follow up in the future.
- b. **Secretary:** the Secretary reported that LME have written to thank the Branch for their donation. The Branch has also been invited to join the Julian Priestley Circle which they have set up to advise and support LME. The Secretary will reply that we would be delighted to accept and to find out more information.
- c. **Treasurer:** The account is in credit. It was noted that Branch income has dropped significantly compared to the previous year, and the Committee should consider what action to take to reverse this. The survey will be finalised, as this will be an important way to find out how members view the services we are providing. It was decided to include a standard paragraph in future mailings that donations are welcome, and to follow up with those who used to pay a subscription. Appropriate letters will be drafted.
- d. **Membership secretary:** Access to membersnet has been restored and the Membership Secretary will follow up on this.

### 4. Branch meetings and other events in 2020/21

**John Fitzmaurice Lecture:** A letter to Alastair Campbell has been drafted to ask if he is willing to be the guest speaker at the lecture, and the date will be fixed according to his availability

**10 February:** Pub quiz: A separate meeting will be organised for those setting questions for the quiz. It was agreed to give the BL mugs as prizes as before.

**24 March (AGM)** The documents (agenda and nomination forms) for the AGM mailing will be prepared to be sent out one month before. Committee members will encourage members to stand for the Committee and the GC, and on the Belgium for Labour whatsapp group

### 5. LI:

An update was given on the 4 policy meetings which had been organised as part of the NPF consultation and the response on how policy is made within the Labour Party. It was noted with concern that the LIEC had not advised members of the resignation of the CLP secretary, and was proposing to hold its own trainings on anti-semitism which could have legal and constitutional implications. It was agreed that the Chair would contact the LI representative on the NEC to express our concerns.

### 6. Sister parties

The contracts have been sent regarding our participation in The Circolo and the Chair will now sign them.

### 7. Communications

The work on the website is ongoing. We will try to be more active on social media.

### 8.AOB

It was noted that Jackie Jones, former MEP from Wales is standing in the Welsh Assembly elections. The Committee will contact her to ask how we can help with her campaign.

8. Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021