

NCG Meeting - Minutes Sunday 2 June 2018

Date and time: Sunday 2nd June 2018, 11:00am-16:00pm
Location: London
Participation: Jon Lansman, Cecile Wright, Martin Maneer, Barry Gray, Sam Tarry, Emine Ibrahim, Liz Conway, Michael Thawe, Natasha Josette, Lorcan Mullen, Joseph Ejiofor, Carol Turner, Becky Boumelha, Liz Hayden, Leigh Drennan, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, John Taylor, Helen McDonald, Apsana Begum
Staff: Rachel Godfrey Wood, Santiago Bell Bradford, Laura Parker, Harry Hayball, Beth Foster-Ogg, Joe Todd

1. Introductions

JL outlined the scope and role of the NCG as laid out in the constitution, along with staff introductions. A few process questions were asked about how the meeting would proceed, including that Jon would chair up until item 6, when the position would be up for reelection.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Agreed.

3. Introduction to Momentum

An introduction to the various parts of Momentum as an organisation. Presented by Santiago and Mohammed. Also included a broad overview of Momentum's finances

Jon Lansman and Laura Parker led on a more in depth discussion on the structure of the NCG and its subcommittees, and how these will function moving forward. Finally, the presentation was finished with a proposal to link certain positions on the NCG to directorships of the company, and for these to change as the members who fill these NCG positions change. This proposal was to be formally moved under agenda point 6.

Cecile Wright asked questions about the demographics of Momentum members, and what can be done to better engage BAME communities, especially those outside London. Harry and Beth gave an update of what coming up over the next quarter could feed into this, and also gave suggestions as to how we could engage more BAME activists, including the Windrush Scandal, as well as developing local groups further.

Finally, NCG members asked operational questions about finances, GDPR and our relationships with Trade Unions, and how affiliations work.

4. Strategic Objectives

Laura Parker and each of the organisations Team Leads gave an overarching presentation on the strategic priorities for the second quarter of the year (SO2) guided by an internal staff SO2 planning document. This was followed by a brief outline of each of the staff teams responsibilities. NCG members were initially asked to comment on the presentation, and then ask follow up questions

Most of the comments were positive, focusing on how where Momentum could better support the wider movement, highlighting caps where Momentum could provide further support. This included the need to find or train better candidates for public office in certain regions of the UK, the importance of building BAME activists and candidates, and not being complacent on the NEC elections.

The NCG also provided constructive advice on some of the current priorities of Momentum, focusing on the upcoming Councillor trainings, and the use of digital campaigns and how activists and NCG members can feed in.

Michael Thawe began a discussion about what further could be done by Momentum both nationally and locally to combat false narratives, and protect Momentum's reputation. The key outcome of this discussion was the need to be a cohesive unit both as an organisation and as an NCG body, whilst also acknowledging the work the Press Team does in rebutting negative stories that reach the media

5. Momentum Conference:

Mohammed and Beth gave a very brief rundown of the successful Momentum conference at the Durham Miners Gala. It was agreed by the NCG that the staff would come back with a more detailed analysis of the Conference, where future options and ideas could be discussed, along with data that would allow the NCG to have a more critical look of the Conference.

Action Point: Staff to provide a detailed review document for the last NCG meeting for the next meeting

Discussion with John McDonnell

John gave a update on current events within the Labour Party as well as developments on policy and an overview of what the next 6 months may look like. The majority of the discussion centred around what Momentum could do to prepare for a General Election, and what the likelihood of one being called would be.

6. Approval of Governance Structures and Election of NCG Officers 18/19

Moved and introduced by Jon, the paper formalises some of the ways of working that had developed over the last year of the NCG, while delegating responsibility from the NCG to smaller sub-committees.

Agreed

Elections were held by the NCG for the newly ratified positions. The results are as follows:

Nominations and Elections

Chair:

Nominated: Jon Lansman

Moved by: Martin and Cecile

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Vice-Chair 1:

Nominated: Emine Ibrahim

Moved: Joe Ejiofor and Becky Boumelha

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Vice-Chair 2:

Nominated: Cecile Wright

Moved: Joe Ejiofor and Becky Boumelha

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Chair of Disputes:

Nominated: Martin Menear

Moved: Liz Hayden and Cecile Wright

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Chair of Labour Party Democracy Sub-committee

Nominated: Barry Gray

Moved: Leigh Drennan and Cecile Wright

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Treasurer:

Nominated: Tony Kearns

Moved: Jon Lansman and Sam Tarry

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Chair of the Resources Sub-Committee

Nominated: Liz Hayden

Moved: Leigh Drennan and Cecile Wright

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Councillor Network NCG Lead:

Nominated: Leigh Drennan

Moved: Becky Boumelha and Emine Ibrahim

No other nominations put forward

Passed

Secretary:

Nominated: Becky Boumelha

Moved: Liz Hayden and Leigh Drennan

No other nominations put forward

Passed

The results of the NCG Officer positions were as follows:

Chair: Jon Lansman
Vice Chair: Emine Ibrahim
Vice Chair: Cecile Wright
Secretary: Becky Boumelha
Treasurer: Tony Kearns
Chair of the Disputes Panel: Martin Menear
Chair of the Labour Party Reform: Barry Gray
Chair of Resources: Liz Hayden
Councillor Network Lead: Leigh Drennan

Agenda item 10 taken while the preparations for the voting were being cleared away

10a. Trump

Carol Turner gave an update on the current challenges and activities planned around Trump's visit. Also discussed logistical challenges facing doing an action of this size. The NCG agreed to provide support as requested / needed

7. TSSA Motion - Members Consultation on Brexit

Motion moved by Sam Tarry. There was a broad discussion by the NCG on the benefits and potential risks of having a consultation. There was an amendment proposed to the TSSA motion by Martin Menear, while Barry Gray proposed a second motion that could be taken both separately or alongside the TSSA motion. After it was agreed by the TSSA that the Martin Menear proposal could be taken as an amendment, a vote was moved on firstly whether or not to postpone the TSSA motion until the next meeting:

Votes Cast:

Postpone TSSA motion= 10

Vote on the TSSA motion = 9

The TSSA motion was not passed, and instead moved to the next NCG meeting.

Next Barry Gray's motion was to be voted on:

Votes Cast:

For = 14

Against = 3

Passed

8. Political Education Proposal:

Lorcan moved a motion to agree to Momentum leading a programme of political education for Momentum and Labour Party activists. There was unanimous agreement that Momentum should be contributing in some way to political education of its members and that of the broader movement,

though a few NCG members raised some potential challenges facing its implementation.

The biggest of these challenges was about the resources and time required to do a political education programme of this nature probably. Laura Parker furthered Natasha's point by outlining that at our current capacity, we wouldn't be able to do a project of this scale properly.

Other discussion revolved around what the content of the political education, and which external groups could or should be involved in creating such a project. The NCG stressed the importance of linking up with groups trying to achieve similar things in the wider movement, especially the Labour Party and Unions.

Passed

Action Point: Staff to take the proposal away and look at the different ways in which this could be implemented, baring in mind capacity and resource constraints.

9. Accreditation of Thematic Groups:

This motion was moved by Laura Parker. It's aim is to formalise the many 'thematic' groups that have appeared in Momentum after the last two years, and give proper mechanisms by which they can be supported centrally, whilst also ensuring that they are run in an inclusive and democratic way.

Whilst there was broad agreement that this process needs to be formalised, with some NCG members praising the work of some existing thematic groups, the NCG wanted to ensure that the process for accrediting groups was robust enough. Emine asked what would be done to ensure that groups are sticking to the criteria by which they were set up, and if reviews will be conducted.

Agreed

Action Point: Staff to take away proposal and flesh out the mechanics by which thematic groups will be accredited and monitored. Bring back to the next NCG along with accreditation proposals.

10. NCG Member Agenda Items:

11. Calendar of Future Meetings

A calendar of the NCG year 18/19 of all meetings of all NCG bodies.

Passed

12. AOB:

Yannis Gourtsoyannis - There needs to be more communication and feedback from the NCG Officers to the NCG.

Liz Hayden - We need to look at how much we are paying Momentum staff for certain roles, and there needs to be a review across the board.