

Minutes
NCG Meeting
16/01/2021
10:00

Staff: Andrew Dolan, Chloe Koffman, Ollie Hill, Craig Lloyd, Rachel Godfrey Wood

Participation: Andrew Scattergood, Darran McLaughlin, Phil Clarke, Jackie Owen, Callum Bell, Gaya Sriskanthan, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Liz Smith, Alan Gibbons, Tony Kearns, Ana Oppenheim, Deborah Hermanns, Jennifer Forbes, Matt Wrack, Shona Jemphery, Barry Gray, Craig Anderson, Mick Moore, Abbie Clark, Tracey Hylton, Carol Turner, Rory Maclean, Mish Rahman

Apologies: Solma Ahmed, Sonali Bhattacharyya, John Taylor, Jon Trickett

1. Apologies/Matters Arising

None

2. Co-chairs Report

AS noted upcoming issues facing Momentum, including Brexit, COVID and workers rights. AS noted recent developments in Scottish Labour. AS noted the suspensions advice service has been well-received and noted the upcoming 2021 strategy. AS noted the change in Labour Party economic policy. AS noted video content output has been successful over the Christmas break and noted the upcoming projects including Conference. AS noted upcoming meeting of the Review Group.

3. Officers Group Report + COVID working group update

SJ noted the COVID WG is working on a statement to address the government's failures. SJ noted encouragement for local groups to campaign on related issues.

HPS noted decisions from the Officers group, including merchandise and CAC re-endorsements. HPS noted support for Holyrood selections and the NPF elections. HPS noted discussion of suspensions campaign and other business.

AG noted ongoing issues around the Liverpool mayoral election. CT noted that the review of procedures re the NPF is due to close at the end of the month and it is ongoing. CT noted LP Women's Conference and the requirements for sending a delegate. CT suggested informing members about these requirements. JO asked if the Equalities Group is discussing motions for LP Women's Conference.

- Membership Working Group report

DH noted a national call. DH noted there have been over 50 refounding meetings. DH noted meeting with staff around MyMomentum before the break to discuss priorities within the digital infrastructure. DH noted the launch of the Policy Primary on Tuesday. DH noted the second half of the refounding process will begin shortly, including a review of Momentum's constitution. HPS asked if CallHub is available for local groups to use. AD noted that the review of the CallHub trial is being devised.

- 4. Campaigns Working Group report

DM noted a talk around housing with guests. DM noted student rent strikes and involvement of Labour societies. DM noted the recent lockdown and the impact on some activities and noted this will likely be postponed beyond February. DM noted the work of the volunteer research team around housing and renters rights. DM noted research into how local government can be utilized in the campaign.

- 5. Report from the Political Coordinator

Leadership development and Future Councillor programmes are being worked on, as well as some work on the refounding process. Staff have also been very engaged with meetings with the DSA. AD noted fundraising efforts through emails around the launch of right-wing media and

some recent op-eds. AD noted support for the newly elected Young Labour reps. AD noted the summary of our digital reach and that Momentum is outstripping the LP in terms of reach.

6. Proposal for a Momentum Trade Unionists Network

AS noted himself and many NCG members included the network as part of their election platform. AS noted that the structures are still being developed and for now, will have informal structures. AS noted proposal to create a network of identified Momentum TU members, which compliments existing TU structures. AS noted the strand focused on trade union rights and campaigns and targeting under 30s. AS noted the timeline of an initial 3-6 month trial period, where the progress will be assessed.

PC noted agreement with creating a TU network, noted developments in the NEU over the last few weeks, including a huge increase in membership and engagement. PC noted that health workers should be central to the network. PC noted that the TUC has not been strong on the public sector pay freeze. AS noted that the only requirements are to be a member of Momentum and a trade union.

CB noted the average trade unionist is not necessarily a radical organiser and the approaches to membership are outdated. CB noted support for the proposal. TK noted that the opinions of the TU affiliates should be sought formally in relation to the proposal. TK noted that TSSA should be contacted. AS noted that AD can investigate speaking to affiliated trade unions.

MM noted the Unison GS election results. RM noted that it may not be possible to implement the structure whilst the refounding process is still happening. RM highlighted it may not be helpful to separate members according to these structures. MW noted this is a key issue for the left, MW noted that it's important to recognise what jobs young people are doing and how we break through into new areas of work. MW noted there should be no limits on what union members can participate. HPS noted there may not be a conflict between the network and the refounding process.

Item was taken to a vote

Yes: MM, TK, AC, AG, BG, CB, CT, CA, DH, HPS, JO, MW, MM, MR, PC, SJ, DM, GS

No: none

Abstentions: AO, JF, LS, PM, RM

Item passed.

7. Suspensions Campaign update

AG noted the suspensions of CLP officers. AG noted the uneven nature of suspensions, regionally. AG noted the lack of communication around suspensions and noted the questioning of members who have been suspended. AG noted Save Our Socialists Campaign. AG noted that there could be a statement from the co-chairs regarding the campaign. AG noted campaigners approaching MPs and unions for support. AG noted there should be a collective response to the suspensions.

BG noted that secretaries and officers of 200 CLPs wrote to David Evans in December about these issues. BG noted these are things that members can do to keep attention on this campaign. AG noted that Momentum has responded to the suspensions and gave firm advice around suspensions. AG noted there is no single response to the attack from the right. AG noted it may be useful to explain to members why there are limitations on the response.

8. Local Government working group update

SJ noted the conclusion of the Future Councillor Programme. SJ noted that staff will send a form to identify left-wing candidates to invite to collaborative events. SJ noted work on managing electoral endorsements. The group is also looking at developing a political education programme for councillors. RGW noted support for candidates before selections and that FCP will need to be run every year. RGW noted that work will need to be done with those who are selected. JO suggested that there could be an education programme around selections.

9. CfS Speakers for events

CA requested that CfS speakers be invited to large Zoom events to help build in CfS.

10. Policy primary working group

DH noted that the Policy primary is launched on Tuesday. DH noted the WG will help streamline the motions received and speak to those who submit motions. DH noted the group will not be able to reject motions on political grounds, unless it contravenes Momentum's aims. DH noted availability requirements and that anyone with interest or experience in this area would be welcome.

SJ, AC, AO, CT, DH, JF, SB and GS expressed interest in joining the policy primary working group.

11. Rule changes working group

DH noted that rule changes are separate from policy and there will be guidance released around what is possible and what is not. DH noted there will be a form for members to submit possible changes and there will be a national meeting in February. DH noted the WG will be liaising with other groups and developing a shortlist for rule changes, which will be proposed to the NCG. RGW noted that the working group will need to examine the procedures closely.

AS, LS, BG, AG and MR expressed interest in joining the rule changes working group.

12. CAC election 2021 CLP Section

BG noted the CAC and its role. BG noted two reps that are elected by the membership and nominations open this month. BG noted the two current members are the first left-wing members to get successfully elected. BG noted that there has been a change in the membership so they will need a strong campaign to be reelected and many CLPs will have to nominate. MM asked who runs the campaign of the current candidates. BG noted they receive support from CLPD and CLGA. RGW noted there shouldn't be too many problems with the campaign, although there will need to be early discussions with the candidates. AS noted the importance of the election. DH suggested a document that outlines the decision making process regarding endorsements for committees. AG noted support for the incumbent candidates. TH noted that Wednesday is the closing of the register of interest for the Disabled members role

and the upcoming LWC committee election. RGW noted an invite to a meeting with LWL to discuss this.

MM noted reservations around endorsing the candidates now. AS noted the time pressure and the importance of retaining these seats. BG noted that Momentum has had confidence in the incumbents since 2017 and they have done excellent work in helping CLPs access Conference. DH noted that the timetable should be circulated. DH noted there could be applications for such processes like these and asked if there is time to run an application process. PM noted that practically, the nominations are already open and this shouldn't be delayed.

CT noted agreement with PM and that the candidates need to be strong and experienced. AG noted support for backing them. RGW noted the official timetable has not been published and nominations are open until around June. RGW noted there is a formal self-nomination process scheduled for February. DH proposed delaying the nomination until AD and RGW discuss with incumbent candidates and feedback to the NCG and then vote for the endorsement at the next meeting. AS noted that this would counter the proposal. DH noted she is making an amendment. AS rejected the amendment. DH noted this is procedurally incorrect.

Original item was taken to a vote

Yes: CT, AG, BG, CA, JO, JF, MW, MM, MR, PC, DM

No:

Abstentions: AC, AO, CB, DH, GS, HPS,

Break

13. AOB

LS noted the outcome of the SHA executive elections. LS noted the right organising for the SEA. LS noted that the Co-Op AGM had a lot of unknown attendees. LS noted the importance of being involved in these associations and that we encourage members to join. AS asked what the exact benefits are around organising in these societies. MM noted there is a benefit to

organising affiliates/societies they can send delegates to GCs. AS suggested AD discuss and work on this which can be brought to a further Officers or NCG meeting.

HPS noted that WLG will be facilitating a political education discussion with TWT.