

Minutes

NCG

6/2/2021

Participation: Craig Anderson, Tracey Hylton, Ana Oppenheim, Jackie Owen, Callum Bell, Gaya Sriskanthan, Andrew Scattergood, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Liz Smith, Barry Gray, Deborah Hermanns, Mick Moore, Solma Ahmed, Darran McLaughlin, Shona Jemphrey, Alan Gibbons, Rory Maclean, Angus Satow, Jon Trickett, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Matt Wrack, Mish Rahman, Abbie Clark, Tony Kearns, Phil Clarke, John Taylor
Staff: Chloe Koffman, Ollie Hill, Andrew Dolan, Craig Lloyd
Apologies: Carol Turner

1. Apologies/Matters Arising

N/A

2. Co-Chairs Report

AS noted leaked strategy document from the Labour Leadership. AS noted the Momentum upcoming strategy document. AS noted update for the TU network. AS noted readmission of AG to the Labour Party and ongoing suspensions. GS noted that Labour Women's Conference is going ahead online and there is a new committee with 6 CLP reps.

3. Officers Report

SB noted events of the OG from the past month including a possible event with the NEU, results of the Holyrood selections, discussions around the wider relationships on the left, a possible GND committee and the launch of the Policy Primary.

4. Local Government Working Group Report

SJ noted the conclusion of the Future Councillor Programme and the soft launch of the Support network. DH asked if the FCP is going to be evaluated. MW asked if there is a plan to have a wider discussion on the policies Momentum wants to see from local government. SJ noted there will be a FCP evaluation form sent out. SJ noted they are open to wider discussion.

AD noted the evaluation of the FCP and noted Momentum doesn't have many agreed policy positions. LS noted that local government is important and should be pushing policies towards them. AS noted that not having agreed policy positions can hinder us. TH asked how the Network is linking up with the SCG of Councillors. SJ noted lack of capacity between now and the local elections.

5. COVID Working Group Report

SJ noted COVID statement developed by the working group. SJ noted conversations with Keep Our NHS Public. SJ noted areas of focus.

6. Equalities Subgroup Report

TH said the Equalities group will conduct a review of equalities training and policies. TH noted there will be a paper on this item at a later date. TH also noted the need to assess well-being and welfare.

7. Campaigns Subgroup Report

DM noted a large meeting on Thursday regarding the housing campaign. DM noted significant activity across the country. DM noted that local groups have been asked to identify housing offenders/large landlords in their area. DM noted a possible upcoming day of action on 27/3. AC asked if information found by local groups is going out to all groups in the local area. DM noted the main communication is via the WhatsApp groups. AS noted issues with spam filters.

8. Procedures Working Group Report

DH noted activities for the Procedures working group. DH noted the affiliates are up on the website. DH noted there could be a staff flowchart on the website. DH noted that the Slack is now up and running and NCG members should now join. DH noted new rules for AOB at NCG meetings. DH noted upcoming meetings with all affiliates to discuss and review their relationship with Momentum.

9. Membership Working Extended Report

DH noted updates to the refounding process. DH noted interest in reforming new groups in rural areas. DH noted the CallHub trial and the rollout of the full service. DH noted the Policy Primary process and that the non-affiliated groups can submit one motion. DH noted the rule changes group is working on proposals. DH noted a public meeting on Monday around rule changes. DH noted the Leadership Development Programme and the upcoming proposal for the March NCG.

ASa asked about the compositing group and if local groups can submit motions. AG noted local groups are involved in his area. DH noted that they are expecting at least 10 local groups to submit motions. DH noted the Primary Policy process and make-up of the working group. SA noted interest in the process in Norfolk. AS noted there will be plenty of time for NCG members to consult on these policies.

ASa asked about the Conference Arrangements Committee. AD noted the previous endorsement of the left incumbents for the CAC. AD noted that Momentum hasn't previously interacted with the NPF but this could be explored.

10. Recall of Conference Motion

JTa noted that the BFAWU and other groups have launched this campaign to urgently recall conference. JTa noted the lack of democracy within the Labour Party and Jeremy Corbyn's suspension. JTa noted that Party rules allow for an immediate reconvening of the national conference to deal with immediate issues. JTa noted that he is asking for support for this campaign and that it should be promoted within CLPs. JTa noted that this goes hand in hand with Momentum's democracy demands. AS asked for a seconder. CA seconded.

MR noted the principle of the motion is correct. MR noted that the left does not have a majority on the NEC. MR noted that there needs to be a commitment from other groups, including neutral votes and there shouldn't be false hope. RM agreed with MR. MW noted that the FBU has passed a similar motion and it can be used as a mobilising tool. MW noted that if a significant number of CLPs passed it then this would show strength and there is a possibility for a rank-and-file conference. PC noted he could vote for it but it would not be deliverable. This may damage trust with members. PC noted issues with the wording around the principle of unity. AG noted concerns around demanding too much that cannot be delivered. AG noted that the debate may be useful. AG noted that the caveat could be added to any motions taken to CLPs.

JTr noted that the Labour Party was formed out of workers and trade unions and this should be reflected in our politics, conference being vital to this. JTr noted that the SCG is in support. JTr noted logistic issues and the left needs to make the argument around how a conference can be delivered.

AS clarified that a recall conference is an extension of a previous conference. AS noted this would be a recall of the 2019 conference, with the same delegates. DH noted some uncertainty. DH noted she is in support in principle and proposed mandating MR to vote in favour of it if it comes to the NEC but Momentum shouldn't spend much time on this. CB agreed with DH. DM noted interest in a rank-and-file conference. DM noted that planning a conference can be difficult and asked if there were any practical contributions as to how this would be carried out.

SJ acknowledged risk of demoralisation and that virtual conferences do not have the same impact as in-person conferences. SJ noted staff capacity issues. MM noted support for the motion but noted that it may not be the best use of our time. AG noted that if the unions get behind this, he would support it. AG noted that it may not be demoralising.

JTa noted the wording has been considered so that the motion does not get rejected. JTa confirmed that it would be a recall of the 2019 conference. JTa noted costing of around £1-2 a delegate and this shouldn't be an issue for the Party. JTa noted that it may not demoralise the membership. JTa clarified that the ask is to promote the motion to CLPs.

Item was taken to a vote

Yes: JTa, JO, SJ, DM, DH, AG, AC, CA, MR, PC, TH, LS, TK, GS, CB, SA, MM, JT, MW

No: ASa, HPS

Abstentions: BG, SB, RM, AO

Motion passed.

11. Green New Deal Committee

GS introduced the item and noted discussions around how to build GND policies into our policies. GS also noted the need to involve members directly in the process. GS noted limited staff capacity and the need to consult trade unions in relation to the GND. GS noted discussions with LGND. GS noted this model is based on the DSA's thematic committees. GS explained the make-up of the committee. GS noted the request for a small Working Group to coordinate this. GS noted this committee could be evaluated at a later time.

ASa acknowledged potential for collaboration and noted issues of replication and competition. ASa noted the relaunch of LGND. ASa noted that they want to avoid competition around policy points. ASa noted the need to collaborate and joint review the process together. ASa suggested having a joint committee. ASa proposed sending a non-NCG rep to help collaborate on this.

LS welcomed the proposal and noted that the trade unions need consulting. LS proposed having someone with a global economic perspective on this committee. DM noted support for the proposal and noted the GND is a widely supported policy. SJ noted support for the proposal and this could help bring in members. DH noted it's important to involve members in order to increase the effectiveness of the organisation. DH noted support for this. DH noted there is always the chance of replication and a joint committee may not work but having two people from Labour GND may work.

GS noted there is no intention for replication. GS noted this would be a national committee, rather than having groups on the ground. GS clarified that the ask is to form a small WG to take the proposal forward. ASa asked about the formation of the committee, ie if it would just be NCG members or include a LGND rep. DH suggested just voting on the proposal today and

then GS could coordinate further. GS noted a LGND should be in the working group. GS agreed with DH. AS agreed with moving the vote forward.

Item was taken to a vote

Yes: JTa, JO, SJ, DM, DH, AG, AC, SB, ASa, CA, HPS, RM, MR, PC, TH, LS, TK, GS, CB, AO, SA, MM, MW

No: n/a

Abstentions: BG

Item passed. The working group was proposed with the following participants: Liz, Shona, Angus, Darran and Tracey.

12. Suspensions Update + Support for Stand Up for Democracy Rally

AG gave suspensions update. AG noted some wins but that Momentum should not be aggravated. AG noted support from the wider left and the line-up for the Suspensions rally. AG noted issues with the line-up for the rally.

BREAK

13. Comms Working Group Report

RM noted a good month for Momentum Comms. Noted the success of the fundraising email from the GB News email. RM noted policy primary launch and work on universal credit. RM noted the upcoming op-ed training with staff.

14. Momentum Strategy document

AD outlined the strategy document for Momentum. AD noted that the item contains the political context, what Momentum is and what we do, the strategic and organisational priorities. AD outlined the plan for 2021. AD outlined the longer-term goals for 2024 and noted that it eventually could be distributed to the membership.

AS noted that when the NCG was elected, strategy was a priority, for both internal and external processes. AS outlined different options for agreeing this. MW noted that there should be some time for NCG members to comment and feed in, before an extraordinary meeting to agree this. CA noted he would like some more time to read the document. CA noted it would be useful to share this document with the CfS executive. DH noted support for the document and noted the diversity of the document. DH noted the urgency and supported having an extraordinary meeting before the next NCG or sending it to the Officers group.

PC noted the document mentions getting a Labour government elected and the document should recognise that we need to make sure the policies are strong. PC noted we haven't yet had discussions about the TU network, including conversations with under 30s. GS noted the importance of releasing this soon and supported a decision before the next NCG. MM noted concerns around the lack of emphasis on fostering strategic cooperation. MM noted the left is not organised among itself and this needs to be considered in the strategy document.

AD noted suggestions and noted that some things have to be reconsidered when distributing it as a public facing document. AS suggested that AD works on the document, consults CfS and WLG and keeps it open for feedback for another seven days, then an extraordinary meeting for the full NCG to agree. AD suggested a timeline of two weeks/ten days. AS accepted this and noted that amendments can be presented but tweaking and feedback should be done beforehand. AS asked for objections, none made.

15. AOB

SJ asked if anyone was aware of any left members who are standing to be a councillor fill out the airtable form.

BG highlighted that the CLGA are meeting soon to discuss candidates for the NCC.