

NCG Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 2 April 2022

Time: 10:00am – 12:10pm

Present: Craig Andersen, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Matt Buckley, Alan Gibbons, Barry Gray, Mish Rahman, Andrew Scattergood, Liz Smith and Carol Turner.

Apologies: Solma Ahmed, Abbie Clark, Phil Clarke, Sarah Doyle, Leigh Drennan, Jennifer Forbes, Deborah Hermanns, Emine Ibrahim, Shona Jemphrey, Tony Kearns, Rory MacLean, Darran McLaughin, Mick Moore, Ana Oppenheim, Jackie Owen, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Jon Trickett, Sam Tarry, Gaya Sriskanthan and Matt Wrack.

Staff: Andrew Dolan, Ollie Hill and Hareem Ghani

Apologies

- Apologies from CB, PC, DH, SJ, TK, RM, DM, JO, HPS, GS and MW.
- AG says he will have to leave the meeting early, and return at noon.
- CT says she will have to leave the meeting early because the NCG meeting coincides with the CND national council.
- AS relays that the meeting is not quorate, meaning no votes will be taking place.
- AS switches the agenda, he removes his item on 'Rules on representation for trade unions' since it involves a constitutional change which would require a vote, moves the Refounding Momentum item forward, followed by the budget update and then AOB.

Co-chair reports – Andrew Scattergood

- AS thanks Momentum staff for their hard work on the Young Labour Primary, the YL/LS Training Day and the NEC campaign for the CLP, Wales and BAME seats.
- AS recounts that Momentum has received 20 submissions from local groups and campaigning organisations for the Labour Policy Primary. A ballot will be circulated with members later in April 2022.
- Momentum has also coordinated a series of canvassing days to support socialist candidates in the upcoming elections, including Scottish MSPs.
- Momentum is preparing to launch the community wealth building (CWB) toolkit on 11 April 2022.
- A local Momentum group has been established in Worthing, attended by RB, who gave very good feedback about the launch event.
- Momentum has received feedback from members for the Refounding Momentum proposals.
- Internally, Momentum has welcomed four new staff members including LM, FO, JS and TW. Three staff have also left the organisation including EC, PN and CT.
- Momentum's other priorities include parliamentary selections, the annual budget and preparations for the Leo Panitch Leadership Programme and Labour Party Conference.
- CA says many council candidates in Scotland are overwhelmed by the concept of CWB toolkit. However, there is a strong push for trade unions in favour of the toolkit. The CWU, for example, presented a motion at the Scottish Labour Party Conference to mandate all councillors to undertake the CWB agenda for the local government. It is now party policy in Scotland. AD points out that the purpose of the Momentum toolkit is to ensure councillors understand CWB as an idea and a practical set of policies, and that there is exciting overlap with the CWU's work.
- AD relays that Momentum tested the CWB toolkit with seven purposely invited councillors. In the aftermath of the local elections, Momentum will be rolling out the training for its councillor network (comprising between 250 and 300 councillors).

Rules on Representation for Trade Unions – Andrew Scattergood

- Withdrawn due to low turnout.

Refounding Momentum – Andrew Dolan

- AD provides an update on Refounding Momentum: Following a series of internal discussions, the Refounding Momentum proposals were disseminated with members (bar the proposal for an affiliate committee which was removed). Members were given a one month period to discuss the proposals and fill out feedback forms. The purpose of this item is to review the package of proposals from the Momentum Assemblies, which have returned with minor amendments.
- AD guides NCG members through the survey responses, which he noted were a small sample size and had to be qualified as such:
- The major issues that have emerged during discussions with members, the NCG and the OG include the four affiliate seats (now removed from the proposals, though there is still an appetite for change among the membership), the election of public office holders and how the conference will function.
- AG stresses that the membership should elect public officeholders to avoid a situation where they barely attend the NCG or where you get NCG members on completely opposite sides.
- AS responds that the NCG is accountable to those electing them, but there is no recourse for those who choose not to attend once elected. AD outlines that one of the Refounding proposals scheduled to go to ballot addresses the issue of non-attendance. For example, there is a recall mechanism via a petition if members are dissatisfied with NCG members. In addition to this, there is an automatic by-election trigger where if an NCG member has three unexplained absences in a row or attends less than 50 per cent of meetings within a 12 month period and does not satisfactorily account for said absences, then a by-election is triggered provided it doesn't fall within a six months of an NCG elections. AS clarified this only applies to NCG members elected by the membership and councillors, it does not apply to affiliates.
- BG points out that JT has made valuable contributions to the NCG. He also believes it is more valuable for peers to be electing their representatives. He responds to AG's earlier point about electing members to the NCG with completely different political opinions, and says it is important for Momentum to be a pluralistic organisation that includes different points of view from the left. Finally, he supports the proposals for a conference.
- CA says he supports the idea of democratising Momentum, but NCG candidates also need to be informed about the time-commitment involved.
- MR says he supports a recall process for NCG members, but he has reservations about the recall process outlined in the Refounding proposals. For example, if you attend the first six month of meetings, and do not attend the rest you cannot be recalled. LS echoes this. AD points out that there is a consecutive meeting clause that would mean where an NCG member does not satisfactorily explain absences for three consecutive meetings, a by-election is triggered.
- AG responds to BG, says he supports pluralism within Momentum but that the whole membership has an investment in what public office holders do (an NCG member previously supported a conventionalist monetarist cutting budget without any discussion with the membership).
- AD says the final steps will be to formulate a resolution on the conference, then move to a ballot and get things put in place.
- AG excuses himself from the meeting, and says he will return at noon.

AOB: Labour Proscriptions – Liz Smith

- LS says Momentum asks how Momentum should respond to the recent Labour proscriptions.
- AS notes that left representatives on the NEC have opposed the proscriptions, including MR, but they remained outnumbered in the factional battle.
- AD highlights that Momentum advised its representatives on the NEC to vote against proscriptions, it put out an extensive [public statement](#) condemning the proscriptions and advised activists on how to avoid suspensions. In particular, SD has advised 150 members.
- BG says he supports Momentum's statement, does not believe any criticism is justified and agrees with Momentum's approach on advising members to protect themselves. AS agrees, and says the recent round of proscriptions is a fundamental attack on political activism and democracy in this country.

AOB: Strike Map: How to Sustain Strike Action and Win – Phil Clarke

- AD says Strike Map has been set up to map industrial disputes across the country, they approached Momentum to support their event on 15 June 2022 entitled "How to Sustain Strike Action and Win" which LM can support in her capacity as the Trade Union Network Coordinator.
- AS notes the meeting is not quorate so the decision will be referred to the co-chairs, AS and GS, for a decision.