

# NCG Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 5 February 2022

Time: 10:00am – 14:40pm

Present: Solma Ahmed, Craig Andersen, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Matt Buckley, Abbie Clark, Phil Clarke, Alan Gibbons, Barry Gray, Deborah Hermanns, Tracey Hylton, Shona Jemphrey, Tony Kearns, Mick Moore, Ana Oppenheim, Jackie Owen, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Mish Rahman, Andrew Scattergood, Liz Smith, Gaya Sriskanthan and Carol Turner.

Apologies: Sarah Doyle, Leigh Drennan, Jennifer Forbes, Emine Ibrahim, Rory MacLean, Darran McLaughin, Jon Trickett, Sam Tarry and Matt Wrack.

Staff: Andrew Dolan and Hareem Ghani

## Apologies

- RM, DM, JT and MW send their apologies.
- JT has been in touch to say that the BFAWU will be resigning from the NCG. AS says he has not had the opportunity to respond to JT yet.

## Co-Chair Reports

- AS relays that the NEC slate negotiations are ongoing.
- DH asks AS to expand about the candidates being discussed at the CLGA negotiations. AS responds that all incumbents have been re-endorsed, but there is no consensus regarding the two vacant positions. AD adds that JB, ME, PG, NWI, AM have all been discussed as potential candidates. He says that JB has significant support, but one of the vacant positions is yet to be determined.
- TH notes that one of the outgoing NEC members is a BAME woman and the CLGA should uphold this diversity dynamic.

## Refounding Momentum

- AS reconvenes the meeting, says there is no reason to delay the Refounding Momentum proposals any further and makes the following suggestion on the Zoom chat: “The NCG today approves the publication of the proposals contained in the document ‘For Affiliates/NCG - First package of Proposals’, with the exception of the proposals on:
  - A Momentum conference;
  - Reform of the affiliate seats;
  - Election of the public office holders;
  - Option two: A hybrid of regional elected and nationally elected member representatives.

And for these items to be discussed at an emergency meeting of the Officers’ Group on February 16 [2022], following a ten day period of discussion conducted with the affiliates to see if there are amendments that can be formulated that have consensus within the organisation. Following the February 16 [2022] meeting, all proposals will be published to the members for a month of feedback.”

- PC says the OG must honour the general views of NCG members. For example, nobody has opposed the proposal for a conference, only asked for further clarification, so the OG should not scrap the proposal for a conference. MB agrees with PC, asks for greater clarification about the conference and encourages members to remain informed that

further proposals are forthcoming (on issues such as option two). AD clarifies that all proposals will be sent to members as a single package.

- AG says the OG must categorise the proposals under “controversial” and “more controversial”. He also asks for Momentum to explain the delays to members.
- TK says that the discussion about the Momentum conference needs to be tabled until the OG group meeting on Wednesday 16 February 2022 when they have worked out the finer details about what the conference will entail. AS agrees.
- AS calls for a vote on his proposals, 16 people vote in favour. There are no abstentions. The motion passes.
- TK leaves the meeting.

#### Officer Reports

- N/A

#### Climate Justice Committee Update – Gaya Sriskanthan

- GS informs everyone that the Climate Justice Committee has launched its Members’ Committee Working Groups.
- CT asks about Momentum’s position on nuclear within the Green New Deal debate. GS responds that Momentum does not have a determined position, but says she is keen to start a discussion with the membership with the help of CND.
- CT replies that Momentum must adopt a position. GS suggests that CT proposes a motion at the next NCG, DH agrees.
- TH agrees with CT that Momentum must adopt a position on nuclear, she also adds there are differences within the trade union sector because some unions represent individuals in the nuclear industry.
- BG says the Climate Justice Committee must also campaign on renewable energy given the recent surge in energy prices. GS agrees.

#### Local Government Working Group – Gaya Sriskanthan

- GS informs the NCG that the Local Government WG has been developing a Community Wealth Building Toolkit for Councillors, which will be released in late February 2022. Following the local council elections, the WG will be coordinating training sessions for newly elected councillors.
- DH notes that many community wealth building initiatives take a ‘top-down’ approach; she asks if the WG has considered socialist models. GS responds that this particular toolkit is focused on councillors, but the WG wants to publish further work on how activists can advocate for community wealth building.
- PC says the toolkit sounds very helpful, particularly for young councillors.

#### Local Elections – Deborah Hermanns and Shona Jemphrey

- DH says Momentum should develop a clear communications strategy ahead of the local elections.
- SJ introduces an amendment to the motion: she asks for Momentum to be more explicit about supporting people outside of London since the organising teams’ campaign days are primarily focused on London boroughs and the South East (Hillingdon, Wandsworth, Westminster and Worthing).

- AS agrees that the local elections present an issue for Momentum as many socialists have been left demoralised by KS' Labour.
- AS asks if a vote is required on SJ's amendment since there is an overlap between her amendment and DH's paper. SJ says she would like to pursue a formal vote.
- TH points out that socialists are not being selected for the local elections, because of the leadership. She says Momentum must do all it can to fight this, while continuing to advocate for a Labour Government.
- DH says she agrees with what has been said so far, but asks the NCG members to think about messaging for the elections: Why these elections matter, why Momentum members should campaign for Labour and what Momentum members should be demanding from local candidates. AS agrees.
- AD calls for a vote on SJ's amendment, there are no abstentions. The amendment passes.
- AD calls for a vote on DH's paper as amended, there are no abstentions. The motion passes.

#### Policy Primary – Andrew Dolan

- AD states that the purpose of this agenda item is to sign off on the policy primary for the Labour Party Conference in 2022. AD recounts that last year's policy primary was a success: 3,000 members voted, 200 members joined, and 25 local groups submitted two motions. AD says this year's policy primary will be slightly different because of a rule change at the party conference in 2021, whereby the number of motions debated during the CLP section was reduced from ten to six. Subsequently, he proposes the following amendments for this year's primary:
  - Reducing the number of successful motions from six to five;
  - Limiting the number of motions local groups can submit from two to one;
  - Re-framing the Policy Primary, and the importance of policy more broadly, in light of the rightward shift of the leadership;
  - Achieving point three by introducing a three-week 'Movement Conversation' where strategic questions of the value of policy, what policy we should push and why, are discussed across the movement, and;
  - Providing the NCG with the opportunity to make formal recommendations to the membership about which areas we should focus our policy motion in.
- DH leaves the meeting, but voices support for the amendments.
- BG notes members voted to oppose the Aukus Nuclear Pact at the Labour Party Conference in 2021 but this was ignored by the party leadership, he outlines many CLPs may wish to resubmit these policies and asks if the NCG can make policy recommendations to members. AD responds that the NCG can make recommendations for motions on public ownership, GND and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- CT says that Labour CND already has a motion on this she will share it with AD.
- BG highlights that countless motions are ignored because they are labelled "organisational motions". If Momentum were to re-submit a policy, they would need to restate the original policy, mention that it was passed the year prior and that the leadership did not adhere to said policy.
- AS calls for a vote on the paper, there are no abstentions. The motion carries.

#### Energy Price Rises – Shona Jemphrey

- SJ introduces emergency motion on energy price rises: she says Momentum must mobilise its members ahead of the People's Assembly protest on Saturday 12 February 2022, campaign for the nationalisation of energy companies and organise an event on energy, nationalisation and the GND.
- PC says Momentum should talk about trade union action to push up wages for workers.
- TH says the motion must highlight the importance of public ownership
- AS calls for a vote on the motion, there are no abstentions. The motion carries.

#### AOB

- TH asks if Momentum will be supporting the People's Assembly protest on Saturday 12 February 2022 regarding energy prices. AD says yes.

#### End of Meeting