

# **NCG Meeting Minutes**

Date: Saturday 4 June 2022

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Present: Solma Ahmed, Craig Anderson, Callum Bell, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Matt Buckley, Phil Clarke, Barry Gray, Deborah Hermanns, Shona Jemphrey, Mick Moore, Ana Oppenheim, Jackie Owen, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Mish Rahman, Andrew Scattergood and Gaya Sriskanthan.

Apologies: Abbie Clark, Sarah Doyle, Leigh Drennan, Jennifer Forbes, Alan Gibbons, Tony Kearns, Rory MacLean, Darran McLaughin, Liz Smith, Sam Tarry, Jon Trickett, Carol Turner and Matt Wrack.

Staff: Andrew Dolan, Ollie Hill and Hareem Ghani

## Apologies

- DM sends his apologies.
- AS extends his thanks to the NCG, Momentum members and Momentum staff for their work over the last two years. He says the organisation has achieved a considerable amount, helping elect countless socialists in the local elections, submitting winning motions to Labour Party conference and launching Refounding Momentum.
- AS says things are looking optimistic for Momentum, despite the NCG having inherited an organisation that was in a financially precarious position.
- AS says Momentum is currently preoccupied with NCG elections, parliamentary selections and trade union negotiations.
- Finally, AS notes that Momentum received a credible number of applicants for the Future Candidates Programme and the Leo Panitch Programme.
- GS thanks the NCG for their hard work, and thanks members for their initiative.

## Co-chair Reports – Andrew Scattergood and Gaya Sriskanthan

- GS relays that she met with the Democracy Collaborative last week about the CWB toolkit, and says there will be two training programmes – one in the north of England and one in London.
- GS has also been working on the climate justice course, 30 people volunteered to help devise the course, the course received 250 signups, and the first session had 111 attendees.
- JO says Wales are interested in the CWB toolkit and ask if Momentum would consider running a course there. AD says he will speak to RGW about organising a meeting in Wales. GS says the CWB toolkit was developed in partnership with the nations, and says she believes a meeting in Wales will be useful
- DH thanks AS and GS for their work as Co-Chairs.
- GS adds she would like to thank Momentum staff for their work over the two years.

## Downsizing and Merger of the Communications Teams – Andrew Dolan

- AD says Momentum's decision to have two separate communication teams, the Digital Team and the Communication Team, has been the subject of countless internal discussions as their work often tends to overlap.
- In the past, the biggest obstacle to merging the two teams was that either CC or EC would have to face a demotion.
- However, things have changed considerably since: the Head of Digital position has been vacant and Momentum have agreed to downsize the Digital Team to save the organisation an excess of £30,000.

- Momentum is in a position to appoint a Digital Media Lead to manage the Video Officer and Digital Communications Officer. The newest recruit is skilled, but not as experienced as EC.
- This paper proposes that the Digital Media Teams is supervised by the Head of Communications, remains semi-autonomous but is integrated into the organisation's member-facing work and organising work.
- The staff TU have not raised any objections to the merger.
- AS says he supports the proposal as it will streamline communication.
- SB asks AD to expand on his point about producing more members' facing comms, particularly members-led communications. AD responds that the Digital Team built up its reputation for public-facing videos during the 2017 and 2019 General Election. However, Momentum needs to consider how to prioritise its resources outside of the GE. Moving forward, this additional capacity should be redirected to selection campaigns, NEC elections, and Momentum's political campaigns. AD adds that Momentum features local groups and activists in its communication through 'The Organiser' which provides regular reviews of grassroots activism. In addition to this, DL has built up a communications network to encourage members to submit digital content to Momentum.
- GS says she believes that the proposal makes sense and wishes to support it.
- AS calls for a vote on the merger, there are no abstentions, the motion carries.

#### Electoral System for the Selection of Public Office Holders – Andrew Dolan

- AD says one of the outcomes of Refounding Momentum was to change the electoral system for the regional representatives positions by introducing STV. However, there was nothing in the Refounding ballot to suggest whether STV would be extended to the Public Office Holder positions. There are three seats that will be directly elected by members, thus a decision has to be made about introducing STV for the Public Officer Holder positions or sticking with first-past-the-post.
- AS thanks AD for introducing the item, says the NCG should avoid descending into a debate about which electoral system is better and states that he supports STV for Public Office Holders.
- MR says he supports STV for Public Office Holders. PC adds that Momentum has rightfully criticised the Labour Party for adopting STV for one section of the NEC and first-past-the-post for the rest since it benefits one wing of the party. Momentum should extend STV to the Public Officer Holder positions to ensure consistency.
- AS calls for a vote on the paper, there are no absentations, the motion carries.

#### AOB

- JO asks about the feedback from the Refounding Momentum ballot. AD responds that there was a large volume of information shared with members, Momentum could have embarked on a programme of political education to help members become familiar with these ideas, but the organisation did not have capacity given the cost of living crisis and the situation in Ukraine. However, 1,600 people cast a minimum of a vote, which is an impressive turnout. Ultimately, the value of the process rests with the outcome and what is delivered back to the organisation long-term.
- CA asks for an update about enfranchising CfS members in upcoming NCG elections. OH replies that Momentum has written to CfS and WLG, but they have not received a response from either group. He asks CA and JO to encourage CfS and WLG to respond to Momentum's query as soon as possible. JO says AA should be in touch soon.
- GS says thanks to AD for his work on Refounding Momentum, notes the Refounding process was a huge experiment in mass democracy and hopes it will leave a mark on the political culture of this country. AS agrees.

Meeting Ends