

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 106th Executive Committee
of the Socialist Party of Great Britain,
on the 4th April 2009 at 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4

(These minutes are not official until ratified by the EC)

Meeting commenced 1:10pm.

Present : Buick (from 1:20pm), Johnson (from 1:35pm), Carter, Deutz, Miller (Chair), Thomas, Wigley, Browne, Chesham M., Allen.

1) March 09 EC Minutes.

a) Browne and Deutz “Add to Mar 09 minutes that the late item regarding the photocopier (from Stair) was not taken”. Carried 7-0-1

b) Chesham M. and Deutz “regarding 6(iii) of the March 09 EC minutes, Johnson and Gluck asked for permission to stay on the dates 11th and 12th March”. Carried 8-0.

c) Deutz and Thomas “That the minutes as amended be adopted”. Agreed.

2) Matters arising.

a) Shop front.

Deutz and Browne “That the shop front report be taken after the break”. Carried 8-0-1

b) Return of keys. The return of keys was noted.

c) Response to calls for nominations.

i) Cde B. Martin for Library Department.

Deutz and Allen “That Cde Martin be appointed”. Carried 9-0.

ii) Cde T. Gluck for Election Department.

Buick and Deutz “That Cde T. Gluck be appointed”. Carried 9-0.

iii) Thomas and Carter “That late items be dealt with in the appropriate place, with time reserved for late items”. Carried 8-0-1.

iv) Cdes Stafford and Taylor for the Blog department.

Browne and Thomas “That Cdes Stafford and Taylor be appointed”. Carried 9-0.

d) Referral of Cde Robinson's actions to Edinburgh Branch. Edinburgh reported that they had interviewed him and were now confident of his future standing.

Browne and Allen “Noted”. Carried 9-0.

3) Forms A and F.

a) Letter from Cde. Layton requesting to resign and cancel his Socialist Standard subscription.

Browne and Wigley “That the resignation be referred to EARB”. Carried 9-0.

Thomas and Miller “That the subscription cancellation be referred to the SSPC”. Carried 9-0.

4) Accounts.

a) Audit.

i) Deutz and Miller “That as the Audit is for Conference, it be noted”. Agreed.

ii) Thomas said that invoices should go to the responsible committees and departments.

iii) Deutz and Wigley “That the Auditor be thanked for the report”. Carried 10-0

b) Accounts.

i) Miller stated that the PayPal account was frozen due to holding excess funds.

Buick and Allen “That immediate action be taken”. Carried 10-0.

ii) Wigley and Deutz “That the Dec 08 accounts be noted”. Carried 10-0.

5) Reports from Party Officers, Departments and Subcommittees.

a) Premises committee report re. Feb EC minutes.

i) Buick and Browne “Refer matter of kitchen table back to Premises committee”. Carried 9-0-1.

Note: kitchen table now will not collapse and has a wipe down tablecloth.

- ii) Regarding chairs in the main hall.
 - A) Allen and Miller “That we accept the last part of the Premises Committee report and purchase 10 cushions at £5 each”.
 - B) Amendment Deutz and Chesham M. “Replace '10' with 'an appropriate number’”. Lost 3-5-2.
 - C) Unamended carried 6-2-2.
- b) Regarding attack on premises. Treasurer reported a policy excess on insurance of £250.
 - i) Buick and Browne “That the Premises Committee file an insurance claim for the damages”. carried 9-0-1.
 - ii) Thomas and Browne “That Cde D. Lambert be heard”. Agreed.
Cde Lambert reported that another shop was attacked at the same time : the attack was not directed solely at us.
 - c) Regarding minor work injury at HO. It was noted that the comrade is recovering.
 - d) AV Department report regarding PA system.
Browne and Wigley “That the department be thanked for the report, and further consideration be deferred for one month”. Carried 10-0.
 - e) Regarding Campaigns department report to April EC.
 - i) Johnson asked if Meadowcroft meeting mailout had taken place. Answer was negative.
Johnson and Thomas “That the Campaigns Department do the mailout for the Meadowcroft debate”. Carried 5-0-5.
 - ii) Johnson and Wigley “That the report be noted”. Agreed.
 - f) Regarding Election department report on European elections.
 - i) Wigley and Browne “That the election statement be approved”. Carried 9-0-1.
 - ii) Wigley and Buick “That we contest the next Euro elections”. Carried 9-0-1. Division: abstention Johnson.
 - iii) Deutz and Wigley “That we contest London”. 9-0. (1 absent).
 - iv) Regarding list of candidates proposed by Election Department.
 - A) Wigley and Carter “That the list of candidates proposed by the Election Department be accepted”.
 - B) Addendum Johnson and Browne “with a view to expanding the list”. Carried 10-0.]
 - C) Substantive motion carried 10-0.
 - v) Johnson and Miller “That Cde. Wigley be added to the list”. Carried 9-0-1.
 - vi) Johnson and Allen “That Cde. Miller be added to the list”. Carried 9-0-1.
 - vii) Johnson and Miller “That Cde Allen be added to the list”. Carried 10-0.
 - viii) Johnson and Browne “That Cde. Carter be added to the list”. Carried 10-0.
 - ix) Browne and Miller “That Cde. Parker be added to the list”. Carried 10-0.
 - x) Chesham and Thomas “That Cde. Lawrie be asked if he wants to be added to the list”. Carried 10-0.
 - xi) Wigley and Browne “That the list order be assigned randomly”. Carried 9-0-1.
 - xii) Johnson and Browne “That a non-London version of the Euro-leaflet be made available to non-London Branches on request”. carried 10-0.
 - xiii) Wigley and Browne “That a budget of up to £13,000 be assigned for the European election campaign (including a £5,000 deposit)”. Carried 10-0.

Johnson and Carter “That we adjourn for 20 minutes”. Agreed.

- g) Regarding storage of back issues of the Socialist Standard.
 - i) Buick and Allen “That any Socialist Standards in excess of 60 copies for the years 2000-2004 be distributed free”. [Agreed.]
 - ii) Buick and Wigley “That Cde. Johnson's offer to do an audit of Socialist Standards which are in short supply be accepted”. Carried 10-0.
 - iii) Notice of business Thomas : Use of space at Head Office.
 - h) Regarding the Socialist Standard Department report on increasing the print run.
 - i) Browne and Carter “That the Socialist Standard Department's action in increasing the print run to 1300 for April be approved”. Carried 10-0.
 - ii) Thomas and Deutz “That the print run remain at 1300 till further notice”. Carried 10-0.

6) Correspondence.

- a) EARB letter regarding non-appointment of Cde. Stevens and conduct of annual ballot.
 - i) Johnson and Thomas "That the Gen Sec reply to EARB in line with the discussion at the EC table and the facts". Carried 10-0.
 - ii) Buick and Miller "That the matter of the annual ballot be referred to the Ballot Committee".
- b) Enfield and Haringey form C.
Johnson and Wigley "Noted". Agreed.
- c) Letter from Cde. Bissett re. Bigboy Musemwa.
Johnson and Wigley "Noted". Agreed.
- d) SWRB regarding recent contact from Zambia and Zimbabwe, asking for resources.
Browne and Allen "That the Branch be asked to forward such requests to the EC". Carried 10-0.

Johnson gave apologies and left the meeting citing transport difficulties.

- e) Circular from Internationalist Perspective.
Buick and Browne "That the circular be circulated for the next EC with a reply drafted by the Gen Sec". Carried 9-0.
- f) Report from the SPC.
Deutz and Thomas "Noted". Agreed.

7) AOB.

- a) Cambridge exam board had asked to use a Socialist Standard article in one of their exams as an example of bad writing style. The Asst. Sec. stated that he had given them his approval.
- b) Regarding the shop front.
 - i) Wigley and Chesham M. "That the EC is in favour of the Kingseal proposal". Carried 8-0-1.
 - ii) Wigley and Thomas "That the Premises Committee be asked to implement the Kingseal proposal". Carried 8-0-1.
- c) Letter inviting us to sponsor an unemployed singer and his "Socialist song".
Thomas and Buick "That the Gen. Sec. gently decline his kind offer". [Agreed.]
- d) Browne noted that there was no report to Conference 2009 from the Publications Department :
Standing Orders will report to Conference that none was received.
- e) Photocopier.
 - i) Regarding purchase.
 - A) Allen and Thomas "That Cde. Stair be asked to proceed with the purchase of the Toshiba e-Studio at a price of £5514.00 and with a service contract of 0.4p per copy for both A4 and A3"
 - B) Deferring motion Browne and Buick "That the matter be deferred one month for consideration". Carried 6-3
 - f) Fire alarm
Browne and Allen "That an advance payment of 30% for the fire alarm work be authorised".
Carried 9-0.
- g) Catering for Conference. The EC has arranged catering for Conference.
- h) Date of next meeting.
Buick and Allen "That the next EC meeting be the 9 May at 1pm". carried 9-0.
- i) Chair for next meeting.
Buick and Chesham M. "That Allen chair the next meeting". Agreed.

Meeting adjourned 5:45pm.