

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 107th Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Great Britain

6 February 2010

Note: These minutes are not official until amendment and adoption by the EC.

Present: M Chesham, Deutz, Carter, Allen, Browne, Buick, Shodeke, Byrne, Thomas, D Chesham, Miller (General Secretary)

Visitors: H Comber, S Wicks, N White, S Parker

The meeting was called to order at 13:08.

1. Election of Chair

Agreed at previous meeting: Allen

2. Minutes of the previous meeting, business arising therefrom and the General Secretary's rising of Notices of Motion and Business from previous meetings

(a) Amendment and adoption of the January 2010 meeting minutes

The following amendments were agreed:

- i. In §8, add Stair to the list of Internet Department appointees
- ii. In §7 change "cash flow" to "cash float"
- iii. Replace "Shodoeke" with "Shodeke" throughout
- iv. In §7, Head Office Organiser Terms of Reference, change "large" to "larger"
- v. In §7, note that Shodeke offered to read the gas and electricity consumption meter readings

Motion 1 (*D Chesham & Thomas*) That the minutes be adopted as amended.

Carried 10-0

(b) Matters arising from the November 2009 meeting minutes

i. Re §6(e) (draft General Election manifestos), three drafts received in total

It was agreed to vote on the best draft manifesto. The first received no votes; the second, six votes; and the third, three votes. The meeting then discussed and carried a large number of amendments to the second manifesto, which were recorded by Buick for the Election Department.

Motion 2 (*Browne & Carter*) That the manifesto as amended be adopted.

Agreed

It was noted that a Trotskyist party is planning to contest Vauxhall, the same electoral district the Party was thinking of contesting.

Motion 3 (*Browne & Deutz*) That the Party contest Vauxhall in the forthcoming general election.

Carried 10–0

Motion 4 (*Shodeke & D Chesham*) That the Party contest the election under the name “World Socialist Movement”.

Failed 0–10

Motion 5 (*Browne & Deutz*) That the Party contest the election under the name “The Socialist Party of Great Britain”.

For: Browne, Deutz, Allen, Carter. Against: M Chesham, D Chesham, Thomas, Buick, Shodeke, Byrne. Abstaining: none.

Failed 4–6

Motion 6 (*Buick & Browne*) That the Party contest the election under the name “The Socialist Party (GB)”, as in previous elections.

Carried 10–0

(c) Matters arising from the December 2009 meeting

- i. Re year-end call for nominations for Departments, Lancaster Branch nominated Cde Shannon to the *Socialist Standard* Department (editorial).

It was noted that this nomination had been received in time for the December 2009 meeting, but was not put before the EC as it had been misfiled. It was further noted that the Department’s editorial board was already fully staffed, but that the Department has the power to co-opt members.

Motion 7 (*Browne & M Chesham*) That the EC recommends the *Socialist Standard* Department co-opt Cde Shannon in accordance with ¶6 of the 1990 Conference Resolution on the SSPC.

Carried 9–0–1

It was agreed to fix or remove the automatic e-mail filter which caused the misfiling.

(d) Matters arising from the January 2010 meeting minutes

- i. Re §4 (Firetecnicos letter), the 2009 General Secretary sent apologies for having neglected to contact Firetecnicos as requested by the EC. The current General Secretary confirmed that he has since contacted Firetecnicos. The Head Office Organiser reported that the manual had subsequently arrived and that two members (Cdes R Lambert and Kelly, according to Thomas) have been trained on testing the alarm. Browne confirmed that the commissioning certificate is included in the manual.

Motion 8 (*Buick & Thomas*) That the report from the Head Office Organiser be forwarded to the Premises Committee.

Carried 10–0

- ii. Re §5 (Party Officers)

Thomas reported that he would today be meeting with Cde Wicks, who had been nominated for Assistant Treasurer. No further information regarding nominations for Treasurer.

Motion 9 (*Browne & Buick*) That Cde Wicks be appointed Assistant Treasurer.

For: Allen, M Cesham, Thomas, Shodeke, D Chesham, Buick, Browne, Bryne. Against: Deutz, Carter. Abstaining: none.

Carried 8–2

- iii. Re §8 (Motion “That consideration of the appointment of the Publications Department be deferred pending a letter to each nominee regarding the alleged breakdown of relations in the 2009 Department”, the e-mail considered responses from Cdes McCullough, Stevens, and Stair. Stair also sent 47 pages of printed documents which the Chair summarized for the meeting.

Motion 10 (*D Chesham & Byrne*) That the EC appoint Cdes Stair and Stevens to the Publications Department, and call for further nominations.

Carried 5–0–5

- iv. Re §12a (Glasgow Branch resolution), the following resolution was received from West London Branch: “That this branch fully endorses Glasgow Branch’s resolution (item 12a, January EC minutes) on the present impracticality of employing a full-time Head Office Organiser.” (Carried 5–0)

Motion 11 (*Browne & Deutz*) That the resolution from West London Branch be noted.

Carried 10–0

- v. Re §8 (nominations to Departments and Committees), South London Branch has nominated Cdes Shodeke, Gardner, and Deutz to the Production for Use Committee; and Deutz and Shodeke have given written acceptance

Motion 12 (*Browne & Buick*) That Shodeke and Deutz be appointed to the Production for Use Committee.

Agreed

(e) Notices of Motion and Business

- i. Notice of Business by Thomas: The question of the Party having an accredited Health and Safety Officer

Thomas noted that it is a legal requirement for us to have a Health and Safety Officer, and that the Party has had one in the past. Browne said it may not be a legal requirement for non-employers such as the Party.

It was agreed that the General Secretary would investigate whether we are required to have a Health and Safety Officer, and how to get someone qualified for the position.

3. Forms A and F

- (a) Form A for Glenn Morris (Central London Branch)

Motion 13 (*Buick & Thomas*) The Form A for Glenn Morris be accepted.

Agreed

- (b) Form F for Victor Brain (Swansea Branch, deceased)

Motion 14 (*Browne & Thomas*) The Form F for Victor Brain be accepted.

Agreed

- (c) Form F for Cyril Evans (South London Branch, deceased)

Motion 15 (*Buick & Thomas*) The Form F for Cyril Evans be accepted.

Agreed

- (d) Form A for Christine Namara (Central Branch, via Membership Applications Department)

The application was dated 10 September 2007. It was unclear whether it had previously come before the EC, and if so, whether the EC had made any decision on it.

Motion 16 (*D Chesham & Browne*) The Form A for Christine Namara be accepted.

Carried 10–0

4. Accounts

- (a) Bank statement from Butterfield, credit £31 675.91
- (b) Three invoices for *Socialist Standard* printing from BD&H, for £930, £930, and £940
- (c) Two invoices for *Private Eye* advertising, £107.61 and £126.44
- (d) Invoice for *Camden New Journal* advertising, £235
- (e) Invoice for office supplies from Lyreco, £349.42
- (f) Invoice for building insurance, £2793.03
- (g) Travel expenses claims for Byrne and Wicks, and travel advance for Byrne
- (h) Invoice from Kingseal Windows for shop front 50% deposit, £6184.61
- (i) Expenses from D Chesham for various Departments for £164.59
- (j) Invoice for postage stamps, £1750

Byrne left at this point.

Motion 17 (*Browne & Deutz*) That all the invoices and expenses be paid.

Carried 9–0

5. Reports of Party Officers, Party Appointees, Subcommittees, and Departments; discussion of campaigns and *The Socialist Standard*

- (a) Library Department Report to Conference
- (b) Premises Committee Report to Conference
- (c) *Socialist Standard* Department Report to Conference
- (d) Election Department Report to Conference
- (e) Audio-visual Department Report to Conference
- (f) Campaigns Department Report to Conference
- (g) Ballot Committee Report to Conference
- (h) Blog Department Report to Conference
- (i) Internet Department Report to Conference
- (j) Standing Orders Committee Report to Conference

Motion 18 (*Deutz & Browne*) That the reports be adopted.

Agreed

Motion 19 (*Buick & Browne*) That Advertising Department, Archives Department, Education Department, Enquiries Department, Head Office Organiser, Membership Applications Department, Publications Department, and Party Officers be asked to send in their reports to Conference by Friday 19 February.

Agreed

6. Correspondence

- (a) Matters of urgency

i. Call for Branch poll from Central London Branch:

That Central London Branch:

A. calls a Branch Poll under Rule 16 [*sic*; actually 26] (addendum)* with the wording:

This poll advises the EC to establish a General Purposes Subcommittee for day to day payment of bills and general administration.

B. votes in the affirmative on the poll.

C. resolves to disseminate the polled motion via `spint.com` and `spopen` urging other branches to support it as a matter of urgency.

Noted.

(b) Correspondence from or concerning Branches, the Party in general, and members

i. Letter from Socialist Green Unity Coalition

The SCUG includes the “Socialist Party” [*sic*], the Alliance for Green Socialism, the Alliance for Workers Liberty, the Democratic Labour Party, the United Socialist Party, the Socialist Alliance, and others, and cooperates amongst its partners to ensure that there is no overlap in electoral contests. They request a meeting to discuss avoiding or minimising any clashes between us at the 2010 general election and the local elections in May 2010.

Motion 20 (*Buick & Shodeke*) That the Socialist Green Unity Coalition be informed that the Socialist Party of Great Britain is contesting the Vauxhall constituency in the coming general election, and that the General Secretary reply in accordance with our Principles.

Amendment (*D Chesham & Thomas*) Delete “the Vauxhall constituency in”.
Failed 3–6

Vote on substantive motion:

Carried 9–0

ii. Forms F for Central Branch

A. Letter from Fred Allen asking why two of the three Forms F he requested had not been issued.

B. Letter from Central Branch Secretary clarifying that two of the three Forms F had actually been accepted by the EC. The remaining Form F is for an active member who she feels should not be lapsed.

Noted.

iii. Note from Head Office Organiser that the Rule Book will likely be completed by the end of next week. Noted.

(c) Correspondence from Companion Parties and Groups

i. SPC newsletter for January 2010. Noted.

(d) All other correspondence

7. Any other business

(a) Michael Moore film leaflet

*“Branch polls may be called by the EC or any Branch, suggesting a wording for a resolution. If an absolute majority of Branches pass the resolution, the EC shall consider it as if it were a floor resolution.”

The WSP(US) has prepared a leaflet concerning the forthcoming Michael Moore film, *Capitalism: A Love Story*. The leaflet will be adapted for distribution in Britain. Branches and members interested in distributing these leaflets outside cinemas should contact Head Office.

- (b) Campaigns Department suggestion that the 27 March forum, “The Road to Socialism: Kropotkin, Morris, and Marx” be advertised in *Time Out*.

Motion 21 (*Thomas & Deutz*) That the Campaigns Department be allowed to spend £156.86 on advertisements for the 27 March forum.

Carried 9–0

- (c) Thomas noted that the Northern Line may be subject to closures from July for eighteen months, possibly including weekend closures, and that this would disrupt travel to Head Office.

8. Nomination of Chair for the next meeting

Motion 22 (*Deutz & M Chesham*) That D Chesham chair the next meeting.

Agreed

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 18:01.