

# Minutes of the 12th (Special) Meeting of the 104th Executive Committee of the Socialist Party

20 October 2007

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

**Present:** Carter, White, Chesham, Helps, Deutz, Easton, Stair, Browne, Miller, and numerous visitors

The meeting was called to order at 14:01.

1. Suspension of standing orders

It was agreed to suspend standing orders.

2. Election of Chair

**Motion 1** (*Easton & Carter*) That Deutz be chair.

*Agreed*

3. E-mail from Birmingham Branch containing a requisition for a Party poll

**Motion 2** (*Stair & Helps*) After making the decision to deal with the various political transgressions of Cde Michelle Martin under a Rule 31 charge by a majority of the elected EC members for various reasons, all not necessarily being held by all members but including the following:

- The political views of Cde Martin were/are of a serious nature and in conflict with the party's Declaration of Principles and Object;
- That the Rule 31 charge was deemed correct, appropriate and was unchallenged by other EC members;
- That Cde Martin's health is/was not best served by having her Branch friends ask her awkward questions that could lead to an uncomfortable decision being made by those same friends;
- So as not to prolong any further or any presumed agony for the party and for all concerned;
- West London Branch's failure to deal with another of their member's, namely Cde Alan Brady Smith's personal and possible political views, in a timely and appropriate manner
- That Cde Adam Buick, a consistent attendee and member of West London Branch, failed to inform his own branch for months if not over a year of Cde Martin's errant views;

it should be noted that the EC's decision was born out of thoughtfulness, conviction and integrity, not malice, but by members conscious of their views as socialists.

Not wishing to denigrate his long standing rational and massive contribution to the party, it has also been noted that since the call for the Rule 31 charge Cde Buick has been unnecessarily offensive to all the EC members who voted for the charge and what can surely be described as part of a smear campaign against many of these members, whether they be in Central London Branch, on the EC, or work at Head Office—members who continue with sincerity to work for the cause of Socialism.

One can easily assume that this all serves to deflect attention away from Cde Buick's own actions in relation to his involvement with Cde Martin.

Nonetheless, this EC is of course in favour of following the rulebook and now on the basis of six branches calling for a poll will look to the membership to decide whether the charge should be dropped and the matter referred back to West London Branch.

The chair ruled this motion out of order on the grounds that it is a statement of opinion rather than a resolution dealing with the matter.

**Motion 3** (*Chesham & White*) That the chair be directed to accept the motion.

*For: Chesham, Helps, White, Miller, Stair. Against: Carter, Browne, Deutz. Abstaining: Easton.*

*Carried 5–3–1*

**Amendment** (*Browne & Carter*) Delete everything up to and including “Nonetheless”.

*For: Easton, Carter, Deutz, Browne, Helps. Against: Miller, Stair, Chesham, White. Abstaining: None. Carried 5–4*

**Amendment** (*Miller & Stair*) Restore the text beginning “After making the decision” up to “as socialists”. *Failed 3–5–1*

**Amendment** (*Chesham & Stair*) Insert “However, this EC is gravely concerned by the methods which have been used to achieve this objective. Two members were aware of Martin’s infractions from the outset and either one could have brought her reformist and nationalist views and activities to the attention of West London Branch at least twelve months ago and thus averted the present state of affairs. Instead, presumably because of their close relationships with her, they chose to remain silent. But when her antisocialist behaviour became known to other members which resulted in the charge being laid against her under Rule 31, they embarked upon a campaign to frustrate by any means at their disposal the process which this EC had properly instigated. These means included but were not limited to smears, innuendoes, falsehoods, and the inappropriate use of the membership database. Their actions have plunged the Party into turmoil and generally disrupted its work. One of these members has since resigned from the Party. The membership at large will have the opportunity to decide which sanctions, if any, are appropriate in the case of the other member, Cde A Buick.”

The chair ruled this amendment out of order on the grounds that it was written in advance of the meeting and that it is an expression of opinion.

**Motion 4** (*Stair & White*) That the chair be directed to accept the amendment.

*Carried 5–3–1*

Vote on amendment: *For: Stair, Miller, White, Chesham. Against: Helps, Easton, Deutz, Carter, Browne. Abstaining: None. Failed 4–5*

Vote on Motion 2 as amended:

*Carried 8–0–1*

**Motion 5** (*Browne & Carter*) That the Party meeting to be held this afternoon under Rule 31 become a meeting under Rule 26.

**Motion 6** (*Chesham & Stair*) That the Chair be instructed to rule this motion out of order.

*For: Chesham, Stair, White, Helps. Against: Miller, Deutz, Browne, Carter. Abstaining: Easton.*

*Failed 4–4–1*

Vote on Motion 5:

*For: Easton, Deutz, Browne, Carter, White. Against: Miller, Helps, Stair, Chesham. Abstaining: None.*

*Carried 5-4*

**Motion 7** (*Easton & Helps*) That in view of the two previous resolutions, this EC affirms that the charge against Cde Martin, while still extant, is for the time being frozen unless and until the West London Party poll votes in favour of referring the matter back to West London Branch.

*For: Carter, Deutz, Browne, White, Easton, Helps. Against: Stair. Abstaining: Chesham, Miller.*

*Carried 6-1-2*

4. Adjournment

**Motion 8** (*Browne & Easton*) That the meeting be adjourned.

*Agreed*