



Newark Constituency Labour Party

Minutes of meeting held at the Vine, Barnbygate, Newark on Tuesday 15th July at 7.30PM

1. **Present:** Ian Campbell, Kevin Cocker (Regional Office), Laurence Goff (Chair), Vic Hall, Brian Howes, Ivan Jarunek, Clive Wetton (Secretary)

Apologies: Olga Newstead, Paul Newstead

2. **Minutes** of the previous meeting were produced but not distributed therefore **Matters Arising** were deferred to the next meeting (see addendum for secretary's notes on matters arising).
3. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Data Protection - the CLP is required to register with the Data Protection Registrar at a cost of £35 per year. Brian Howes agreed to deal with this.
 - b. County Party – we have been asked to nominate a delegate to the County Party. There were no nominations and no volunteers therefore the matter was deferred to the next meeting.
4. **Officer Reports:**
 - a. Treasurer – Brian Howes provided updated balances and information on recent and upcoming expenditure. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is available to all members on request by e-mailing secretary@newarklabourparty.org.uk. Clive Wetton advised that he had received confirmation from Regional Office that the CLP contribution to the European Election fund will be £1200. Vic Hall raised the subject of fundraising as we will have County Council elections to fight next year and a General Election the following year. BH stated that Bingham Branch are holding a Quiz Evening in October or November in aid of CLP funds. CW said that Olga Newstead has offered to hold a Cheese & Evening after the holiday period.
 - b. Secretary – Nothing to report that isn't covered elsewhere.
 - c. Chair – LG reminded the meeting that he is standing in the Beacon Ward by-election for Newark Town Council.
5. **Branch Reports:**
 - a. Bingham – Last meeting was early July. The Branch have invited Ian Campbell to their October meeting.
 - b. Newark & District – The Branch meeting in June was a great success with a large number of members attending, probably due to a combination of bounce from the

PPC selection and having a guest speaker. Kathy Salt, the guest speaker, was excellent and she sparked a healthy debate. More guest speakers are required for future meetings. The next Branch meeting will be held at Chesters, Balderton on 18th August.

- c. Balderton & Farndon – VH asked what was happening with this branch as it was believed to have been merged with the Newark Branch. CW said that this was never confirmed by Regional Office and so the branch still officially exists. BH suggested writing to all branch members to canvass their views. KC offered to deal with this from Regional Office.
- d. Tuxford – According to Regional Office the official name of this Branch is Retford. This needs to be changed to avoid confusion with the existing Retford Branch. CW to write to Regional Office about this.
- e. General – It was agreed that it is a good idea to move CLP meetings around the branches to promote interest in CLP matters.

6. Policy Issues:

- a. VH raised the misreporting of the possibility of GP Surgery closures due to the planned drop-in centres/GP-led clinics. KC told the meeting that Rainworth has one of the first of these clinics and it has greatly improved local healthcare provision. IC stated that the Government has made it clear that this is additional money and that it won't affect local GP surgeries. IC also noted that Newark & Sherwood District Council appear to be opposed to the new clinics but the NSDC Planning Committee have stated that the local NHS infrastructure cannot cope with the population increase that will be caused by the planned new homes in the area. This is yet another example of the confused message and general incompetence at NSDC.
- b. BH raised the proposed Eco-town at RAF Newton. This looks to be causing a great deal of opposition in the Bingham area which is extremely short-sighted. Development in the area has been badly planned in the past leading to many piecemeal housing developments which have increased the size of the town by 500% without the corresponding improvements in services and infrastructure. The Eco-town proposal includes everything needed for the new development e.g. new shops, new schools and the long overdue dualling of both the A46 and A52. KC mentioned that this is a difficult issue because of the extent of local opposition. BH will canvass local opinion at the next Bingham branch meeting. IJ asked for clarification on what exactly is an Eco-town. KC explained that an Eco-town should, amongst other requirements, contain over 50% Social Housing, have a sustainable design, be energy efficient and have good public transport.

7. Any other business:

- a. Beacon ward by-election – Leaflets have now been produced. LG is aiming to cover every house in the ward if possible. LG stated that the Independents and Lib Dems stayed away in order to help LG’s campaign. Consensus at the meeting was that LG still faced an uphill struggle to get elected.
- b. Because of time constraints there was no time to hear reports on the Regional Conference from IC and IJ. This will be deferred to the next CLP meeting.
- c. Next CLP meeting will be on Tuesday 16th September at the Vine.

Meeting closed at 9:00PM.

Addendum – Secretary’s notes on Matters Arising from minutes of meeting held on 21st May – For information only:

- 4b. Problems with Contact Creator are now resolved and we now have full access to the entire constituency. We need to decide how best to use this tool.
- 7c. Magnus District Council by-election was called by the Tories and was due to take place on the same day as the Beacon Town Council by-election.