



Newark & District Branch Labour Party

Minutes of meeting held at the Castle & Falcon, London Road, Newark on Monday 21st April at 7.30PM

1. **Present:** Ian Campbell (Chair), Kevin Cocker (Regional Office), Laurence Goff, Douglas Hough, Ivan Jarunek, Maggie Johnstone, Peter Molyneux, Carola Richards, Clive Wetton (Secretary)

Apologies: John Clark, Sid Hall, Vic Hall

2. **Minutes** of the previous meeting were not distributed therefore there were no **Matters Arising**.

3. **Election of Officers:** Laurence Goff resigned as Branch Chair following his election as CLP Chair. Paul Tate resigned as Secretary and Treasurer following his move out of the constituency.

- a. Chair – Ian Campbell was proposed by Laurence Goff and seconded by Clive Wetton and was elected unopposed with a unanimous show of hands
- b. Secretary – Clive Wetton was proposed by Ian Campbell and seconded by Maggie Johnstone and was elected unopposed with a unanimous show of hands
- c. Treasurer – Position remains open. To be referred to the CLP

4. **Local issues:**

- a. **Balderton Parish Council By-election – 1st May 2008:** North Ward has 7 candidates (5 Conservative, 2 Liberal Democrat) and 7 vacancies therefore no election necessary. West Ward has 8 candidates (6 Conservative, 3 Labour) and 8 vacancies therefore election will be held on 1st May. Kevin Cocker has produced a leaflet to cover all three of our candidates. This will be hand-delivered to voters on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th April. Volunteers to meet at 12.30PM on Saturday 26th and 10:00AM on Sunday 27th at the Turks Head car park on the corner of London Road and Main Street.

Fernwood Parish Council: There were 5 candidates nominated (all Independent) for 6 vacancies therefore there is a vacant seat on this Council.

- b. **Marked Electoral Registers:** Kevin Cocker has asked Vic Hall to obtain marked electoral registers for the entire constituency. These need to be obtained before May as they will not be kept by Newark & Sherwood District Council after this date. Clive Wetton to contact Vic for progress update on the purchase.
- c. **Frequency and venue of Branch Meetings:** It was agreed that Branch meetings will be held bi-monthly in the future to alternate with the bi-monthly CLP meetings. The Castle & Falcon will remain the venue for Branch meetings.



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- d. **Communication:** Members were asked for their suggestions of the best way to communicate news, events and notices of meetings as there has been little communication in the past year. It was agreed that e-mail is the preferred option due to lower costs. However only about 20% of members have an up to date e-mail address in Party records therefore all members will be sent the next set of minutes and a newsletter by post. Ian Campbell and Clive Wetton to co-ordinate this.
- e. **Richard Alexander:** Members were informed of the death of Richard Alexander, former Conservative MP for Newark and District and Town Councillor. It was agreed that our condolences should be formally recorded.

5. National Issues:

There was a lengthy discussion on number of national issues including the 10p tax rate abolition, the £50bn assistance package for banks, the London Mayoral election and the Party's communication strategy. Kevin Cocker will feed back all opinions to Regional Office.

6. CLP update:

- a. Next CLP meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30PM at the Rutland Arms Hotel, Barnbygate, Newark
- b. Members were reminded that the new CLP website is available at <http://www.newarklabourparty.org.uk>
- c. Following the death of Richard Alexander there will be by-elections for the Magnus Ward on Newark & Sherwood District Council and the Beacon Ward of Newark Town Council

7. Any other business:

- a. Kevin Cocker announced that the selection process for our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate began on 11th April. The closing date for nominations is 9th May. Nominations must be sent to Brian Howes by this date. The hustings meeting will be on Friday 6th June. Full details of the timetable will be available on the CLP website shortly.
- b. Date of next meeting will be either 16th or 23rd June. Kevin Cocker is to ask our MEP Glenis Willmott to attend. The exact date of the meeting will be notified to members as soon as Glenis's attendance is confirmed.