

## Young Fabian executive committee minutes

**Date:** 04 December 2018

**Apologies:** Deeba Syed, Ava Etemadzadeh.

**Absent:** none.

**Late:** Emma Bean (called in).

### *1. Minutes*

- Minutes of previous meetings (for the old exec) were discussed as provided. KS to circulate to old exec and upload as “unratified”.
- KBF asked for lengthy documents to be provided at least one week in advance.
- AD asked the exec to consider an assistant secretary position. CN stated the VC or someone present would always take minutes in the secretary’s absence.

### *2. Chair report*

- CN told the exec the first senior exec meeting was the day after (05.12.18).
- CN informed the exec of the senior section policy on proxies for CN if she is unable to attend.
- CN reported on the AGM: two new policy networks were created.
- CN to consult on a network reporting system to monitor output. JP endorsed.
- CN discussed the upcoming Christmas social, as well as potential Pints & Policy events after expressions of interest from Cardiff, Liverpool, Norwich, Belfast and Manchester. AA endorsed.
- KS suggested JC (as VC) and CN (as chair) to work together on the network reporting.

- CN informed of plans for 2 Open Days – in London and outside. CN to use Doodle poll to determine dates for both. CN discussed “Rooms of the House” as a potential theme, ST suggested “The Politics of Food”. LA suggested alternating Saturdays and Sundays for Open Days. MM cautioned against an “Upstairs – Downstairs” reputational issue with the “Rooms of the House” theme. CN stated the bulk of planning would take place over Christmas.
- CN noted she would be attending the YES Leaders’ Summit and PES Congress in Lisbon as Chair of the Young Fabians.
- CN presented the Safe Space Policy amendment, to bring it in line with the Equality Act 2010.

KBF protested, called it hasty and asked for a membership consultation. CN pointed out legal liability of YF if not in line with the Equality Act.

ST said the change was gestural and that the Safe Space Policy should not be read out before meetings.

AA endorsed the change. MM endorsed the change, said the Safe Space Policy should be read out at all meetings for members’ safety.

CN pointed out she had consulted members – it was part of her election manifesto.

KBF said he didn’t see the urgency, as the previous version was close enough to Equality Act. He acknowledged the amendment was CN’s election pledge, but that CN hadn’t stated exact wording in pledge. KBF added a court might have a different interpretation of the Equality Act than YF. KBF stated there are (unspecified) issues and we should therefore postpone to January. In addition, KBF and ST pointed out the two members who had sent in apologies had strong opinions on the topic and would oppose the change, it therefore should be postponed to January. ST said the two exec members absent were angry about the amendment.

CN moved to a vote. **6 voted to move to a vote, 2 against.**

CN conducted vote. **9 voted for the amendment as proposed (Appendix 1 – will discuss with CN to make), 2 voted against, 1 abstention.**

- CN told the exec she would consult putting the complaints policy of the Fabian Society on the website alongside the YF policy. MM appealed for unity and to move forward after the AGM. AD said this could be a base for discussion.

### 3. *Secretary report*

- KS reported on the transfer of social media, Nationbuilder policies and upcoming YES activities.

### 4. *Treasury Report:*

- LA informed the exec she would start fundraising in January. All exec members agreed to assist in activities.
- LA and CN noted a delay in the handover and transfer of accounts from AE to LA and stated they would continue to pursue the account transfer and handover asap.
- AA asked if there could be a philanthropy circle, a possible “Friends of the Young Fabians”. LA committed to considering this as an option.

### 5. *Anticipations report*

- EB late, but CN noted that EB had turned around a new edition of Anticipations in record speed due to the lateness of the AGM.

### 6. *Local government officer report – proposed projects*

- AA asked for support for the projects he had proposed ([Appendix 2](#)). KBF asked if AA would seek LGA funding again.

#### **Project on local government manifesto passed unanimously.**

- AA presented his London Moving East project. JP queried regarding potential people involved and timing.

KBF pointed out AA had been unemployed last year and had more time and possibly wouldn't be able to do so much this. AA stated he had gardening leave, not unemployment. CN pointed those concerns had been addressed.

LA suggested he contact JLM – she would facilitate – for the London Moving East project.

#### **Passed unanimously.**

- AA presented his medicinal cannabis project. JP asked if AA would consider supply chain issues. KBF pointed out there had once been a poor pamphlet on the topic.

**Passed unanimously.**

### ***7. Membership survey***

- JP presented his proposed membership consultation. He would use his TU experience to draft an effective questionnaire by Jan/ Feb.

Suggested questions included: where members where, what they wanted from the organisation.

KS noted data protection should be strict and needed to be checked.

KBF suggested asking why the Fabians and not another political group.

CN suggested providing more questions to JP via email.

JP to provide a draft by end of December.

### ***8. Christmas social***

- CN updated on the Christmas social, noted the date had been set. First speaker, Leonie Cooper AM, had agreed to speak.
- AA suggested Lord Roy Kennedy as a speaker. JP suggested donations to a foodbank. MM and CN suggested also holding a raffle and asked exec members to donate raffle prizes. ST offered to have things signed by Jeremy Corbyn MP.

### ***9. Pints and Police events***

- Had been dealt with in 2).

### ***10. Fabian Conference***

- CN noted that the date had been set for 19.01.19. The theme is Brexit. YF have one panel slot reserved.

AA suggested this should be tendered out to old networks only, as only they had formal approval.

CN noted the open tendering process would be open to networks for one week and the exec would have one week to decide.

### ***11. Exec updates***

- AD stated he would be Outreach & Engagement Officer and would work with Labour affiliates, Socialist Societies and TUs to deepen our engagement with the broader movement.

Potential work on knife crime.

KS suggested working with GMB Young London to perhaps write about TU organising. Marian Craig suggested working in Glasgow. AA pointed out there is an interesting topic in the future of TULO. JP suggested working with UNISON.

- ST said she wanted to conduct a project on the Politics of Food + organising various training sessions.
- AD asked if roles would be presented on the website. CN confirmed.

### *12. Network updates*

- CN noted the formation of 2 new networks and the issues around social media accounts without a formal structure. CN to monitor and make sure the network accounts wouldn't unduly promote specific persons before AGMs could be held.
- AA asked if there would be a point person for AGMs. JP and KS volunteered.
- Marian Craig updated on upcoming Local Government and Devolution Network events.

### *13. Future meetings*

- CN proposed, on the basis of email consultation, the first Tuesday of each month, beginning with February, as January would be done by Doodle poll.

AA asked for a calendar invite. CN to send calendar invite.

### *14. Regional officer*

- CN presented the reasoning for an additional (to MM) co-opted regional coordinator not based in London.
- KBF proposed to issue a brief for the role and allow members to apply. CN stated that had been the intention.

CN to issue offer email the following week.

### *15. BAME Committee proposal*

- Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin's proposal, signed by more than 15 BAME members, was presented by Leon to the exec ([Appendix 3](#)).

AD expressed support and noted the difference between Leon's proposal and Hunter C Christopher's at the AGM.

KBF was cautious and urged a delay. He noted he had that day begun messaging all the signatories of the proposal to ask why they thought they needed such a commission.

CN committed to the proposal and noted KBF had floated a trial of just this sort at the AGM.

ST noted she had reservations, didn't see the need for a whole commission.

MM stated BAME members should decide themselves if they wanted it and the exec shouldn't stop a grassroots initiative. Leon confirmed the clear members' appetite.

AD noted the need to involve more BAME members. AD stated Leon's arguments and endorsed.

KS was against delaying the implementation.

KBF noted that DS and AE, who had submitted apologies, would be against this proposal and were BAME. Asked the exec to delay to a time when DS and AE could attend a meeting.

ST took issue with assertions that non-BAME exec members should not decide for BAME members. ST stated that, as an elected representative, she had the right to express a view and that the above view goes against free speech.

AD responded to KBF, saying the exec cannot hold every agenda item because members with strong views are absent. KS and JP agreed. Restated that BAME voices should lead on this.

MM reinforced her endorsement that BAME voices should lead on this. KS agreed.

ST stated she just wanted a conversation and the arguments aired.

KBF asked if, if the proposal passed, over the coming two weeks some wording could be amended, with Leon's permission. **Leon agreed.**

CN restated her support and said YF needed to encourage BAME participation further.

A vote was called. **9 for, 1 abstention. Passed. Exec allowed to propose minor amendments to Leon before Christmas, otherwise passed.**

***16. A. O. B.***

- AA noted the Environmental Network were meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.