

## LI GC Sunday 16th May 2026 minutes

**Attendees:** Boyd Steven (Vice-chair), Graham Ward (Secretary), Frankie Ashton (Policy & Campaigns), Mark Lee (Delegate, CENE), Tom Dowling (Treasurer) - only at start of meeting, Richard Brinton (Delegate, Southern France), Valerie Swales (Delegate, Southern France), Wojciech Kowalewski (Delegate, CENE), Steve Holdup (Delegate, Southern Europe), Tim Putnam (S France), Lakshmi Jonker (Delegate, Netherlands branch), Balen Najmalddin (Communications), Tracey Scott (Disabilities & carers), Andreas Quelle (Delegate, Germany-Switzerland), Anthony Fuller (Americas Regional officer), Becky Slack (Women's officer), Keshav Dogra (D USA – New York), David Bowskill (Delegate, Germany-Switzerland), Sue Blackwell (Delegate, Netherlands), Richard Marx (Delegate, Germany-Switzerland), Hector Muller (Young Labour officer), Karen Henderson (Membership), Ashraf Alan (Delegate, The Americas)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Apologies were minuted.
- The meeting opened with a discussion about how the Executive Committee could act on motions that were not discussed or voted on at a previous General Committee meeting due to lack of quorum or time. It was suggested that the LIEC could ask focused questions to the NEC (e.g., on dual nationals and ETA, and on the Winter Fuel Payment) to get issues on the radar screen before formally passing a motion.

### 2. Apologies

Imogen Tyreman (Chair), Mary Cane (Delegate, Southern Europe), Norman Rimmel (D S. Europe), Nicki Turk (EMEA), Nick Clay, Richard Williams (Political Education), Frank Little (Delegate, Netherlands branch), Anne Louise Kubiak (Delegate), Doreen Henning (Delegate, Southern France), Fiona Urquhart Johnstone (Delegate),

### 3. Summary of updates to action items

(Closed action items will be archived after these minutes are approved.)

	Action	Who	Status
05.1	Contact Neil Duncan Jordan MP to raise the Winter Fuel Payment issue and seek his support in Parliament.	Sue (NL)	New
05.2	Continue work on branch status (Africa/Asia Pacific/Costa Blanca) and consider merging inactive branches where appropriate.	Secretary	5 May: Focus in May will be Costa Blanca

### 4. Summary of Votes and Motions

Item	For	Abstain	Against	Decision
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4.1	Approval of March minutes	6	1	0	Passed
5.1	Approval of meeting timetable	16	0	0	Passed
8.1	Refer the motion back to Southern France for rewriting as separate motions	15	2	0	Passed
8.3	Add nationalisation/regional ownership of bus services	4	1	8	Rejected
8.3	Main motion: GBP2 bus fare cap	13	2	0	Passed
8.4	Winter Fuel Payment – lobbying of Independent Monitoring Authority. Vote to accept as an emergency.	11	0	1	Passed
8.4	Winter Fuel Payment – lobbying of Independent Monitoring Authority. Main motion	13	0	0	Passed

#### 4. Minutes of Previous GC, Matters Arising and Action Items

The minutes of the previous General Committee meeting were presented. A correction was noted: Tracy's name needed to be added to the attendance list. The minutes were approved (6 in favour, 1 abstention).

No specific matters arising were raised. The EC reviewed outstanding action items, including:

EU survey paper: Follow-up required on producing a paper for MPs and media outreach.

Winter Fuel Payment motion: Concerns were raised that a response from the Attorney General's office was overdue. The chair noted that the issue had not been addressed and that she would follow up in her next meeting with MPs in Brussels.

Accounts and bank cards: Progress was noted; Tom is being added as a signatory.

#### 5. LIGC Meeting Timetable

The proposed timetable for LIGC meetings for the coming year was presented and approved (16 in favour, none against). The following is the new timetable:

Month	Day	Date	UTC time	European	Americas
Jun 2026	Sunday	21	16:00	18:00 CEST	09:00 PDT
Jul 2026	Saturday	18	08:00	10:00 CEST	01:00 PDT
Aug 2026	Sunday	16	14:30	16:30 CEST	07:30 PDT
Sep 2026	Saturday	20	16:00	18:00 CEST	09:00 PDT
Oct 2026	Sunday	18	08:00	10:00 CEST	01:00 PDT
Nov 2026	Saturday	15	14:30	15:30 CET	06:30 PST
Dec 2026	Sunday	20	16:00	17:00 CET	08:00 PST
Jan 2027	Saturday	16	08:00	09:00 CET	00:00 PST
Feb 2027	Sunday	21	14:30	15:30 CET	06:30 PST
Mar 2027	Saturday	20	16:00	17:00 CET	08:00 PDT

Apr 2027	Sunday	18	08:00	10:00 CEST	01:00 PDT
May 2027	Saturday	15	14:30	16:30 CEST	07:30 PDT

These times are available in the website: <https://labourinternational.net/members/guide-to-meetings/>

There will be a review of the working of the times in Q3/Q4.

## **6. Conference Delegates Update**

Nominations for conference delegates remain open until later that evening.

A ballot will be required due to the number of nominations.

Gender balance issue: Only two women have put themselves forward; if no more women nominate, the ballot for male delegates will select two of them to meet gender balance requirements.

One member expressed concern that the two women nominees should be subject to a vote as well (not just automatically selected).

Becky offered to nudge Brussels Labour members to apply.

## **7. NEC Election Update**

L.I. has received statements from NEC candidates.

A ballot will be held shortly to determine L.I.'s nomination(s) in time for submission on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Becky spoke in favour of Kat Arnold (re-election), citing her activism, NEC reporting, work on sexual harassment cases, disability representation, pay disparities, and her role as Vice Chair of the Williams Committee.

## **8. Motions**

Wojciech withdrew the following motions on the grounds that they are no longer relevant:

Emergency motion on Andy Burnham (NEC had since allowed him to stand for the Wigan seat).

Motion on the Royal Visit to the US (visit of William and Kate to USA is not a state visit).

The withdrawals were accepted without objection.

### **8.1 Motion 1: Motion to Reassure (Southern France)**

Proposer: Tim Putnam; Seconder: Valerie Swales

Debate: Tim outlined the motion, which called for the government to reassure the public by:

Being prepared to ration fuel and food to ensure everyone gets a minimum.

Combating speculation and profiteering (e.g., taxing capital gains like income; introducing a commodity transaction tax).

Improving Britain's food and fuel security through investment.

Making a "whatever it takes" statement (as in COVID and 2008) to reassure markets and the public.

#### **Arguments against:**

- The motion is uncoded; rationing is difficult to organise; food/fuel poverty existed long before the Iran crisis and is not an emergency.
- Government borrowing costs are already high (over 5% vs 3% in Germany); the motion would add to debt; fundamental tax changes should go through budgets, not emergency motions.
- The motion is a mishmash; some parts are too specific, others vague; taxation is not the way to stop profiteering – legislation against fraud and insider trading is needed. She proposed referring the motion back.

#### **Arguments in favour:**

- Support for the motion on principle – profiteering must be stopped; need for energy and food security; government should not be constrained by costing in emergencies.
- The motion mixes several distinct issues (emergency response, taxation, agriculture, energy security) and should be retained but split into separate motions.

#### **Outcome:**

Branch accepted a friendly amendment to remove the reference to "attack on Iran" and replace it with "continuing disruption to fuel and other essential supplies".

A vote was held on whether to refer the motion back to Southern France for rewriting as separate motions. Carried (15 in favour, 2 abstentions).

### **8.2 Motion 2: Hillsborough / Norman Bettison**

Not presented because the proposer was not present. The branch will re-present at a future meeting.

### **8.3 Motion 3: £2 Bus Fare Cap**

Proposer: Richard Brinton; Secunder: Wojciech Kowalewski

Debate: Richard argued for reinstating the £2 bus fare cap (which Labour had increased to £3), particularly important for rural communities, low-income families, and students.

Amendment: Called for nationalisation/regional ownership of bus services. Richard opposed the amendment on the grounds that it would overload a simple, focused motion. [Proposed Sue Blackwell, Seconded Tracey Scott]

#### **Arguments against the motion:**

- The main problem in rural areas is lack of bus services, not cost; funding should go to expanding services, not subsidising fares.

#### **Arguments in favour:**

- Examples from Australia where free/capped transport had worked; suggest it would help reduce poverty and increase access to jobs and skills.

Vote on amendment: Failed (8 against, 4 in favour, 1 abstention).

Vote on motion (as original): Carried (13 in favour, 2 against).

#### **8.4 Emergency Motion: Winter Fuel Payment – Independent Monitoring Authority (CENE branch)**

Proposer: Mark Lee; Seconder: Wojciech Kowalewski

Debate: The motion was accepted as an emergency (vote: 11 in favour, 1 against).

Mark explained that the government is considering retrospective reclassification of the Winter Fuel Payment to make its removal lawful, while the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) is actively considering whether to launch a Section 16 inquiry. The requested action is that L.I. should press the IMA to act.

Wojciech added that removing previously acquired rights contravenes British jurisprudence (acquired rights cannot be taken away).

Sue noted that Neil Duncan Jordan MP (who spoke at a recent L.I. event) was unaware of the issue but offered to take it up – Sue will follow up with him.

Vote: Carried (13 in favour, none against).

#### **9. Questions on Officer Reports**

No questions were raised.

#### **10. Finance and Budget**

Skipped as the Treasurer was not present.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

None recorded.

New Action Items

Action Item, Owner(s), Details / Deadline

**The meeting closed.**