LI GC Sunday 21st June 2026 minutes

Attendees: Boyd Steven (Vice-chair), Graham Ward(Secretary), Frankie Ashton (Policy & Campaigns), Mark Lee (Delegate, CENE), Richard Brinton (Delegate, Southern France), Wojciech Kowalewski (Delegate, CENE), Steve Holdup (Delegate, Southern Europe), Balen Najmalddin (Communications), Becky Slack (Women's officer), David Bowskill (Delegate, Germany-Switzerland), Sue Blackwell (Delegate, Netherlands), Richard Marx (Delegate, Germany-Switzerland), Hector Muller (Young Labour officer), Frank Little (Delegate, Netherlands branch), Roy Bartley (Delegate, Southern France)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Apologies were minuted.

2. Apologies

Imogen Tyreman (Chair), Valerie Swales (Delegate, Southern France), Tim Putnam (Delegate, Southern France), Tracey Scott (Disabilities & carers), Lakshmi Jonker (Delegate, Netherlands branch), Keshav Dogra (D USA – New York), Andreas Quelle (Delegate, Germany-Switzerland), Anthony Fuller (Americas Regional officer), Karen Henderson (Membership),

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)	21 Jun: Closed
05.2	Continue work on branch status (Africa/Asia Pacific/Costa Blanca) and consider merging inactive branches where appropriate.	Secretary	21 June: Merger agreed; EC to execute. 5 May: Focus in May will be Costa Blanca

4. Summary of Votes and Motions

Item		For	Abstain	Against	Decision
5.1	Approval of May minutes	13	1	0	Passed
6.1	Approval of the Southern Europe BLP – Costa Blanca BLA merger	16	1	0	Passed
7.1	Extension of the conference funding to the Youth Officer for this year to invest in growth.	16	1	0	Passed

7.2	Approval of the financial provisions for 1-day conferences as a policy.	16	0	0	Passed
8	Approval of revised LI standing orders	15	1	0	Passed
10.1	Acceptance of Winter Fuel motion as an emergency motion.	15	0	1	Passed
10.1	Winter Fuel Payment – lobbying of Independent Monitoring Authority. Main motion	15	0	0	Passed
10.2	Removal of kighthood of Norman Bettison	16	0	0	Passed
10.3	Extension of FOI rights	14	0	0	Passed
10.5	Removal of the prerogative powers	4	6	3	Rejected
10.6	The resignation of the defence secretary	5	0	7	Rejected

5. Minutes of Previous GC, Matters Arising and Action Items

The minutes of the previous General Committee meeting were presented.

Winter Fuel Payment: One member reported that she had applied for the Winter Fuel Payment, was refused, and had requested a mandatory reconsideration but had not received a response within the statutory timeframe. It was advised that the correct procedure is to ask for a mandatory reconsideration, and if that fails, to escalate to the Independent Assessor. This issue will be addressed in the emergency motion later in the agenda.

6. Costa Blanca – Southern Europe Merger

Background: The Costa Blanca branch is defunct (no officers) and has requested to merge with Southern Europe.

Debate: Southern Europe Chair confirmed that the branch had not met recently but that members had previously expressed support for such a merger.

Vote: Carried (16 in favour, 1 abstention). The merger will proceed, and the EC will organise the practical steps.

7. September national conferences

7.1 Proposal to extend delegate funding to Youth Officer

Background: Due to a temporary dip in youth membership below the threshold, LI lost its official youth delegate slot. However, the EC wishes to send Hector (Youth Officer) to conference on the same funding basis as other delegates to build connections and support youth wing development.

Vote: Carried (15 in favour, none against).

7.2 Proposal to confirm funding for one-day conference

Background: No logistical provision has been previously agreed for 1-ay conferences like the Women's conference. The EC proposed a proportionate funding cap of £100 (one third of the national conference £300 cap).

Vote: Carried (16 in favour).

7.3 Discussion arising: Conference registration form – objection to biological sex question

One member raised objections to the conference registration form's requirement to state "biological sex at birth" (with reference to police verification). The member proposed that LI should register a formal objection.

A number of members supported the objection; with one member suggesting it should be the subject of a motion rather than just a statement.

Decision: The Netherlands branch will submit a formal motion for the next meeting objecting to the question.

8. Implementation of Standing Order Changes

The Secretary presented the updated standing orders as approved by the AGM. The changes are administrative and reflect the AGM's decisions. No debate was held.

Vote: Carried (15 in favour, 1 Abstention).

9. NEC Elections – Update

Brief update: ballot process is complete; Kerry Posthlewhite was first preference and the full result will be published to all members.

10. Motions

10.1 Emergency Motion: Winter Fuel Payments (CENE branch)

Proposer: Mark Lee; Seconder: Wojciech Kowalewski

Accepted as emergency: Yes (15 in favour, 1 against).

Debate: Proposer explained that the government is considering retrospective reclassification to make the payment withdrawal lawful. The Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) is considering a Section 16 inquiry; Motion is to approve that LI should press them to act. Seconder noted that acquired rights cannot be taken away under British jurisprudence.

Vote: Carried (15 in favour, none against).

10.2 Sir Norman Bettison – Hillsborough (Southern France, Isle of Man, Ireland)

Postponed: Proposer (Roy Bartley); Seconder Tim Putnam.

The motion proposed that Sir Norman Bettison is unfit to hold a knighthood due to his conduct in the Hillsborough inquiry and this honour should be forfeited at the earliest possible opportunity. The

Proposer accepted an amendment proposed with prior notice that removed reference to the removal of police pensions.

Vote: Carried (14 in favour, none against).

10.3 Extension of FOIA Rights (Netherlands)

Proposer: Sue Blackwell; Seconder: Graham Ward

Debate: Graham outlined the motion, which calls for the reforming of FOIA to cover all organisations/individuals receiving public funds and (1) removal of the exemptions which are reported as being abused; (2) abolishing exclusions for communications between UK governments and international relations; and (3) making it a criminal offence to conduct government business on private devices.

A change was accepted to change the wording to add the phrase “where reasonable” in the sentence “Extend FOI coverage to all public bodies and all organisations and, where reasonable, individuals receiving public funds and benefits.”

Vote: Carried (16 in favour, none against).

10.4 Building on National Insurance (Southern France, Isle of Man, Ireland)

Postponed: Proposer not present. Motion carried forward to next meeting.

10.5 Prerogative Powers and Dissolution of State / Monarchy Relationship (Southern France)

Proposer: Richard Brinton; Seconder: Roy Bartley

Debate: Richard argued for separating the monarchy from the state, transferring the Crown Estate and duchies into a sovereign wealth fund, and subjecting prerogative powers to statute law. Supporters noted the Australian precedent of the Australian Labour government by the Governor General under using the UK monarch's prerogative power. Opponents argued the motion was not sufficiently focussed and that the monarchy is overwhelmingly popular.

Vote: Rejected (4 in favour, 6 against, 3 abstentions).

10.6 Resignation of Defence Secretary (CENE)

Proposer: Mark Lee; Seconder: Wojciech Kowalewski

Debate: Mark proposed supporting John Healey's resignation (over defence spending). Wojciech suggested tabling it given the impending leadership change. Mike opposed, suspecting the resignation was a pretext for a leadership bid. Steve wanted debate on defence investment, not personalities.

Outcome: Mark proposed noting the motion but taking no action pending developments. The meeting rejected the motion (5 in favour, 7 against).

11. Questions on Officer Reports

No questions were raised.

12. Finances and Budget

The Treasurer had left, but confirmed there was nothing to report.

13. AOB

None recorded.

The meeting closed after several extensions.