LI GC Sunday 18th October 2026 minutes

Attendees: Imogen Tyreman (Chair), Karen Henderson (Membership); Graham Ward (Secretary), Boyd Steven (Vice-chair), Sue Blackwell (Delegate, Netherlands), Frank Little (Delegate, Netherlands), Valerie Swales (Delegate, Southern France), Frankie Ashton (Policy & Campaigns), Tim Putnam (Delegate, Southern France), Richard Brinton (Delegate, Southern France), Steve Holdup (Delegate, Southern Europe), Andreas Quelle [Delegate Germany and Switzerland]. Guest: Joel McKevitt (Councillor, Blackpool North & Fleetwood CLP), Neil Dourmashkin [Delegate Luxembourg], Wojciech Kowalewscki [Delegate CENE].

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Apologies were minuted.

2. Apologies
Tracey Scott (Disabilities and Carers); Lakshmi Jonker (BAME); Laren Henderson (Membership), Michael Bryant

3. Summary of updates to action Items

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

	Action	Who	Status
05.2	Continue work on branch status (Africa/Asia Pacific/Costa Blanca) and consider merging inactive branches where appropriate.	Secretary	18 Oct: Costa Blanca branch closure complete; Middle East & Africa branch has held two meetings and elected a committee and a GC delegate. No update reported on Asia-Pacific. 19 Sep: Africa branch meetings have resumed under the Vice-Chair's leadership; an August meeting attempt for Asia-Pacific attracted only one attendee, with further meetings being scheduled in September at varied times. Costa Blanca–Southern Europe merger remains substantially complete, pending transfer of the branch bank account to CLP.

			18 Jul: Costa Blanca–Southern Europe merger substantially complete; outstanding step is transferring the branch bank account to CLP. Monthly branch meetings to resume. 21 June: Merger agreed; EC to execute.
09.1	Raise with Labour Party HQ why overseas electors' addresses are not appearing on the electoral register, contrary to regulation 45 of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001.	Secretary / Membership Secretary	19 Sep: Mark to send the regulation reference to the Secretary to put to HQ.
09.2	Arrange a dedicated members' session with Richard Williams on how the NPF works procedurally (submission mechanics, timing, commission structure and outcomes) and report back to the GC.	Secretary	18 Oct: Session with Richard Williams arranged for 10 November. Members also suggested a follow-up session reviewing the NPF commission reports and LI's submissions. 19 Sep: Richard has indicated November; Secretary to confirm date and circulate.
09.3	Report back on access to HQ's "Organise"/"Labour Hub" membership tools and on the outcome of HQ's data-protection review of sharing membership lists for members resident in the United States (and possibly Singapore).	Membership Secretary	19 Sep: Access being rolled out after conference; US member lists on hold pending advice from HQ's external data-protection lawyers.
09.4	Prepare a constitutional/rule-change motion, for submission ahead of next year's earlier constitutional-motion deadline, addressing CAC's practice of not deciding on acceptance or rejection of a submitted conference motion until after the ordinary-motion cutoff date.	EC	18 Oct: Members cautioned that a rule-change motion precludes submitting a contemporary motion, and that CAC's timetable is long-standing; appeals against rejection must be lodged in writing by the deadline. 19 Sep: Agreed at GC following this year's

			experience with the replacement-motion process.
09.5	Organise a members' webinar on the "Assisted Dying for terminally ill adults" motion ahead of it being brought to the October GC as an ordinary policy motion.	Netherlands branch (webinar) / EC	18 Oct: Motion debated and carried (7–2–3). Netherlands branch has written to the Bill's sponsors (no replies yet) and hopes to hold an open members' meeting with speakers on both sides; webinar still to be arranged. 19 Sep: GC agreed to defer the motion from this meeting; webinar to be arranged in the meantime.
09.6	Schedule a discussion of GC and EC meeting times at the October GC, as promised at the AGM.	Secretary / EC	18 Oct: Closed – raised at the GC; no comments received, so the current meeting structure is retained. 19 Sep: Members invited to send comments/preferences ahead of the discussion.
09.7	Organise a members' meeting/debate on AI policy, with speakers presenting different viewpoints, for after conference.	Policy & Campaigns	19 Sep: Raised at GC; members with speaker suggestions to contact Frankie Ashton directly.
10.2	Proposers of the motions considered at the October GC to email the Secretary with what they want done with their motions; Secretary to track responses over the month.	Motion proposers / Secretary	18 Oct: Requested at GC.
10.3	Bring a discussion to the November GC on restructuring how GC motions are handled (e.g. focusing on Bills before Parliament; separating motions that become campaigns from those simply noted as policy; naming target recipients within motions).	Secretary / EC	18 Oct: Agreed at GC.
10.4	Consider an EC paper on the impact of Labour International, including the history of resolutions forwarded, to inform the GC debate on motions.	EC	18 Oct: Suggested by Mark Lee

10.5	Draft the 2027 GC/EC meeting calendar before the November GC; members to send requested items/changes.	Secretary	18 Oct: Will be proposed by end-2026
10.6	Organise Joel McKevitt's presentation and discussion session on changing attitudes to Europe in northern "Leave" towns.	EC / Policy & Campaigns	18 Oct: Joel attended as guest; session to be organised.
10.7	Run a session on writing conference motions early in 2027 (including clarifying with Labour HQ what a "contemporary motion" means) and consider moving LI's conference-motion selection to September, after the NPF report is published.	EC / Policy & Campaigns	18 Oct: Raised in the conference discussion.
10.8	Consider raising with Labour HQ/CAC the lack of transparency and of floor discussion on international issues at conference.	EC	18 Oct: Raised by Sue Blackwell and Valerie Swales; no specific approach yet agreed.

4. Summary of Votes and Motions

Item		For	Abstain	Against	Decision
5.1	Approval of September minutes (as amended)	8	0	0	Passed
9.1a	Acceptance of ICC motion as an emergency motion	9	1	0	Passed
9.1	Emergency motion: Defend the International Criminal Court (Netherlands)	12	2	0	Passed
9.2	Assisted Dying for terminally ill adults (Netherlands)	7	3	2	Passed
9.3	Motion to support UK Government initiatives to stop the war in Sudan	11	2	0	Passed
9.4	Boosting Tangible Investment (Southern France)	6	1	5	Passed

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

Accepted with changes.

Meeting times (action 09.6): The Secretary noted that the GC meeting dates were to be revisited at this meeting. No comments had been received since the September meeting and no one raised any now, so the current meeting structure is retained and the action is closed.

Rule-change motion (action 09.4): A member cautioned that, as they understood it, submitting a rule-change motion means a contemporary motion cannot also be submitted to conference, and that it has always been the case that CAC sets a deadline and then reports back afterwards, so motions cannot simply be resubmitted. This was taken as food for thought on the action. The point was picked up again under item 8.

NPF sessions (action 09.2): The Secretary reported that a session with Richard Williams on how the NPF works and how to raise matters with it has been arranged for 10 November, and invited anyone interested in getting items into the NPF to attend. A member asked that, as well as that session, a follow-up be held reviewing the NPF commission reports and what LI members submitted to them (including submissions by Tim Putnam to the "kickstarting growth" commission and by UK2Zero to the energy "superpower" commission), and what the outcome was; it was added that NPF commissions also offer ways for members who are not NPF representatives to get involved. Members supported the idea.

6. Guest introduction – Joel McKevitt

Joel McKevitt, a councillor in Blackpool North and Fleetwood CLP, attended as a guest at the invitation of members to see how LI's meetings work and how they compare with his own CLP's. He said he found it fascinating that so many members across the world remain enthusiastic about the Labour Party. He has also been invited to give a short presentation and discussion session to LI on how attitudes to Europe are shifting in northern towns such as his, which voted to leave by around 66%, drawing on his councillor data; this will be organised shortly (action 10.6). The GC thanked him for attending and Joel noted at the close that he enjoyed seeing real debate on policy motions.

7. Reports: NPF, Officers, Working Groups

Overseas MPs campaign: In parallel with the Prime Minister's announcement of a National Commission on Electoral Reform, the campaign group has restarted. Nigel Williams, Anthony Fuller and the chair met at short notice; a series of future meeting dates and priority actions have been set.

Middle East & Africa branch: Boyd Steven reported that the branch is now up and running: it has held two meetings and elected a committee and a delegate to the GC.

UK2Zero: A submission to the open consultation on capacity markets, drafted by Tim Putnam, is being circulated within the working group and will be submitted by the 27th deadline. The group also expects to submit to a members' working group on grid networks and the national grid, and will issue a press release on its occasional paper.

EU survey: The EU-impact survey is to be closed soon, following its reopening to gather further responses from working-age members; papers will then be drafted from the results and anyone wishing to help draft responses was asked to let the working group know. A leaflet on Labour members in Europe was handed to a government minister at conference [NEEDS CHECK: name unclear on the recording].

No questions were raised on the reports.

8. Discussion of a current topic: Conference

The Chair gave an update on conference. The Prime Minister's speech, Andy Burnham's first as Prime Minister, announced a National Care Service, a Great British Grid, water returning to public ownership, a National Commission on Electoral Reform (warmly welcomed) and a promise to set out options on the UK's relationship with Europe, which he later clarified could include rejoining. Ministers also spoke, including John Healey, and the theme was "hope again". Motions debated included motions on fire and rehire, housing and homelessness, knife crime, re-industrialisation, violence against women, fairness for older workers, opportunities for young workers, insourcing and public ownership, rebuilding the economy, two public services motions (composited) and one on buses. Delegates also took part in the election of members to the national committee. 50 each of LI's leaflets on overseas constituencies, the EU survey and UK2Zero were taken and almost all were distributed, suggesting a more targeted approach next year.

A delegate made two recommendations: that LI approach groups such as FEPS and the Fabians about a joint session on a small topic such as Europe, and that LI move agreement of its conference motion to September, once the NPF report is out, so members can draft over the summer and motions better reflect the NPF report. The Secretary added that LI's NPF representative, Richard Williams, was re-elected this year and remains in place for the next couple of years.

One delegate, reported that conference was more positive than last year and she was impressed by Ed Miliband's speech on Palestine, but described the experience with CAC as the negative point. Conference remained tightly controlled; unlike her union conference, motions submitted by branches and CAC rejections are not published, so there is no transparency about what was submitted and rejected. On the first day she tried to challenge the rejection of LI's contemporary motion but was not called, on the second day the same for the emergency motion, and on the third day she was called too late to challenge rulings. She made general points on the lack of floor discussion on international issues; there was spare time on the agenda that could have been used. She stressed that when a motion is rejected or referred to the NPF it is important to lodge a written appeal by the deadline, which LI did for the emergency motions but not for the contemporary motions; a member can pursue either a rule change or a motion but not both. It was noted that access to the democracy portal next year may give earlier notification. Members agreed to coordinate with on the rule-change motion (action 09.4).

One member said the lack of discussion and transparency, and the control that closes down debate at conference, should not be allowed to slide; she had no solution, but one option raised was to write to Labour HQ expressing LI's desire for discussion of international issues, noting the Prime Minister of Norway had spoken this year (action 10.8). It was added that early in the new year a session on motion writing for conference, and on what "contemporary motion" means, is planned, with clarification to be sought from HQ, and that members should be encouraged to adapt motions to the rules when submitting (action 10.7). It was suggested that CLPs also never see the full list of selected motions in advance, making it hard to consult members. Members were reminded of the meeting on the 31st at which Richard Williams will analyse the budget, intended to become a regular annual LI event.

9. Motions

9.1 Emergency motion: Defend the International Criminal Court (Netherlands)

Proposer: Sue Blackwell; Seconder:Frank Little.

Vote on accepting as an emergency motion: Carried (9 in favour, 1 abstention). The motion was taken first.

Debate: Sue Blackwell said the motion followed President Trump's 9 October announcement of new sanctions on the ICC, hours after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Navi Pillay. LI's emergency motion for conference, chosen by an LI members' vote (around 90 voted), was not accepted for debate by CAC; at a meeting with CAC the Netherlands delegation was told the motion rested on press reports of what Trump might do and referred to sanctions already applied to ICC judges and prosecutors. A week later the sanctions were announced, and prohibit US companies from supporting the ICC, which she said would prevent it functioning. The motion asks the UK to put the 9 October joint statement of foreign ministers into practice and to work with the EU on the Blocking Statute. Richard Brinton suggested that, as an emergency motion needs careful thought, it be delayed to the next GC as an ordinary motion. Another member argued that this is a rule-of-law question, that it was not short notice for LI, and that LI should say CAC's handling was not good enough. Sue Blackwell replied that it could not be delayed, as it should send a strong signal, and the question of who it is sent to could be settled later.

Vote: Carried (12 in favour, 2 abstentions, none against). To be sent to the appropriate recipients after the EC (action 10.1).

9.2 Assisted Dying for terminally ill adults (Netherlands)

Proposer: Sue Blackwell; Seconder: Frank Little

Debate: Sue Blackwell summarised the history set out in the motion: Kim Leadbeater's Bill passed its Third Reading in June 2025 but ran out of time in the Lords after hundreds of amendments; a near-identical Bill brought back by Lauren Edwards MP was defeated 286 to 270 at Second Reading on 11 September 2026, on a Friday when many supporters were in their constituencies. She noted wide public support, the two-tier system created by the Dignitas route, the risk of prosecution for companions, and that assisted dying is long-established and regulated in the Netherlands; she argued the Bill was tightly limited to terminally ill adults and that the motion simply asks the government to provide time for full debate and votes. Some delegates spoke against, saying it is a matter of conscience for them and that, since Parliament as the democratic institution decided the Bill should not proceed, parliamentary sovereignty should be respected. Others replied that Lauren Edwards brought the Bill back precisely because of the filibustering of the Lords stage, that the motion does not demand it be passed, and that governments rarely but can give time on conscience issues. Sue Blackwell added that the Netherlands branch has written to Kim Leadbeater, Lauren Edwards and the Bill's Lords sponsor (no replies yet) and hopes to hold an open members' meeting with speakers on both sides.

Vote: Carried (7 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions).

9.3 Motion to support UK Government initiatives to stop the war in Sudan

Proposer: Steve Holdup; Seconder: Frankie Ashton.

Debate: Steve Holdup explained the scale of the humanitarian crisis and the UK's historic and current role, including as UN Security Council penholder and through British arms reaching Sudan via the UAE. The motion calls for arms sales to the UAE to be stopped until effective controls are in place, intensified diplomatic pressure and accountability for atrocities, extended sanctions on

individuals profiting from the war (such as gold smugglers), and maintained humanitarian aid despite budget cuts. In seconding, Frankie Ashton called it high time for Britain to look at its role and for LI, spread across continents, to look at the commonalities in the threat of the far right and the failure of international bodies. Mark Lee supported the motion, noting that China and Russia block action at the UN Security Council and that the veto system is a fundamental problem. Richard Brinton supported it, saying the focus on Israel–Palestine has come to the detriment of other conflicts. Sue Blackwell shared an article from the Campaign Against the Arms Trade naming British companies whose equipment has been found in Sudan. Steve Holdup welcomed the wider points on the UN and the world order and would welcome a future discussion on them.

Vote: Carried (11 in favour, 2 abstentions, none against).

9.4 Boosting Tangible Investment (Southern France)

Proposer: Tim Putnam; Seconder: Richard Brinton.

Debate: Tim Putnam explained that recent UCL research (Mariana Mazzucato et al.) shows that among the largest European and UK corporations the share of funds invested in productive capacity has declined while holdings of financial assets and loans have grown, with the UK near the bottom of European countries. The motion proposes restricting corporation-tax allowances to genuine productive investment; progressively directing ISA savings to the National Wealth Fund; creating tangible UK investment bonds (redeemable early but not tradable) as the only instruments to enjoy savings tax breaks; and creating more public investment trusts to issue them for devolved local investment, as with the New Town Corporations. Richard Brinton, seconding, cited examples of British inventions and companies whose production later moved abroad. Steve Holdup found the paper interesting but remarkably technical and questioned whether LI has the economic literacy to vote on it; a member said a small group had reached a similar concern but felt it still worth voting in favour. One member said the topic had been made over-complicated, suggested the UK adopt the German model instead, and was concerned the motion could discourage foreign investment, so could not support it. Another supported the motion and suggested continued sessions on economics, noting she has invited the author of a book on anti-fascist economics and Clive Lewis to speak. Tim Putnam summed up, pointing to the growth discussion session he is running on Thursday 22 October, and said it was important to flag the problem before the Budget and to support the Prime Minister's devolution agenda and "growth in every postcode".

Vote: Carried (6 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention).

10. AOB

Disposition of motions: The Secretary asked the proposers of all of the motions passed at this meeting to email him in the next few days with what they want done with their motions, noting that sending them to the relevant minister has historically gone nowhere; responses will be tracked over the month (action 10.2). A discussion on restructuring how motions are handled will be put on the November GC agenda – concentrating to some extent on Bills coming before Parliament, and distinguishing motions that become campaigns from those noted as policy (action 10.3). Members were also asked to state in their motion, in the background or the motion itself, where it should be sent, e.g. the relevant APPG or minister.

Mark Lee suggested the EC produce a comprehensive paper on the impact of Labour International, including the history of resolutions forwarded, to give the GC and branches a solid

foundation for debate (action 10.4). Frankie Ashton added that there is an all-party parliamentary group on growth to which LI could feed in, as well as the NPF.

The meeting closed with thanks to Joel McKevitt for attending.