**Essex and Hertfordshire Branch Meeting 6th September 2025**

**via Zoom**

**Attendees**

Dee Mardi (chair), Stephen Moriaty (secretary), Clare Almond (treasurer), Liz Mullen, Danny Worthington, Bao Tieu, Naz Sheikh, Hannah Bevis, Andy Wilkinson, Ellie Fox, Martyn Harrison, Erin Battle, Claudius Peters, Chris Gasper, Layla Clark, Sharon Eckman, Sam Swann

**Apologies**

Hywel Morgan (councillor), Andrew Alton-Read, Salvo, Alison Whismore, Nathan Muwowo, Merelina Finlay

**Speaker**

Sam Swann talked about the Equity Green New Deal which is attracting a lot of interest particularly from members who have previously not been active in the union. One of the aims is to divest investments from fossil fuels. Since 2020 the default position for pensions has been to exclude fossil fuels. They are encouraging “Green Riders” in contracts and collective agreements. They are trying to build a consensus with other trade unions but at the moment support is 50/50 with big unions such as GMB and Unite presently anti.

If you wish to know more you can contact them on equity4gnd@gmail.com

**Minutes of last meeting**

These were approved. Proposed by Andy Wilkinson, seconded by Bao Tieu

**Matters Arising**

DM had mentioned problems experienced by BT and EB with a production company. Paul Fleming was supposed to speak with them but was too busy iain Croker suggested talking with Natalie Barker but this hasn’t yet happened. BT ane EB to speak together further and then speak wit NB,

**Reports**

**Chair**

Welcomed CA and BT who have been co-opted onto the committee with CA taking the role of treasurer in place of AAR who has now left the committee. The webpage will need updating to reflect these changes. All members of the current committee have submitted nominations to continue for the next 2 years as has MH a former committee member. As IC is on holiday we will have to wait a week to find out if there are any other nominations.

Members are asked to think about a possible motion for next year’s conference.

EB has not had a response from the Women’s Committee which may be because of a change in that committee and DM will chase them.

Matt Hood’s comments after the Spotlight case were mentioned. SM said that he was advised Council would be meeting on Tuesday to consider how to proceed. Positive contributions were also made bt EB, SE and CP

**Secretary**

SM confirmed that if there were no other nominations for committee we would have 2 vacant place available and members could be co-opted if they wished. The rules state that we should have a Variety Officer which we have not had since Nikki Simon moved to the North London branch. SM will speak to IC about this.

**Treasurer**

CA confirmed little movement on the account with a healthy balance of £2408.10

**Speaker**

LM will be chasing potential speakers for the AGM on 15 November

**What my Branch Means to Me**

This had been prompted by a question to one member about what is the branch for and various attendees stated why they were members. LM was an founding member of the original Essex branch, felt it was not just political but also enjoyed the social side. DW joined to show that he was a professional. CG said it was good to be part of a union but also that it was local. EF has renewed her membership and is excited to feel part of the business again.

**Plugs**

Tony Longhurts’s award winning film Lucas and Albert (15) is having three

special screenings

Hertfordshire studios Hoddesdon on Wednesday 17th September.

Lumiere Cinema in  Romford on Saturday 20th September.

The Century cinema in Clacton on sea on Thursday 25th September.

Starts at 7pm. Tickets £10. We are supporting Cancer Research

LM has a play Best Man at the Colchester Fringe@ 8.30pm om 31st October and 1st November.

DW his drama group heave been asked to perform at Purfleet Heritage Centre

**Any Other Business**

CG said that the Southend Puppet Festival had been a success with 5572 people attending on the pier and they have been asked back for 2026 which will be their 35th year.

**Date of Next Meeting**

This will be the branch AGM. As the branch covers such a wide area and last year the AGM was held in Chelmsford this year it will be in Hertfordshire on 15th November, most probably in Stevenage. The venue should be confirmed shortly.