

Centre

Meeting Minutes

Key
documents

Centre

Date these procedures came into effect: 01/08/2022

Date these procedures must be updated by: 01/01/2023

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What our meetings include:

Every month our team meets to discuss our activities as an organisation. This is also where the group votes on new policies and the outcome of each vote is recorded below.

Meeting one (Saturday 25th April 2020)

- Abolish parish councils? (Passed: Approve 11 votes, Disapprove 3 votes, Unsure 2 votes).
- Should the state fund faith schools? (Tie: Disapprove 7 votes, Approve 7 votes, Unsure 2 votes). This policy will be removed until the deadlock can be broken.
- Build Hyperloop rather than HS2? (Will be voted on in a coming meeting).
- Implement a Negative Income Tax? (Passed: Accepted 14 votes, Unsure 2 votes).
- Constitution and Safeguarding measures (approved unanimously). Whilst both the Constitution and Safeguarding measures were accepted unanimously, they will also be voted on at the next meeting once they have been completed in full.

Meeting two (May 29th 2020)

- Vote 1: Accept new Academies policies? (approved unanimously).
- Vote 2: Updated Constitution and Safeguarding measures (approved unanimously).

Meeting three (12th June 2020)

- Vote 1: Change the position of 'Foreign Affairs' to 'Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' (approved unanimously).
- We discussed our upcoming social media campaigns. This included the decision to move from one-week to two-week campaigns.
- There were also discussions on opening up donations.

Meeting four (26th June 2020)

- Vote 1: Our new education policies and types of school. This included rules on academies and faith schools (approved unanimously).
- Vote 2: The updated safeguarding, complaints, code of conduct and other internal documents (approved unanimously).

Discussion:

- Update on future campaigns.
- Update on papers in the future including 'Green New Deal 2.0' and 'Ending Selection'.
- Moving to one meeting per month with a break for July (approved unanimously).
- Future meetings and social dates.
- Any future social media campaigns people want to run. We have campaigns coming up on sex work, asylum seekers having the right to work and Land Value Tax.

Meeting five (16th August 2020)

Present: Torrin Wilkins, Dom Jackman, Md M Hamid, Joel Punwani, Aaminah Saleem, Christopher Dunne and Jasneet Samrai.

Apologies: Fergus Llewelyn Turtle, Rob Byrne, Archie Barnett and Janey Little.

Business:

Constitution:

Create a social media team and structures of regional/state branches into the manifesto (Unanimously passed).

New policies:

Adopt the Pride Manifesto policies into our aims (Unanimously passed).

Votes:

Accept or reject Janey Little as Education Spokesperson? 15 accept (approved unanimously).

Accept or reject Archie Barnett as Environment Spokesperson? 10 accept (approved unanimously).

Accept or reject Md M Hamid as North East Chair? 8 accept, 1 unsure (approved).

Move Centre meetings to once a month rather than once every two weeks? This doesn't include socials, just formal meetings for decisions etc. 15 accept (approved unanimously).

Increase the number of people needed to propose a new policy or to change an existing one? 5 accept and 1 reject.

Accept or reject new Social Security Spokesperson? 5 unsure and 5 reject (rejected).

Accept or reject Samuel Bryars as Deputy Youth Chair? 10 accept (approved unanimously).

Vote 2: New education policies (does not include faith school funding and private schools policies). 10 accept (approved unanimously).

No confidence vote:

London Chair (proposed by Torrin Wilkins, Jasneet Samrai and Aaminah Saleem). (Unanimously passed).

Discussions:

- Discussed new papers including Included to Excluded.
- Looked at opening donations with our new Treasurer Christopher Dunne.
- Discussed training sessions for Young Centre, the social media team and Regional/State Chairs.

Meeting six (Thursday 3rd December 2020) 8-9 pm.

Present: Jake Poulton, Torrin Wilkins, Jasneet Samrai, Ashley Routh and Christopher Dunne.

Apologies: Janey Little, Md M Hamid, Louise Jenifer and Archie Barnett.

Absent: Franklin Vaci, Joe Gellman, Alex Toal, James Steel, Joel Punwani, Danny Simm, Charles Shaw, Aaminah Saleem, Fergus Turtle, Freya Greaves, Christopher Price and Ryan Frendo.

Torrin:

- This year has seen almost a million people see our tweets and our Facebook page reached 200 likes.
- Checked if there were any discussions on specific policies people wanted.
- We have had no meetings in September, October and November as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ashley:

- Suggested that we should change our policy in X markers in passports to removing gender markers within passports.
- Added the issues with the mental health act being suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic should be tackled by Centre.

Jas:

- Agreed to change the Pride Manifesto to include removing gender markers within passports rather than the existing policy of X markers in passports.

Christopher:

- Suggested removing our proposals for a Northern Ireland Parliament and instead keeping the existing Northern Irish Assembly. This is due to the history of the Northern Ireland assembly.
- He also proposed that we keep the existing system of Single Transferable Vote (STV) in Northern Ireland rather than changing it to STV. The rest of the UK should also have this system for its elections.

Votes:

- No confidence vote in the Deputy Director who hasn't responded to us in a month. 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

- Our new aims document (only changes is the addition of devolution to each policy). 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Our new key documents (addition of donations and some new areas of our code of conduct): 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Votes and activities between meetings:

With our new easily updatable website all votes and activities, including those taken outside meetings, will be recorded on this document.

- 17th January 2021: Jasneet Samrai became the Interim Deputy Director. 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- 20th January 2021: Alex Toal stepped down as the Head of Digital Campaigns as he is starting a new job.
- 20th January 2021: A drop-in training session was held by Torrin Wilkins with Adam McCartan and Jake Poulton.
- 29th January 2021: Our education Spokesperson stepped down.

Meeting seven (Friday 29th January 2021) 8-9 pm.

Present: Jake Poulton, Torrin Wilkins, Jasneet Samrai, Ashley Routh, Christopher Dunne, Louise Jenifer, Jake Poulton, Will Barber – Taylor and Adam McCartan.

Apologies: None

Absent: Franklin Vaci, Joe Gellman, James Steel, Joel Punwani, Danny Simm, Fergus Turtle, Freya Greaves, Md M Hamid, Archie Barnett, Rowen Wilkins. Ryan Frendo, George Butcher and Billy Boulton.

- Torrin gave an update on the new “Expanding Furlough” paper and the success of our draft white paper. There was also an update on the changes to the website such as the new page for articles.
- Discussion about what we should focus on in our new podcast hosted by Will. This included inviting MPs on and discussing policies or campaigns being run by Centre.
- We also discussed policy and paper ideas for the future.

Votes:

- Vote on permission to possibly form a campaign group on the issue of those refused by their employer from the furlough scheme. 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Vote on Jasneet becoming Deputy Director. The discussion for this also included an agreement that any HR department formed in the future will be informed of relationship between the Deputy Director and the Director. 7 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- No confidence votes proposed by Torrin Wilkins and Jasneet Samrai: Christopher Price and Charles Shaw. 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Votes on our updated key documents: <https://centrethinktank.co.uk/key-documents/>. The only change is that Adam and Louise are now part of our complaints committee. 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Louise moving from South East Chair to Education Spokesperson. 7 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Votes and activities between meetings:

- 7th February 2021: Updated privacy policy, Constitution and Disability Access. 9 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- 17th February 2021: Pushkin Defyer joining our team as the new Democracy Spokesperson. Whilst there was a previous complaint involving Pushkin, we

accepted his apology, and it was almost eight months since he left Centre. 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

- 19th February 2021: Alfie Green joining our team as the new Foreign Affairs Spokesperson. 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- 3rd March 2021: Joe Gellman moving to become Social Security Spokesperson from being Justice Spokesperson and Lauren Davison joining as the team as our new Justice Spokesperson. 9 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- 16th March 2021: Seb Teague joining our team as the new Chair of Young Centre. 7 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Meeting eight (Friday 19th March 2021) 8-9 pm.

Present: Ashley Routh, Sebastian Teague, Adam McCartan, Will Barber – Taylor, Jake Poulton, Torrin Wilkins.

Apologies: Alfie Green and Jasneet Samrai.

Absent: Christopher Dunne, Louise Jenifer, Archie Barnett, Joe Gellman, Joel Punwani, James Steel, Pushkin Defyer, Lauren Davison, Freya Greaves, Danny Simm, Md M Hamid, Fergus Llewelyn Turtle, Ryan Frendo, Rowen Wilkins, Cllr George Butcher and Billy Boulton.

- Torrin updated the group on the progress with the “Expanding Furlough” plan and the Gaps in Support APPG. There was a small win for the APPG in the budget for the newly self-employed, but we are still pursuing a change in the furlough system.
- The new podcast episode with Melanie Onn had to be delayed but it will be recorded next week.
- The group discussed the possibility of election coverage for the Senedd, Scottish Parliament and the Manx general election.

Votes:

- Vote on our updated safeguarding, complaints and constitution including easy read guides. 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Vote to have our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30pm each month. 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Discussion about new rotas for creating papers. 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Meeting nine (Friday 7th April 2021) 8:30-11 pm.

Present: Ashley Routh, Sebastian Teague, Adam McCartan, Jake Poulton, Torrin Wilkins, Jasneet Samrai, Alfie Green, Louise Jenifer, Pushkin Defyer, Md M Hamid, Christopher Dunne

Apologies: Will Barber – Taylor, Archie Barnett and Lauren Davison.

Absent: Joe Gellman, Joel Punwani, James Steel, Freya Greaves, Danny Simm, Fergus Llewelyn Turtle, Ryan Frendo, Rowen Wilkins, Cllr George Butcher, Bill Hodgkinson and Billy Boulton.

- The group discussed the future form of the organisation and our future activities.

Votes:

- Closed meeting. 11 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Whether we should postpone the decisions for this session until next session. 10 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.
- Vote on the main motion. 11 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

Votes and activities between meetings:

- 18th May 2021: Joining the anti-11+ coalition set up by Comprehensive Future. 12 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- 18th May 2021: No confidence vote on Billy Bolton. 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- 4th August 2021: Pushkin Defyer joining our team as the Environment Spokesperson. 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

Meeting ten (August 11th 2021) 8:30-10:30:

Present: Ashley Routh, Torrin Wilkins, Jasneet Samrai and Jake Poulton

Apologies: Adam McCartan and Pushkin Defyer.

Absent: Joe Gellman, Joel Punwani, Freya Greaves, Fergus Llewelyn Turtle, Ryan Frendo, Rowen Wilkins, Cllr George Butcher, Sebastian Teague, Louise Jenifer, Md M Hamid, Christopher Dunne, Will Barber – Taylor, Bill Hodgkinson and Lauren Davison.

Updates:

- Update on the Excluded Unity Alliance tour and progress with our plans.
- Update about our papers looking at vaccinating younger people and an update on our new paper looking at mental health.

Votes:

- A financial partnership with Excluded Unity Alliance with one paper looking at including more groups in the government support schemes. 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- No confidence votes: Joel Punwani and Freya Greaves. Neither have been to any of the last four meetings. (Contact me beforehand if you would still like to remain involved. No confidence votes happen if we don't hear from someone at meetings or in the group chat for a few months). 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Vote on a closed section of the meeting 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Votes and activities between meetings:

16th-17th August 2021:

Overtime must be compensated either with financial remuneration or with time off in lieu: 7 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

The right to flexible working must be guaranteed: 6 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

Create an Office of regulatory Simplification: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Enshrine a minimum living wage in law for everyone over the age of 16: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstentions.

Ban zero hours contracts: 2 votes in favour, 3 against and 0 abstentions.

A national framework for Collective Bargaining: 3 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

21st October 2021: To create a student wing with a Student Chair: 4 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

23rd October 2021: Pushkin becoming our Student Chair: 3 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions. Later decided to run for Membership Officer instead due to starting University later on this year.

24th October 2021: Pushkin becoming our Membership Officer: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

26th October 2021: Cllr Mathew Hulbert joining our team as Chair in the East Midlands: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

5th December 2021: Alexander Tamblyn joining as our Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Office: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Meeting eleven (February 23rd 2022):

Chair: Pushkin Defyer

Present: Ashley Routh, Torrin Wilkins, Jasneet Samrai, William Burrows, Tayla Dodd and Mathew Hubert.

Apologies: Will Barber – Taylor.

Absent: Jake Poulton, Sebastian Teague, Louise Jenifer, Ariane Far, Lauren Davison, Joe Gellman, Mathew Hulbert, Md M Hamid, Fergus Llewelyn Turtle, James Taylor, Ryan Frendo and Rowen Wilkins.

Updates:

Recap on Fairer Share event

- Torrin – We almost doubled the number of attendees we had since our last meeting.
- Overall, it was a successful event with an interesting set of panellists.
- We had a good number of interesting questions.
- Good direction for future events and we will continue to run more events in the future.

Make Votes Matter alliance paper

- Torrin – Make Votes Matter have only published two papers which were released a few years ago.
- They've want to do more on the research side of things.
- We will be taking part in the 'Democracy loves report' to look at benefits of PR
- It will include a series of essays from politicians and from events they are running.
- We will have input and are editing parts of the paper and are contributing the case for PR.
- Matthew – It is a good alliance for our pro-PR stance and it's a promising paper.

Britain project

- Torrin – Spoke with Cherry from the group after getting in contact.
- They are similar to Centre given their centrist position yet different from us in that they are more about providing a space for discussions.
- They are fairly low key and are being led by Monica Harding
- Blair mentioned them in speech which gave them more exposure.
- Mixed board for us - either interesting like Gauke + Harding etc, other side Rory Stewart, Angela Smith, etc.
- Unsure of their relationship with Blair.
- They are interested in what we are doing and how Centre looks at centrism.
- We looked at cooperation on events and maybe a partnership.
- We have left it open for debate on our position with them.
- Ash - Doesn't mind working with varied group of people

- Jas - We have mixed set of supporters and partners which are arm's length from Centre.
- Pushkin - worries about possible transphobia, especially seen with other Change UK/Independent Group ex-MPs.
- Jas - Monica started it up after the last election so we don't see transphobia emerging but is a concern we need to take seriously.
- Ash - Not opposed as long as we are distinct, not endorsing essentially.
- **Outcome - Kept at somewhat of a distance until we know more, can work with them somewhat though just avoid direct association until voted on.**

Tik Tok:

- Pushkin - High outreach and it is an emerging form of media which the NDP used very well.
- Jas - Hard to run Instagram, Twitter and Facebook let alone adding another form of media due to lack of a specific social media person.
- Tik Tok is youth oriented and unsure whether they'd be interested.
- Ash - On Tik Tok Centre could adopt a template of picking apart a dominant policy idea and then suggesting people go to centre as an alternative.
- **Outcome - Back burner for future discussion when we have dedicated social media person but occasional post still good.**

Funding

- Torrin - Aber has been getting lots of great traction with backing by Dixon
- We have put together a business plan for the minimum amount we need and how we would spend it.
- We have ongoing conversations about donations which are looking positive but still unsure.
- Aim for a few donors to take Centre to next level by increasing budget and having regular income.
- We have done a lot in Aberystwyth with money we have - proven efficiency and success when we have funding.
- We have enough money for the next year,
- We are not afraid to say no to donors or supporters if they aren't compatible with Centre's views.

Aberystwyth university society update

- Jas - Local branch up and running.
- Policies such as the anti-spiking campaign have seen policies passed in the SU.
- 33/80 societies backed the anti-Spiking motion.
- Campaigns on housing and independent complaint procedures are upcoming and ongoing.
- Around 40 members of the societies and good links to other societies.
- Biggest political society in Aberystwyth.
- Executive issues dealt with and back to smooth running.
- Suzie Davies coming for an event at the end of march and we are looking at monthly events with guest speakers.
- Looking at a collaboration with Bangor university and Welsh Young Liberals.

Welsh translation group:

- Jas - We have a team now and anyone in Centre can now translate anything to Welsh for campaigns etc.
- Quick turnaround on translations.
- Group of people mostly local to Aberystwyth.

Trans healthcare paper

- Ash - have info but lack of centralised data so has had to rely on emailing GICs so may use FOI requests.
- A lot of people we want to talk to - Joylon Morgan suing NHS on this and he may hold a lot of data - cannot reach him however.
- It is hard to make a paper with current info but article is easier right now.
- Can't find academic papers to reference.
- Pushkin - can we use centre to contact Morgan more officially?
- Torrin - Access to a non-Gmail centre email address to help reach these people.
- Jas - is devolved areas taken into account?
- Ash - It is not split into UK areas as all data is England central (one in Scotland and one in Cardiff but Cardiff is too recent. Overall, there are not enough GICs in devolved areas to do so).
- Will not impact paper as of now.
- Torrin - We can publish smaller bits of content as long reads
- **Outcome - Centre will contact Joylon and set up official email address and we will potentially publish Trans healthcare paper as a long read for now unless more data can be gathered.**

AOB:

- Jas - Shortlist paper will be out soon
- Torrin - Denmark paper will be out soon - been working with Rosemary Sexton.
- Torrin - William is working on a train networks paper.
- Few papers being written right now. We also have a google doc of everything going on in Centre and future plans, will publish in GC and team bit of website.
- Matthew will write an article about citizens and local democracy.

Actions in Ukraine:

- Pushkin - Situation worsening with Ukraine, NATO and Russia.
- Torrin - we have policy of working with Norway and backing NATO spending commitments, nothing specific on Ukraine yet, add sections on website about topical issues to get policy ideas and suggestions.
- Ash - Proposes sanctions aimed at Russian land ownership, for instance
- Pushkin - Need to deal with Russia and London dark money as at the same time.
- Ash - Russian property ownership is large and could in effect be land ownership sanction with effect on land property depending on sanction.
- Torrin - is an interesting idea with potentially good effects regarding rent rates but would have to be detailed to have max effect.

- Ash - Won't be big but will have an effect on rent rates.
- Torrin will go and write policy on sanctions dealing with punishing Russia, dark money and rent prices.
- Ash - we may be punished via an increase in Russian gas prices, upsetting voters to back parties who may want to reverse sanctions.
- Matthew - similarities between political extremes re-Putin apologists, sensible centre is the sensible way still.
- Torrin - good opportunity to end reliance on non-renewables and to increase our use of renewables as energy independence helping to reduce reliance on Russia, article on this soon.
- Ash - nuclear power as middle ground to transition has been covered lots. We need a conversation around oil powers controlling supply, we could align ourselves with a major oil power to reduce prices and help sanction and take on other oil powers until we are energy independent. If countries will become independent, it is in the interest of oil countries to sell their supplies as soon as possible before they start losing money on this.
- Pushkin - Need to push it as breaking up oil oligarchies.
- Ash - If there's way to sell it would be good
- Ash - UK needs more than sanctions eg naval and air support (not invasion).
- Torrin - Handing weapons as we are doing now to Ukraine can go wrong, eg. Afghanistan, requires more thought.
- Pushkin - In conclusion more physical involvement is needed.
- Policy outcome and actions: Torrin will work on policies with agreed perspectives: stricter sanctions with a view to tackling current dark money in London and property prices too, long term end on reliance for gas and energy from Russia (going renewable will do this, again two birds one stone re net 0), Continued support for NATO re-funding commitments with British physical involvement in Ukraine instead of arms sales to Ukraine.

Votes:

- N/A

Meeting Twelve (April 6th 2022):

Chair: Pushkin Defyer

Present: Torrin Wilkins, Ashley Routh, Jasneet Samrai, Jake Poulton and Will Barber – Taylor.

Apologies: Tayla Dodd and William Burrows.

Absent: Sebastian Teague, Louise Jenifer, Lauren Davison, Mathew Hulbert, Joe Gellman, Md M Hamid, Fergus Llewelyn Turtle, James Taylor, Ryan Frendo, Rowen Wilkins.

Ukraine conflict:

- Pushkin - We now need to review situation as policies quickly became out of date due to fast pace of changing situation.

Trans research:

- Ashley - Torrin has excel doc with a list of Freedom of Information requests.
- Questions are phrased to ask for info that should be available from 2015 onwards.
- One Gender Identity Clinic has published all info available already thus others should be able to provide the information we ask for.
- Torrin - asking what data is already there.
- Ashley - Interesting to see data differences between devolved government areas and areas in without devolution.

Actions: Follow up next meeting.

Britain Project:

- Torrin - no idea what's happening with the project.
- They said they were setting up but no new updates yet.
- Been pretty offline since we spoke to them.
- Since supporters' network is growing and will continue to grow after the local elections we are also doing a similar thing of creating a forum.

Actions: keep an eye on the Britain project.

Shortlist paper

- Halted for 'Lib Dems Too' paper.
- Due to tech issues, we are unsure about progress, but shortlist paper is backed up.

Actions - updated on.

Denmark environment and Make Votes Matter papers:

- Torrin - Ariane has moved on to advise for DEFRA and it was her final paper which was well received.
- Rosi Sexton was unable to immediately contribute but is welcome later when things have calmed down.
- Been low key in release but successful.
- Harder to sort out release and hard for her to comment on policy due to her now working with the government making release trickier.

- Make Votes Matter is a larger paper.
- Alex who worked for our social media moved to Make Votes Matter and it has given us a bridge to communicate.
- Originally was meant to be single paper published physically and online where we interview politicians.
- However, it has grown beyond this as we plan to apply for a grant in the same way Make Votes Matter is.
- We will do six-month project with series of interviews and couple of papers.
- Gauging views of Conservative areas and how to build conservative case for Proportional Representation.
- We plan to use links we have to cover Tory bases on this.
- The JRF are mixed group with a mixed board. Our work with Make Votes Matter will help us and our wider work as a group will help us to make a good bid for the grant.
- Best For Britain may be able to support us in this as well.
- The papers appear to be on level of excluded situation.
- Looks good so far.

Actions – Discuss where extra funding is allocated if received.

For a better politics and Aberystwyth:

- Jas re Aber - is going well
- Ready to run next year
- We cant do anything for 5 weeks and then next academic yr now
- Tech difficulties have hindered slightly for a better pol paper

Voltface:

- Torrin – Labour and the Voltface articles all came out at once which gave us a lot of exposure on announcement of the partnership.
- We were only think tank to actively work with Voltface when we spoke to them.
- Agreed with them it is mutually beneficial to work together.
- Mutual articles coming out from Torrin and their team.
- Labour, Conservative and the Transform campaign for drug policy reform is working with us as well.
- Looking at cross party orgs including the Greens and Lib Dems as well.
- We are unifying different independent group in one big campaign.
- Has been a large success.

State of Centre review discussion:

- Pushkin - are there ways to increase exposure and boost membership growth?
- Ashley - Maximise exposure during locals with tweets, overnight streams and predictions.
- This was successful on US election night.
- Torrin - We can use Cllrs and cross party figures to give balanced narrative of the night.
- Easier to run than the US elections as council elections are UK based.

- Re growth, excluded stuff was massive but after that we needed a few months to decide how to grow.
- With Volteface and partnerships and big campaigns to associate us with will help with growth.
- It will ensure we are dynamic is our nature.
- As we build up cooperation with other orgs it will be easier and easier to gain exposure in the future.
- Supporters are waiting till post May locals.
- Will be useful for growth.
- Funding - JRF is big potential help, we also have ex head of Jack Daniels potentially supporting us, ex LD donor but knows Andrew and is interested in us.
- Andrew Dixon invested a lot of time and money into Fairer Share so looks like we will be waiting later into the year.
- Pushkin - Podcasts will be important to increase exposure when new supporters join.
- Will - spoken to both Stephen Kinnock and David Hanson.
- David Hanson is waiting until his contract ends.
- Will be able to get podcasts done and Will has interviewed them before and it looks promising.
- Torrin - Podcast a month and an article a week to engage and retain members.
- People are interested to engage in these.
- Stephen Lloyd seems keenest support as of right now.
- Many supporters want to engage, and it may be easier to engage them via pods and articles.
- Small ways will be easier to involve supporters instead of getting them to be active campaigners for us.
- MPs may be nervous about engaging with us partially for fear of being debated on policy by Torrin but also since we are new.
- Finding ways to engage people who are interested in becoming supporters.
- Pushkin - what's the new £2 a month plan? Is this compulsory for members?
- £2 voluntary patron plan helps diversify funding and prevents us from being beholden to one source of funding.
- We want mixed funding model.
- £2 seems a good amount to peg it at as it's not too much.
- Setting up took time but now it's all sorted it runs smoothly.
- Helps fund events, individual papers, etc.
- We have 2 in the patron plan to ensure it works but has not yet been publicly advertised. We will push it soon.
- We will tell each person how their money will be used.
- Cost to maintain Centre is low, bank account costs us £3 a month.
- Coconut is our bank account.
- Tax bills are amounting to very little as we don't sell or buy products.
- We run off £300-£400 per annum to maintain so £2/£3 a month won't be hard to cover this (20-30 people).
- JRF gives us more to push into centre alongside Torrin being paid £9.90 an hour for his work. Doing this annually will be more than enough to fund running costs and some expansion.

- We have costing group potentially going to work with us
- Policy Engine worked with Green Party and Social Market Foundation, and they are working with us on costing a Land Value Tax.
- May end up with partnership with them.
- Centre for London are doing an article with us and whilst they don't do partnerships they will work closely with us.
- We are scaling up our social media game so individuals can run own campaigns and have own pages so people can focus on issues they are interested in.
- Building recognition is key.
- Team hub is good to show our to do list and what we are doing.
- If anyone has any ideas, then please present to Torrin.

Vision - Big campaign group which works with many groups across the political spectrum to build up exposure and relevance with few key campaigns a year to show what we stand for and give us recognition by association as seen with excluded. Individuals will now be more encouraged to run individual campaigns with more capacity to do so giving us a further campaigning powerhouse edge and allowing individuals to build up personal reputations and followings.

Actions - more local election (and other such events in U.K.) coverage with live coverage on election night (with panel - look into working with groups like Brit Elect?). Pushing £2 a month voluntary contribution more. Encouraging MPs and members to contribute to weekly and monthly podcasts, articles and events as a means to engage. Torrin publishes team hub on group chat and we move towards this being the first port of call on discussions around think tank activities. Following up on if, and which, potential supporters we can get on pods to allow us to begin to plan announcements on them joining, partnerships and funding.

Policy debates and votes:

(Consensus's = universal agreement among members)

Ukraine:

- Torrin - remove policies enacted as they are no longer in date.
- Ukraine has made enormous advances so may just be watching to see what's happened and still supporting them.
- No fly zones are threat of war and may be unnecessary.
- Willingness to support further measures if situation worsens but no need as of right now.
- Ashley - leaving aside obvious, Russia only selling gas in roubles need clear opposition.
- Useful excuse to cut of Russia as fossil fuel supplier as not only extremely effective sanction but also creates urgency to move to diversified green power.
- Lesser evil to not be so reactionary to nuclear and use it to support transition to green power.
- If we buy from Russia on their terms, it backs their campaign.
- Jake - Aid is being overlooked, we need to look at a post conflict Ukraine and UK needs to mirror war support and promises need to start to be made now.

- Torrin - Russia may end up leaving the United Nations before being pushed.
- Ashley - the way Russia explains nuclear deterrent as 'we don't want destroy the world but a world without Russia isn't worth existing' thus even the most die-hard pro Putin Russians will hold this view.
- The case to prevent nuclear war needs to reassure Russia of its right to exist post war.

Policy outcomes - Support and encourage the UK govt to recognise Russia's sovereignty even in case of loss to Ukraine. Reserve support for no-fly zones in the case of turn for the worst on Ukraine but do not support as of now. The move away from Russian Fossil Fuel due to their demanding the payment in rubles should also double up to promote greener energy with nuclear as transition to wind, solar, etc. Call on govt to begin post war aid pledges on rebuilding Ukraine and emphasise they need to be consistent with level of current military support offered.

Covid:

- Ashley - we've hit an equilibrium. How government runs covid safety is dangerous as it assumes only immunocompromised are affected.
- This doesn't consider dangers of long covid and no comprehensive data on this.
- It looks like a significant amount are getting long covid and we don't know who's affected. We don't know whether you risk long covid the first time you get covid and then you are fine or it is rolling a dice each time you get it.
- If it is a roll of a dice, then we can't treat it like flu as strain will bankrupt care and health systems and harm the country.
- Abolishing free testing and removing all provisions is dangerous and reckless.
- Minimum should see free testing and strong encouragement to isolate while employers put those who test positive go on government supported sick leave, whether people choose to isolate personally is a free choice.
- Jas - people should still have to legally isolate as complications are created via voluntary status.
- Pushkin - do we ban those from testing positive from going to schools and public transport as vulnerable people have to use these as well?
- Ashley - tricky to find balance on schools and public transport.
- Without legal requirement we could strongly encourage people to wear masks who test positive.
- Jas - hard to enforce.
- Pushkin - do we go back to legal requirements on mask wearing, particularly on public transport and schools? Do we also reintroduce forms of test requirements for those who wish to go into crowded events, etc?
- Jas - No, as seen in Wales once mask restrictions are gone it's hard to bring back.
- Ashley - agreed, best to keep voluntary.
- Jake - as seen with vaccine passports, Covid passes are red line on Liberty and are also ineffective.
- General consensus - covid passes don't work.
- General consensus - mask mandates are ineffective and voluntary works better.

General consensus - Vaccine uptake is down and thus expensive and ineffective so scale down is necessary with set distances for travel to vaccine centres with roving centres for rural areas and vouchers for free transport to vaccine centres. Relevance of global vaccine equity acknowledged.

Policy outcomes - free tests re-implemented as well as state sick pay for self-isolation for positive tests\close members of family or household testing positive. Moving back to masks and Covid passes seen as ineffective - voluntary mask wearing should still be encouraged. Scale down walk in vaccine centres and replace with rolling vaccine centres that match demand in areas and vouchers for transport (helping to vaccinate rural areas and big cities with low uptake). Still push for global vaccine equity. Greater funding on long Covid research. Splits seen on whether isolation should again become a full legal requirement and the knock-on effects for kids.

Cost of living crisis:

- Pushkin - Council Tax replaced with fairer share to offset higher prices.
- Ashley - Council tax replacement is an idea and better than rebate but lowering one bill for another is not necessarily a sustainable idea.
- Jas - its more about general living costs increasing so we need to offset costs as much as possible.
- Torrin - Fairer Share is already policy so hard to apply specifically to cost of living crisis.
- Ashley - state could become involved in the market to organically lower energy prices. This wouldn't involve nationalisation but a new government owned energy company to compete with existing private companies.
- Torrin - this is seen with rail policy as well.
- Pushkin - *mind blown at how incredibly centrist this is* yea I'm down, do we include profit caps as seen in Torrin's energy article?
- Ashley + Torrin - with state as an actor that wouldn't be necessary.
- General consensus - state emergency intervention as a competitor in the market to reduce prices organically and removes the need for profit caps.

Policy outcomes - State emergency intervention as a competitor in the energy market to reduce prices organically. Scrap NI hikes.(More policies needed re offsetting costs eg. Cut VAT on essentials as tax revenue will increase from it anyway due to higher prices on other luxury goods? Rebates but via other methods? Will state intervention not take a while to kick in?).

Votes and activities between meetings:

29th March 2022: Mark Bray-Parry joining our supporters network: 7 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

19th April 2022: Partnership with Policy Engine: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

22nd April 2022: MP of the week: Starmer 2 votes and Yvette 3 votes.

24th April 2022: Partnership with UBI Centre: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

10th May 2022: Partnership with Cranstoun: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

10th May 2022: Adding Daniel Laycock to our supporters network: 3 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

11th May 2022: Partnership with Cannabis Prohibition Jersey: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

24th May 2022: Endorsing Ash Routh as the candidate in the 2022 Wakefield by-election. 1 vote in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

25th May 2022: Rosemary Sexton wants to join our supporters network. 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

27th May 2022: Cllr Tom Kendall as a new supporter: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

27th May 2022: Joe Stanley as Head of Digital Communications: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

31st May 2022: Updates for the constitution. 3 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

2nd June 2022: Tobias Ellwood as MP of the week for backing single market membership. 3 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

2nd June 2022: Re-application to join the team. 3 votes against, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

9th June 2022: Jesse Norman as MP of the week for his no confidence letter. 2 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

10th June 2022: Green Schools Project has asked for a partnership. 2 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

20th June 2022: Tobias Ellwood joining our supporters network: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

20th June 2022: SNP councillor Mary Donnelly joining our supporters network: 1 vote in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

20th June 2022: Working with Volteface on a new grouping around medical cannabis use: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

20th June 2022: Working with Volteface on a new grouping around medical cannabis use: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

25th June 2022: Craig Davidson joining our social media team: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

1st July 2022: Dr Laura McAllistair writing a foreword on our new paper about Welsh electoral reform: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

4th July 2022: Deian Rhys becoming our Membership Officer in Wales: 3 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

5th July 2022: Potential sponsorships from WSP Global for an event on rewilding and our partners at Cranstoun on our next justice paper: 4 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

20th July 2022: Adding Mattha Busby to our supporters network: 1 vote in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

25th July 2022:

Invest in renewable energy: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Eventually scrap the energy price cap: 4 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

A fairer VAT system: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Scrap the marriage allowance: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Unified Income Tax: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

A new business advice hub: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Expand the British Business Bank: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

A new purchasing system for council houses: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Expand Help to Buy: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

A fair immigration system: 5 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

Use Proportional Representation to elect the House of Commons: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Establish citizens assemblies: 4 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

A Guaranteed Minimum Income: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

Disability top-up: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

Give military personnel more support: 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

A well-regulated water sector: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

Change how policy is discussed: 6 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

31st July 2022: Ben Podevin as Culture, Media and Sport and Lili Thomas as Health Spokespeople for Centre in Wales. 2 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

31st July 2022: Endorse Alec Sandiford as a parliamentary candidate. 5 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

1st August 2022: Partnership with Labour Against Antisemitism and work with them on our “For a Better Politics” campaign. 3 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.