

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST DISABILITY ACTION GROUP, HELD ON THE 2nd JULY, 1983 AT COUNTY HALL, YORK ROAD, LONDON, SE1. COMMENCING AT 12. NOON, WITH MR. GLYN VERNON PRESIDING.

Item 1 - The Chairman welcomed the 26 people present, and was sorry not to see a larger number, although he knew quite a number of people had sent apologies. The Chairman was pleased to note, that two major Unions were represented, i.e. N.U.P.E. and U.C.W. The Chairman then went on to welcome the Rt. Hon. Alf Morris M.P. whose initiative had brought us all together, in an effort to set up this new group. The Chairman hoped that today would see the establishment of the group, and that it would be able to work closely with Alf in the future, in promoting the ideals and aspirations of the disabled people of the United Kingdom.

Item 2 - The Rt. Hon. Alf Morris M.P. Alf welcomed the opportunity of addressing the group at its inaugural meeting, and felt very happy that the group was ~~not~~ about to be launched. He asked the group not to feel too despondent about the numbers attending, as he had seen many major groups of the day, start off with lesser people present. Alf then went on to point out how important this new group was going to be, especially as Margaret Thatcher and the Conservatives had been returned to power for another four to five years. Alf drew the attention of the group to the many cuts that had been made in the past four years of Conservative rule, and how they had destroyed much of what the Labour Government had introduced during its term of office during the seventies. He drew attention to the progress that had been made since the introduction of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act, but realised that there was a great deal more to do, but the Labour Government were deprived of being able to make that progress. Alf then apologised for the fact that he would not be able to stay for the whole of the meeting, as he had already had another engagement in Manchester later that day. The group then expressed their sincere thanks to Alf for attending the meeting and hoped that they would be working closely together in the future.

Item 3 - The group then went on to discuss the final draft of the Constitution which had been drawn up by the Steering group. The Chairman first of all thanked all those who had served on the Steering group, and who had obviously worked hard to be able to present the final draft of the Constitution.

The group went through the Constitution, and made a number of amendments to remove ambiguity and to clarify certain points.

Item 4 - Having gone through the Constitution, and with the approval of the group, the following Motion was put:

"This meeting agrees to the setting up of the Socialist Disability Action Group, and adopts the Constitution drawn up by the Steering Committee ^{AS} ~~and~~ presented and

amended by this General Meeting. This Meeting moves that a National Committee be elected from amongst those present, and shall be empowered to act in the name of the group. To set up Branches, Regional Committees, and to carry out the day to day business of the group, as set out in the adopted Constitution".

The Motion was carried unanimously.

Item 5 - Election of National Officers and National Steering Committee.

Chairman: G. Vernon - The only nomination and was elected unopposed.

Secretary: M.A. Barrett - The only nomination and elected unopposed.

Treasurer: M. Tatch - The only nomination and elected unopposed.

The following were nominated and elected to the National Steering Group:

Kevin Hyett - Manchester

Cathy Wilson - Newport, Isle of Wight.

Alan Sutherland - London.

Ann Ray - New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Mike Flood - London

Barry Taylor - London

Joan Barrett - London

Charles Lucas London.

As the National Steering Group was to consist of three National Officers, and twelve Members, this still left four vacancies but it was agreed to fill these posts, as Regional Areas were set up. All members of the National Steering Group are disabled persons.

Item 6: The meetings of the National Steering Group were set for the last Sunday in July, and October, 1983, January and April, 1984. As the Constitution provides for amendments to be taken for the Constitution after twelve months, arrangements will be made to cater for this.

Item 7: The Chairman then thanked all those who were in attendance, and noted that nearly all of them had enrolled as Members, and that many others had sent in their forms with their membership fees, and hoped that all of them would now go away and try and set up a Branch in their area. The Chairman then closed the meeting, the time being 5 p.m.

Signed: G. Vernon, Chairman

M.A. Barrett. Secretary.