

Centre

Meeting Minutes

Key
documents

Centre

Date these procedures came into effect: 10/11/2021

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

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Contents

Cover	Page 1
Contents	Page 2
Meeting one (Saturday 25th April 2020)	Page 3
Meeting two (May 29th 2020)	Page 4
Meeting three (12th June 2020)	Page 5
Meeting four (26th June 2020)	Page 6
Meeting five (16th August 2020)	Pages 7-8
Meeting six (3 rd December 2020)	Pages 9-10
Meeting seven (29 th January 2021)	Pages 11-12
Meeting eight (19 th March 2021)	Page 13
Meeting nine (7 th April 2021)	Page 14
Meeting ten (August 11 th 2021)	Pages 15-16

What our meetings include:

Every two weeks 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)

- Vote 1: Abolish parish councils? (Passed: Approve 11 votes, Disapprove 3 votes, Unsure 2 votes).
- Vote 2: 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.
- Vote 3: Build Hyperloop rather than HS2? (Will be voted on in a coming meeting).
- Vote 4: Negative Income? (Passed: Accepted 14 votes, Unsure 2 votes).
- Vote 5: 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 Billy Boulton for 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 votes:

Nelly Kibirige (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, Aminah 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 Aminah Saleem as 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):
<https://www.centrethinktank.co.uk/mainpages/centrekeydocuments.html> 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: N/A

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, Torrinn 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.

- Torrinn 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.