

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of Norfolk Palestine

Solidarity Campaign

17 April 2024, Quaker Meeting House, Norwich

Present: Over 60 people were in attendance, including PSC members and general supporters.

Apologies: were received from David Ford, Keith Price, Jim Leman, Ray Rowley, Caroline Pickard, David Cannon, Jean Thirtle.

1. Welcome

Michelle Marsh (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone to the launch of the new Norfolk-wide Branch of the PSC – including those joining on Zoom. She outlined what would be happening during the meeting. She explained briefly why the new, county-wide, Branch was being set up due to the closure of the previous Norwich Branch.

Michele also explained that only those who were members of National PSC were entitled to vote.

2. Resolution to establish the Norfolk Branch

The following resolution was put to the meeting and roundly accepted:

This meeting, held on 17th April 2024 in Norwich, agrees to establish the Norfolk Branch of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and to abide by the Constitution of the PSC and its Code of Conduct.

Proposed: Michele Marsh Seconded: Claire Collen

3. Nominations for Officers

Michele handed over to Stefan Economu to chair this item.

Nominations were received, and seconded, for the following positions:

Chair: Michele Marsh

Secretary: Claire Collen

Vice Chair: Mary Littlefield

Treasurer: Caroline Riley

Each person said a little about themselves and their reasons for wanting to be an officer.

As no other nominations had been received there was no need for an election, and all the above were agreed on a show of hands.

4. Volunteers for the Organising Committee

Volunteers introduced themselves: Brian Green, Stefan Economu, Rachel Harper, Lucy Maughan. All were accepted. Beren Lee - co-opted as an IT specialist. Any further volunteers were very welcome to speak to a Committee member.

5. Suggestions for Branch Actions and Activities

Stefan handed over to Mary who led the discussion. Ideas included knowing about what's happening in other parts of the county and forthcoming actions; the use of banners; regular vigils – especially silent ones which were seen as powerful; overall good communications using a variety of channels.

6. Situation in Gaza following the events of October 2023 and portrayal in the media

Brian Green talked about the way in which the mainstream media portrayed what had happened and outlined the distorted account which had been given by the Israeli state and western media. He introduced 2 videos from independent investigative journalists - Electronic Intifada and New York Intercept, both of which debunked and challenged the many lies and falsifications. They gave clear accounts which confronted inaccurate allegations – e.g. rape of women and child killings. The Hannibal Directive was also covered in the video by Electronic Intifada.

After the screening there was a Q & A session with a full and concerned discussion.

7. Closing Comments

Michele thanked everyone very much for coming and showing support for the new Branch. She encouraged anyone who wanted to make a donation in the collecting bucket or via the Go Fund Me or QR code.