GC Report- November 2018

**Guest Speaker, Steve Howell:** Steve is Chief Executive of Freshwater Communications and during the 2017 General Election held the title of Deputy Director of Strategy and Communications for the Labour Party. He has written a book about that experience, entitled ‘Game Changer’ and outlined in his speech the key developments of the narrative.

He recounted the months preceding the announcement by Theresa May that there would be a General Election, and argued that she and the Conservative Party greatly underestimated Jeremy’s campaigning power and the role of broadcast media during election periods. He discussed the development and popularity of the Labour manifesto, contrasting it with that of the Conservatives, as well as highlighting the role of social media in the campaign. The result was the largest vote share since the 1940s, 30 extra seats and the denial of a Conservative majority.

Steve’s speech was livestreamed to the CLP Facebook group.

Steve took questions on the role and development of social media, the development of the Labour vote across the UK (with Scotland highlighted as a key area for future focus) and the role of a hostile media.

Kevin Brennan MP: Kevin discussed the UK Budget and the debate around changes to tax thresholds, alongside the resignation of the Conservative minister Tracey Crouch over the row around Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). He also highlighted the referral of Arron Banks to the National Crime Agency and the need for a reinvigorated effort to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

Mark Drakeford AM: Mark also discussed the UK budget and its implications for Wales, and highlighted his announcement to remove the threat of imprisonment for failure to pay council tax, supported by 85% of those who responded to the Welsh Government consultation.

Kevin and Mark took questions on the training of Saudi Arabian pilots on Anglesey in light of the continued destruction of the Yemen, with Kevin highlighting that this affects several constituents of Cardiff West, while Mark confirmed that no one had been sent to prison by Cardiff Council in the last four years for non-payment of council tax but that Vale of Glamorgan Council is the greatest offender.

Cllr Peter Bradbury: Peter outlined the progress of the Council’s budget alongside his work on a consultation on dog fouling and a motion on the Windrush Generation passed by the Council.

National Constitutional Committee: It was proposed and agreed that our UK conference delegate Peter Jenkins vote for the six candidates supported by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (including Cardiff West member Annabelle Harle).