**Present:** 42 members

The GC recorded its congratulations to Cardiff West AM Mark Drakeford on his election as Welsh Labour leader and First Minister. It was agreed that Katie Antippas should act as Acting Chair until the 2019 AGM, following the resignation of David Davies.

**Tribute to Cllr Jim Murphy:** Kevin led tributes to late Cllr Jim Murphy, whose funeral had been held before Christmas. Jim had poured his heart and soul into the local party, the council and his community, acting as a wonderful local councillor and CLP treasurer for many years. He had been a dedicated trade unionist and a selfless public servant. Following this tribute, a minute’s silence was held in Jim’s memory.

**Membership Report:** Peter reported on new members in Ely and Riverside.

**Kevin Brennan MP:** Kevin focussed his report on Brexit and associated developments. The Brexit debate would resume on Wednesday 9th January, following its cancellation before Christmas. Kevin felt that there was little evidence that anything had changed and that the deal in its current form would not be passed by MPs. He hoped to speak in the debate and condemned scaremongering around a ‘no deal’ scenario. Kevin outlined the various options should a deal not pass, include votes of no confidence, a general election and another referendum.

**Mark Drakeford AM:** Mark noted that the CLP had now had two of the only three First Ministers since the advent of devolution, and expressed his thanks for the support from Cardiff West members for his leadership campaign. He had put together a Cabinet including gender balance, ministers with responsibility for housing and North Wales as part of their portfolios and a renewed focus on child poverty, including more funding for and expansion of the ‘Food for Fun’ scheme during school summer holidays.

**Cllr Peter Bradbury:** Peter reported that there had been no Group meetings during December but that the Group would now be discussing the forthcoming budget, following an improved local government settlement for Cardiff Council. He expressed his sadness at the loss of Jim Murphy, stating that his was a huge loss for the council and the community of a man who had been universally liked. Peter further highlighted the progress of Cardiff West High School, with pupils due to move in in April.

Kevin took a series of questions on Brexit, including discussion of potential party positioning in the event of a referendum and the relationship between the PLP and policy-making. He further agreed with Chris Newman around the incompetence of Chris Grayling as a Cabinet Minister. Kevin felt that the most important role of the PLP was to remain united and hold the Tory government to account for their failures and reiterated that Mark had been working closely with Keir Starmer and EU partners, as well as lamenting the appalling response of Sajid Javid to the arrival of migrants from across the English Channel. Mark reported on the Welsh Government’s ‘no deal’ contingency planning, with the enactment of the civil contingency arrangements and the likely negative outcomes for Welsh businesses.

The GC recorded its congratulations to Claudia and Jamie on the birth of their baby.

**Cardiff West Response to Stage Two of the Welsh Labour Party Democracy Review:** The proposed response was agreed with two minor amendments.

**Women’s Forum Report:** Alison reported that Claudia had attended Welsh Labour Women’s Conference in November and Alison’s forthcoming attendance at the UK Women’s Conference in late February. The Women’s Forum was supporting Usdaw’s campaign in support of Lidl and Aldi workers and were continuing to prepare a dedicated leaflet in the event of a General Election. The next Women’s Forum meeting would take place on Saturday 9th February between 11am and 1pm in Canton Library.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes were agreed without amendment.

**EC Report:** Sophie ran through the items discussed at the January EC meeting, including the forthcoming Ely by-election, Cardiff LCF and officer reports.

**BAME Report:** Ramesh reported on ongoing efforts to obtain funding from Welsh Labour to hold all-Wales BAME events.

**AOB:** It was reported that the Ely by-election would take place on 21st February (although it had not yet been officially called). Members were encouraged to attend the Poetry Festival between 8th and 10th February at the Cornerstone and the Acting Chair encouraged members to come forward with any plans for fundraisers for the CLP.