**Present:** 40 members

**Guest Speaker Meri Huws (former Welsh Language Commissioner):** Meri was speaking in a personal capacity, having passed on the role of Commissioner to her successor Aled Roberts two months prior. Meri began by outlining some of the legislative history in relation to the language: the 1536 Act of Union that stated that the language was not to be used in public life in Wales and only rescinded in 1967; the decline of the language from 50% at the beginning of the 20th century to 17% in the 1950s and 60s; further legislation in 1942 and 1967 that enshrined in law the right of people in the judicial system to use Welsh; the 1993 legislation that enshrined the right of the language to be treated equally, leading to the development of Welsh language schemes; and the 2011 Welsh Assembly legislation that brought in the Welsh Language Measure and created the role of Welsh Language Commissioner. This position has a dual regulatory and promotional role, regulatory in the sense of ensuring the system of statutory expectation on the public sector, where organisations including the police, the health service and local authorities all using the language to greater degrees, with a knock-on effect on businesses (for example supermarkets).

Meri discussed some of the challenges facing the language, highlighting in particular the urgent need to develop a bilingual workforce and discussion on why an increasing number of Welsh medium primary and secondary schools is not resulting in a bilingual workforce. Meri discussed the need to create a culture that celebrates bilingualism and multilingualism. Meri discussed her positive relationships with other language commissioners from around the world (including from Ireland, Canada and Kosovo). Meri urged discussion of the political and philosophical debates around Welsh identity and took questions on areas including the merits of bilingual education, the right to speak the language versus the promotion of Welsh as a living language, Welsh language education in English medium schools and the need to spread the Labour viewpoint on platforms such as Radio Cymru.

**Brexit Update:** Mark expanded on his statement, issued to all Welsh Labour members, wherein the Welsh Government had underlined their position that there could be no Brexit deal that they could support, given the contenders for the Conservative leadership at a UK level, and their belief in the need for a referendum on any deal in which they would campaign to remain within the European Union. Kevin discussed the recent European Elections and concerns the Labour had been in fourth position in Cardiff.

**Kevin Brennan MP:** Kevin discussed the recent Peterborough by-election in which Labour had been successful and had prevented the Brexit Party from obtaining their first MP. He also asked for volunteers to staff a stall at the forthcoming Ely Festival.

**Mark Drakeford MP:** Mark discussed his decision not to proceed with the M4 Relief Road, on financial and environmental grounds, which was supported by GC members. Mark also discussed his recent attendance at D-Day events and the loss of 1,700 jobs at Ford in Bridgend.

**Cllr Susan Elsmore:** Susan discussed the building of good quality council housing in Llanrumney; a number of collaborative efforts with the Vale of Glamorgan Council including on housing, refugee resettlement and a joint commissioning strategy for learning disabilities. She also commented on the recent Full Council meeting where Dan De’Ath was elected as the first black Mayor of Cardiff with an excellent and inclusive speech.

**Motion from Canton Branch:** Sean Thompson moved a motion on climate change which was unanimously supported. It was agreed to adapt the motion to use as the CLP’s motions to UK Conference. The Secretary would send the motion to Huw Thomas, who would be speaking at the October GC meeting.

**Welsh Labour Conference Report:** A written report was provided and accepted.

**Women’s Forum:** The Women’s Forum would be meeting on Saturday 8th June.

**BAME Report:** Ramesh reported on efforts to improve the work of the Welsh Labour BAME Committee and his attendance at various events to mark Ramadan.

**CAC Elections:** Seema Chandwani and Billy Hayes were supported to stand in the elections to the UK Conference Arrangements Committee.

**EC Report:** Sophie discussed future campaigning plans and the work of the LCF.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** these were agreed without amendment.

**AOB:** Members were reminded of the details of the forthcoming Political Saturday event and the AGM in July.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.