



**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016**  
The Lion Hotel

## **Minutes**

(amended)

### ○ Introduction

Ken, Margaret H, Mike, and Marilyn sent their apologies.

Members present were:

Pam, Margaret T, Viv S, Viv B, Libby, Helen, Ken, Harold, Joy, Denise, Sue Burton, Sue Batchelor and Phil.

Coffee money at £1.50 worked fine as there was no change and no request for more – shame it was cold. We'll get it right sometime.

### ○ Discussion Topics

A short summary of the subjects and discussions follows:

#### **What happens next?**

- Although the referendum is over with a win for the leavers, that doesn't start any process of withdrawal from the EU. Parliament has to pass fresh legislation to start off the process (according to Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty). On the other hand, parliament cannot morally go against the result of the referendum. One cohort of MPs wants to delay any processes until September to ensure that MPs have their say. Another group of businessmen are challenging the necessity of an Act of Parliament and want to begin the withdrawal process as soon as possible.
- We, as a group were mostly in favour of remaining in the EU and were largely dismayed that so many of the electorate voted 'Brexit'. Apparently, a majority of those who voted for staying in were university-educated and a majority of those against were not. However, we railed against the opinion polls finding that a majority of we 'oldies' voted against. This was simply not true as all of us in the room today voted to remain. Another analysis of the results showed that the 'leavers' were overwhelmingly from Wales and the North.
- The 'leave' voting was not against the EU but rather against the unfairness of the gap between the rich and the poor and against the Conservatives who have supported this situation. Just this very morning it was reported that one in four children in Birmingham are living in poverty.

- One member averred that the referendum could yet be rendered invalid because of the number of lies written and spoken, were presented as true facts to the public. It would be perfectly legal to have another referendum and if there was, it would reverse the result – or would it?
- Unhappy consequences of leaving the EU will be that other member countries will now be demanding a referendum, thinking that they must put their country first as we have done, and beggar the rest.
- Scotland will not be able to stay in the EU as a separate entity from the UK, and will therefore have a referendum for the independence of Scotland.
- Ebwr Vale in Wales is one of the poorest areas in Europe, receiving a lot of money from the EU, and yet they voted for leaving, and are now demanding that the UK government replace the subsidies they got from the EU.
- Unexpected consequences are that David Cameron and Nigel Farage have resigned.

The Conservative Party is in turmoil: Boris Johnson has stepped down from the line-up to be voted the next Prime Minister, whilst Michael Gove and Andrea Leadsome have stepped up along with Theresa May.

- Jeremy Corbyn is under pressure from the centre-left (or 'blue Labour') to resign as leader of the Labour Party.
- More people are joining the Labour Party.
- What now for the Labour Party? Either the centre-left MPs will form a central party or join the Lib-Dems, or the populace will get behind Jeremy Corbyn and form a socialist labour party.
- What now for Europe? This is the beginning of a trend. European States, Mexican States and even USA states are wanting more direct power and do not like bigger powers dictating to them. Such a movement can only be retrograde and may lead to wars.
- It takes a hundred years, said Joy, to change attitudes and opinions. So we have to be patient.

### **Is using pigs to develop human chimeras the way to go?**

- This turned out to be a quick decision - in short, yes, if necessary. We eat animals, so to use parts of animals- even when artificially reproduced, is perfectly acceptable – with the proviso that no animal suffers when there is no need for it.
- This topic widened into discussing what the NHS should spend money on: if it is to cure a condition, that's fine, but some of us felt that cosmetic procedures should not be financed by the NHS, especially at the moment when it is very short of money.

### ○ **Date of Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be on Monday 1st August 2016 at The Lion Hotel.

### ○ **Future Topics**

- Euthanasia

If you have any more to offer, please email me at:

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