

YEovil & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 16th September 2009 at Unity Hall Yeovil BA20 1JL

Present: Bill Byrd, Unite/Amicus; Dave Osborne, Unite/Amicus; Viv Willis, Unite/Amicus; Rex Brown, Unite/Amicus; David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Lee Skevington LP PPC (GMB) and Ken Keable, visitor (Prospect)

1. Apologies: Joe Conway, TGWU/Unite and Mark Hoskins PCS. In the light of Joe Conway being absent, Bill Byrd was elected to chair the meeting, but felt that this should be done by a delegate in work. Dave Osborne thought it was discriminatory to suggest that a retired member could not chair a meeting if elected and willing to do so.

2. Minutes. The minutes were read and after this correction: **delete** the last sentence of the second paragraph of item **3**, matters arising; "Meanwhile, youth unemployment is rising and Bill Byrd reported a 1999 study that suggests 15% of under 25s who remain unemployed will be dead in ten years." **Insert** "Meanwhile, youth unemployment is rising and Bill Byrd reported a 1999 study in Northern England found 15% of under 25's that remain unemployed were dead within 10 years" are accepted as a correct and true record.

3. Matters arising: The secretary reported that he had emailed the regional office of the RMT asking for a speaker in support of the People's Charter. Lee Skevington said he would contact Paul Sellers at the TUC to speak against it. The upshot is that we don't necessarily get them to speak at the same meeting but to arrange the meetings around their availability.

4 Officers reports: President: no report. The **Secretary** reported that the latest Yeovil TUC newsletter (edition 11) is available for distribution, concern from delegates as to how effectively it is being distributed and the lack of feed back.

The new website is up and running.

Attended the Somerset Association of TUC's held in August 2009 at Unity Hall Yeovil, in line with the SWR TUC working party on Trades Union Councils, that as a way of facilitating the formation of a Trades Union Council for Chard, we hold a future meeting of Yeovil TUC in Chard and contact Colin Rolfe.

Attended a meeting organised by Bridgwater TUC on the Vestas workers occupation. This is about the closure of Britain's on wind turbine blade factory on the Isle of Wight. 600 workers lost their jobs. The company is making a profit, but pulled out because "market conditions" were not good enough in Britain. These workers were none union organised – that 16 workers occupied the factory in an attempt to prevent the closure. Much organising was done by RMT and Climate Camp.

Jobs, Education and Peace demonstration, lobby of the Labour Party Conference, Sunday 27th September 2009, called by UCU, NUT, PCS, NUJ, Right to work, Stop the War Coalition and Unite against Fascism.

5. Local matters & 6. Press release: that we write a letter rather than a press release (a letter to the editor is more likely to be published) to the local press expressing our opposition to cuts in jobs and services by the Conservative majority at Somerset County Council.

7. Correspondence: Report from The United Campaign for repeal of anti-union laws.

8. Any other business. Dave Osborne said that there is a lunch meeting for Columbia Solidarity South West to be held in Plymouth on 3rd October. As this follows immediately after the TUC Regional Council meeting Dave hopes to attend and will report back next month.

Lee Skevington, Labour PPC gave notice of a forthcoming public meeting of Regional CWU Regional Officer, Phil Chadwick with reference to the current dispute at the Royal Mail - Jobs, privatisation and, pensions, wages, pensions and the adverse effects of marketisation will be for the wider public and community.

President _____