

# YEOVIL & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at Unity Hall Yeovil BA20 1JL**

**Present:** Vivian Willis, Unite/Amicus; Dave Osborne, Unite/Amicus; Rex Brown, Unite/Amicus; Bill Byrd, Unite/Amicus; Brian Wadsworth, Unite/Amicus; David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Joe Conway, Unite/TGWU; Dave Symington, Unite/TGWU; Mark Hoskins, PCS; and Ken Keable, Prospect (Visitor).

**1. Apologies:** Lee Skevington, PPC.

**2. Minutes** of the last meeting: Under item 3 insert the following addendum "Yeovil & District Trades Union Council resolves to support the People's Charter and to campaign for it": the minutes are accepted as a correct and true record.

**3. Keith Hatch** tonight's guest speaker was unable to attend due to transport difficulties. Via Dave Osborne, Keith would be happy to be involved with the environmental aspect of the May Day event as this would be conducive with his remit of his work at SWTUC Suggested bands include "Bleeding Hearts and "Who's Afeard". Given May 1<sup>st</sup> is a Saturday, we would have to book a venue sooner rather than later. Proposed a sub-committee comprising Viv Willis, Dave Osborne and Mark Hoskins to meet before the next meeting; the "Orange Box" was suggested by Mark Hoskins, as this would be more appealing to younger people; also contact anyone at the youth Parliament.

**4. Matters arising:** thanks to Mark for writing and getting the Western Gazette to publish a brilliant letter ref. The People's Charter; is the PC being circulated and distributed in the workplaces?

**5. Officer's reports:** The **President** reported on the possible consequences of the recent ordering – partly driven by tabloid populism and because the forces in Afghanistan have said they need more Chinooks to move large numbers of troops around without exposing them to roadside bombs. - by the MOD for 22 Chinook helicopters, built by Boeing – though Agusta/Westland does have a license to build Chinooks; they would not be available for at least another two years. Apparently, an article is to appear in tomorrow's "Times" newspaper on the consequences this could have for Yeovil.

**The Secretary** had submitted a written report of People's Charter Conference to delegates and it is on our website. He gave notice of a National demonstration in defence of the Welfare State, Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 called by the NPC and many Trade Unions; the intention to produce the next Yeovil TUC newsletter in time for the next meeting; Somerset Racial Equality Council are organising a "Love Music hate racism" event at The Royal George, West Coker on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010, we make contact with Kira McCoy at SREC.

**The Treasurer** reported that the current account stands at £900.06p minus Viv's travel expenses of £20 for transport to the People's Charter Conference= £880.06p. The bill for room rent has not come in yet.

**6. Local matters:** The secretary reported on an article in today's "Guardian" giving a breakdown of GCSE exam results show that pupils from disadvantaged rural areas are among the lowest scoring in the country, e.g. in Somerset only 28% of teenagers get five good GCSE's; the secretary writes to schools minister, Jim Knight.

**7. Press release:** That we support the Somerset Racial Equality Council event.

**8. Correspondence:** SW Regional Council Annual Conference, Unison Holiday Centre, Croyde Bay, North Devon from 10:30am Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April until 1pm Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010; all nominations to be in by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Full delegate fee £115.

**AGM** of Local Trades Union Councils at The New Library, Paul Street, Taunton 10.30 – 12.30 Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 nominations and resolutions to be in by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Our delegates will be Viv Willis and Dave Osborne.

**Cuba Solidarity Campaign** re-affiliation, the meeting agreed to re-affiliate, local organisations and TU Branches £40.

**SWTUC Pensioners Conference** The Winter Gardens, Weston-Super-Mare, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010 from 10:30am until 15:30. Closing date for resolutions 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010; £12 delegate's fee and David Kingdon will be our delegate.

**Cuba Solidarity Campaign:** received from CSC notice for re-affiliation. Given that "affiliations" is an item for the AGM, we will decide then.

**9. Any other business:** Yeovil and Sherborne Stop the War Coalition will be holding a vigil at the War Memorial at the Borough, Yeovil on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, to commemorate the 100 British forces personnel who have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

**President** \_\_\_\_\_