

# YEOVIL & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
at Unity Hall Central Road Yeovil BA20 1JL**

**Present:** Joe Conway, Unite; David Symington, Unite; Viv Willis, Unite; Dave Osborne, Unite; Bill Byrd, Unite; Brian Wadsworth, Unite; Brian Macrae, Unite; David Kingdon, Unite; Andy Dowland, Unison; Mark Hoskins, PCS; and Ken Keable, Prospect (Visitor).

**1. Apologies:** Rex Brown Unite/Amicus and PPC, Lee Skevington.

**2. Minutes** of The Annual General meeting and the regular monthly meeting were read and accepted as a correct and true record.

**3. Matters arising:** The Sodexo dispute - North Devon District Hospital: that more than 200 UNISON members - hospital cleaners, porters and cooks - went on strike in the dispute over the local NHS Trust's refusal to enact the national agreement under Agenda for Change (A4C) ensuring "no less favourable" terms and conditions for contracted-out workers, including sick pay, overtime rates and weekend working rates, which resulted with a favourable agreement. The secretary will write to them congratulating them in securing a victory.

**4. Officers reports:** The **President** reported on the outsourcing of the stores at Agusta/Westland, talks are ongoing to obtain the best severance package. Joe gave recognition to Mike Northcott's knowledge and understanding of pensions, which would be crucial to securing a pensions deal.

If Chinooks could be built in Yeovil, they would need to be flying by 2012, therefore more likely "bought off the shelf" from Boeing.

The **Secretary** reported on developments with the May Day event. Viv Willis and Mark Hoskins met up with Jamie Ryall from the band Tumbleweed, that they were up for it and would attempt to get a couple of more bands to take part, and be involved with promotion of the event. We still need delegates to help with organisation on the night. Security concerns over under 18's, that we hire professional security staff for the night, we make inquiries for quotes. We complete an application to the Trades Union Councils development fund to this effect.

Convention of the Left event 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 10am until 1700 at the Easton Community Centre, Viv Willis is our delegate.

2010 Trades Union Councils' Conference, Blackpool starting on then morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May and finishing 2:30pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, confirmed Viv Willis as our delegate.

Somerset Association of Trades Union Councils meeting here – Unity Hall, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February. We need to raise concern about progress on The People's Charter and cuts in public services; bankers should pay for the crisis not ordinary people.

The **Treasurer** reported that after recent secretary's expenses and affiliation to South West TUC the current account stands at £638:35 in credit. No other **Delegate's** report.

**5. Local matters:** Bill Byrd reported that the Yeovil 50+ group agreed to take part in organising transport to the forthcoming national demonstration, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in Central London in defence of the welfare state.  
<http://www.10410demo.co.uk/>

Mark Hoskins reported that the main HMRC Office will close soon, but an enquiry centre will stay open. The Government wants to change the severance package for Civil Servants as part of public spending cuts.

**6: Press release:** as and when more details are confirmed in reference to the May Day event.

**7. Correspondence:** Latest copy of Cuba Solidarity news update.

**8. AOB:** Bill Byrd asked people for leafleting for Lee Skevington will take place Saturday Morning, meet here at 11am.

An Evening with former Labour Cabinet Minister, politician and campaigner, Tony Benn, will be appearing at the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will endeavour to have the banner and a stall at this event, Mark Hoskins to Contact Tony Benn and the theatre for their approval.

President\_\_\_\_\_