

YEovil & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 17th March 2010
at Unity Hall Central Road Yeovil BA20 1JL**

Present: Joe Conway, Unite/TGWU; David Symington, Unite/TGWU; Viv Willis, Unite/Amicus; Dave Osborne, Unite/Amicus; Bill Byrd, Unite/Amicus; Brian Wadsworth, Unite/Amicus; David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Andy Dowland, Unison; Mark Hoskins, PCS; and John Burbidge (Visitor).

1. Apologies: Brian Macrae; Unite; and Ken Keable (Prospect, visitor)

2. Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as a correct and true record.

3. Matters arising: none.

4. May Day event: We make enquires ref. Security – for 2 people would cost around £150. Need to get the posters and tickets ready for sale, 4 bands featuring: Tumbleweed, King Tuts revenge, Undertryke and the Switch. Suggest a prize draw? A Facebook site has been set up “Yeovil TUC May Day event”. Donations were invited from Branches to help meet the cost of security.

Completed and posted the application form for the TUC development grant for May Day event.

5. Officers reports: The **President** made no report.

The **Secretary** attended the SWTUC AGM of Trades Union Councils in Taunton 6th March: the meeting was probably the best that has been held for many years; Cornwall Trade Union alliance, Nigel Costly gave an update on the developments to give a common voice to Trades Unions across the County; The Region had gained 2 new Trades Union Councils – Weston & North Somerset TUC and White Horse (Wiltshire) ; 2 motions, one from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole TUC basically calling for the General Council to develop a programme of education for Trades Unionists of their political history – to encourage working people at all levels within society; and one from Bridgwater focussing mainly on the SWTUC working party on Trades Union Councils, including To identify and help the establishment or re-establishment of new or struggling/defunct TUC's To publish a Trades Union Council information leaflet, to create interest in our TUC's, and increase branch affiliations and delegates.

Read out a letter to the Sodexo Unison Branch in North Devon re the success of their recent dispute.

Booked 2 nights accommodation for delegate to the Annual Conference of Trades Union Councils 15th May Blackpool.

Attended the Conference of the Left at The Easton Community Centre in Bristol, with about 150 people in attendance: The event was covered by “Indymedia” covering many topics including the economy – recession, unemployment, Public sector cuts, described by Respect PPC and Unity GS candidate, Jerry Hicks, as “The axes of evil” and the banking crisis; War & Peace in the Middle East number 1 issue for peace in the world; John Drake of the FBU gave a very interesting talk on his recent exchange visit with fire fighters in Nablus; the growth of the far right, BNP, EDL, UKIP etc – parties hostile to Trade Unions. The event had speakers from Trade Unions, The Labour Party, Green Party, Respect, Socialist Party, and Socialist Workers Party. There was a summing up at the end – “We have no enemies, accept the 1% that own us” Sessions I attended concluded that the Conservatives don't get elected, and to vote for viable Left Candidates.

Somerset Association of Trades Union Councils met on 18th February. The meeting discussed plans for a meeting on political representation of the working class. Agenda to include 30 years of neo-liberalism (alienation of

workers because of MPs expenses and the excesses of banking fat cats); getting people to stand for election; the rise of the far right. Also discussed the problems caused by cuts in public services.

The **Treasurer** reported that the current account stands at £595:25p in credit, before tonight's transactions.

Delegates: This years delegates to SWTUC Pensioners Conference are Bill Byrd and Dave Kingdon £6 each delegation fee.

Dave Osborne gave a report on the recent TUC Safer at Work conference:

SWTUC: Dave Osborne expressed concern at the affect any "cuts" would have on Health & Safety staff on doing their work, particularly on vulnerable and agency workers; and the new "Fit note" – that a GP can certify a worker fit for work, as to hitherto being unfit for work.

6. Local Matters. Rafel Skarbek, of the East European Community Association, gave a talk on the serious issues affecting migrant agency workers www.polishsomerset.com .

It was noted that the fascist BNP have been leafleting in the Central ward. Delegates felt that after Rafel's talk, migrants are given information about them; and the rise of race hate crime.

The secretary attended the inaugural meeting of "1 Love" live music event to be held over the weekend of August 2010. Organised by Kira Mccoy of the Somerset Racial Equality Council; We get involved.

Andy Dowland reported on the latest pay package offered to workers at the hospital, but the Trust did threaten a pay freeze, however, concluding with a 2.45% rise over three years, with a bit more for lower paid.

Mark Hoskins gave an update on the PCS national dispute.

7. Press release: None

8. Correspondence. None.

9. Any other business: A reminder of the www.10410.org.uk defend the welfare state demonstration Central London Saturday 10th April 2010.

Sherborne Palestine Support Group, has a speaker at the Methodist Hall, Cheap Street Sherborne, Thursday 18th April 2010, topic "What you don't know about Islam (and would like to find out)

Dr Hammadi Nait-Charif, senior lecturer at Bournemouth University, will give an introduction to Islam, followed by an interactive session in which the audience will be invited to participate. Come along and ask the questions you have always wanted answered.

President _____