

# YEovil & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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**Minutes** of the **Meeting** held Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Unity Hall Yeovil BA20 1JL

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

**1. Apologies:** David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Brian Macrae, Unite/ Amicus; Chriss Dennett, Unite/Amicus and Andy Dowland, Unison.

**2. Minutes** of the last meeting: Present, delete "Andy Wilkings" insert "Andy Wilkins", under "Other reports" after "Andy" insert "Wilkins".

Delete the second sentence of **Secretary's** report; "500 leaflets HOPE NOT HATE anti BNP leaflets was ordered but the group couldn't meet the full order". Insert "1500 leaflets HOPE NOT HATE anti BNP leaflets were ordered but only got 800".

After these corrections, the minutes are accepted as a correct and true record.

**3. Matters arising:** The meeting agreed to a donation of £50 to Defend Council Housing and a £50 donation to anti-fascist organisation, Searchlight South West. A vigorous debate was had about the Labour Government and Party following the European and County Council Elections.

Under matter arising, May Day event, remaining campaigning materials are stored in the top cupboard in the Labour Party office.

Under **President's** report, the coach for the Tolpuddle event will leave Unity Hall Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 11 am, provisionally, 20 names have been taken at the meeting reserving places. Anyone wishing to book a place, contact Joe Conway (contact details at top of page).

**4. Report on anti-fascist BNP campaign:** the BNP contested six County divisions in Somerset, three in the Yeovil constituency, Chard South, Chard North and Yeovil North and Central; about 80% of households in the Yeovil North and Central division were leafleted; the Chard divisions were covered in two Saturdays with a "whiteboard" invited people to write expressing opposition to the fascists, this was well supported by Unison South West; new contacts were made, with the Green Party and Liberal Democrats. The BNP did not make any breakthrough in Somerset, that the campaign and contacts are kept "live"; the following resolution be on the agenda of the next Somerset Association of Trades Union Councils: "Somerset Association of Trades Union Councils campaigns against the fascist BNP" The campaigning gave Yeovil TUC publicity and profile.

**5. Officers reports: President:** no report. **Secretary:** no report. **Treasurer:** After payment of agreed donations and expenses for National Trades Council AGM, the balance of our account is £1,134.06.

**Delegate report Trades Union Councils National AGM:** Dave Osborne said there was some controversy about holding the AGM in a town that has no Trades Council but it is hoped the publicity will help get on re-established. The anti-racist rally on the opening evening did attract some non-delegates from the local area. There were some good speakers and interesting workshops but there was concern about the future of any motions other than the one put forward to Congress. Dave Chapple hoped to

have a debate about the format of future AGMs at the next SATUC meeting. A written report of the weekend is posted on our website.

**SWTUC Pensioners report:** Brian Wadsworth reported that there were no MPs attending. A spokes person from Age Concern gave a talk. Concerns about bus passes; a call from Unite for the state pension to be raised to £165 per week; and concern about the post code "lottery" for NHS treatment.

**6. Local matters:** Yeovil 50+ forum plan to have a stall at a future event at the band stand in Middle Street, we have a stall as well. The next meeting will be held 14:00 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at the South Street Centre, and speaker will be Roger Redman, giving a talk on the Council Tax. Our latest newsletter was circulated.

Unions at Agusta/Westland registered a "Failure to agree" over the company's pay "freeze" policy.

PCS at HMRC are balloting for industrial action against job cuts.

**7. Press release:** On the Tolpuddle Martyr's Festival – 175 Anniversary Commemoration - from Friday evening 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. We are organising transport for members wishing to travel on the Coach that leaves Yeovil Labour Club at 11am Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**8. Correspondence:** United Campaign for the repeal of anti-union laws annual report. The Campaign has 25 National Union affiliates, though branch affiliations had fallen from 155 to 133 while there was a increase of Trades Union Council affiliates from 27 to 44. The report included an annual financial report.

From the Labour Research Department, a booklet entitled "Unions and Climate Change"  
Scientists have demonstrated that climate change is a serious threat to eco-systems and human society.

The IPPC's (International Panel on Climate Change) Fourth assessment report (2007) that warming of the climate system is **unequivocal** based on direct observation.

A recent Tyndall Centre report found that carbon emissions have risen faster than anyone thought possible since 2000. It concluded that current policies will not cut emissions fast enough to prevent breaching the 2°C threshold of "dangerous" climate change.

**9. Any other business:** None.

President \_\_\_\_\_