

# YEOVIL & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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[www.yeoviltuc.org.uk](http://www.yeoviltuc.org.uk)

**Minutes** of the **Meeting** held Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Unity Hall Yeovil BA20 1JL

**Present:** Dave Osborne, Unite/Amicus; Vivian Willis, Unite/Amicus; Brian Wadsworth, Unite/Amicus; Brian Macrae, Unite/Amicus; Bill Byrd, Unite/Amicus; David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Dave Symington, Unite/TGWU; Mark Hoskins, PCS; Peter Joyce, Unison (Health); Ken Keable, Prospect (Visitor) and John Burbidge (Visitor).

**1. Apologies:** Joe Conway, Unite/TGWU. At this Juncture, Peter Joyce, our Vice President chaired the meeting.

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

**3. May Day event:** sold about 75 tickets. It was a very good event, but how could we convey our message better? Very few people were interested in the stall. In future we have a better display of images during the gig. The event is certainly something to build on, and it was successful in drawing in young people. We book the hall for the nearest Friday night to May Day 2011. We received donations from branches for the event amounting to £80. We took £242 in cash sales for tickets, £50 bar bill as agreed to members of the bands, £20 for Morning Star advert; making a profit of £117.

**4. Matters arising:** Item 3, second paragraph: PCS was this week successful in achieving a successful High Court action over redundancy pay for Civil Servants

Item 6, second paragraph: Received a reply from Rafal Skarbek from The Midwest European Communities Association, [www.polskisomerset.com](http://www.polskisomerset.com) thanking us for our letter offering our condolences to the loss of life of the Polish President and other leading Polish eminent people during a plane crash at Smolensk.

Item 7, press release was made ref. Post May Day event, although nobody saw anything in the local press.

**5. Officers reports: President,** no report. The **Vice-President** expressed concern for the future of the NHS, given the LIB-CON government's public sector cuts agenda. The meeting expressed a feeling of betrayal by the Liberal Democrats coalescing with the Conservatives, the majority of voters did not vote Conservative; David Laws supported local demonstrations opposing local Post Office closures, while advocating neo-liberalism as outlined in his book "The orange book" The meeting discussed the possibility of a public meeting on the cuts agenda, the cuts all well under way, with the closure of the Tax office, and school breakfasts. There needs to be a local cuts campaign; we need to get contacts with local government and teaching unions. The following resolution was passed: "We (Yeovil & District Trades Union Council) agree in principle to campaign locally against cuts in public services and jobs"

The **Secretary** had submitted a written detailed report (available on our website) on the Annual Conference of Trades Union Council, Blackpool, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Much of the report focussed on the General election result; that many people voted "tactically" for the Liberal Democrats as the best option to keep out or remove Conservative candidates; and the reactionary and cost cutting policies of the LIB-CON coalition Government. All resolutions submitted were accepted; an emergency resolution-Defending Public services was very poignant. Motion 6, calling for the repeal of anti-union laws won the ballot for submission at this year's TUC Congress; however I voted for motion 19, Defence of Radical, working class and publically subsidised arts, from Somerset Association of Trades Union Councils.

The **Treasurer** had received affiliation from TGWO Region 2, £85, bringing the balance to £1082.42 in credit.

**Delegates:** Dave Osborne gave a report on the SWTUC AGM (Available on the website); all motions were passed; The People's Charter remains controversial, what is the position of Unite on it? Concern that many SME's can't get finance from the banks; recent court victory for the Civil Servants compensation scheme was very welcome; John Drake of the FBU was elected Chair of the Regional Council, Vicky Nash, Vice-Chair; delivered HNH leaflets in Broughton.

**6. Local matters:** The meeting expressed thanks to everyone who helped deliver 8500 "Hope not Hate" newspapers against the fascist BNP; a special thanks to Lee Skevington, Labour PPC for refusing to share a

platform with the fascist candidate. Lee indicated that he wishes to be Labour PPC at the next General Election, and wishes to stand as a Labour Candidate in next year's District Council Elections.

It was noted that the CLP would be holding a stall on fresher's day, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Yeovil College. We make enquiries to this effect.

Viv Willis had attended an organising committee meeting of the "1 Love" music respect event to be held out Hardington Mandeville Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August, we get involved.

### **7. Press release: Trade Unions to Coordinate Fight Against Cuts:**

Yeovil & District Trades Union Council agreed at their May meeting to offer help to any local groups involved in fighting cuts to services and jobs. Inevitable cuts will follow thick and fast as a result of the Con-Dem coalition which will disproportionately affect people on modest incomes.

Many Lib-Dem voters feel angry and betrayed by this coalition which has already signalled a preference to court big business rather than ordinary people. There is a very real fear that the dark days of Thatcherism will return with savage cuts affecting the young, the elderly, the disadvantaged and working people. The Liberal Democrats are very much junior partners in this alliance and if they feel they will be in a position to temper the excesses of this new government I fear they are badly misguided.

There is no question that the bail out of the financial crisis caused by the failure of neo-liberal economics and the greed of bankers has to be repaid. However, the big choice to be made is who will pay? The indications are that those in a position who can least afford it will suffer most.

Yeovil & District TUC have among their delegates a wealth of knowledge and experience in industrial and community campaigns both at local and national level and have committed to assist any organisation or group of people involved in defending cuts in jobs or services'. For more details see [www.yeoviltuc.org.uk](http://www.yeoviltuc.org.uk)

**8. Correspondence:** From the United Campaign re-affiliation £35.

Notice of the AGM of the Yeovil Labour Institute Society will be held Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, here at Unity Hall.

**9. Any other business:** none.

President \_\_\_\_\_