

YEovil & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 19th November 2009 at Unity Hall Yeovil BA20 1JL

Present: Joe Conway, Unite/TGWU; Neil Ware, Unite/TGWU; Dave Symington, Unite/TGWU; Mark Hoskins, PCS; Vivian Willis, Unite/Amicus; Brian Macrae, Unite/Amicus; Brian Wadsworth, Unite/Amicus; Rex Brown, Unite/Amicus; Bill Byrd, Unite/Amicus; Dave Osborne, Unite/Amicus; David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Joe Conway, Unite/TGWU; Peter Joyce, Unison; Tony Watts, CWU; Nick Quirk, RMT (tonight's speaker); Ken Keable, visitor (Prospect); and John Burbidge, visitor.

1. Apologies: None.

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

3. Tonight's guest speaker, Nick Quirk, SW Region rep on the RMT NEC, gave a brief overview of issues and disputes affecting his membership in the SW, and in context, how the PC could restore union rights. Nick then gave a talk on the People's Charter (PC). Nick said the TUC supports the PC following a Unite amendment at this year's TUC Conference to "promote progressive change through the Labour Party". The PC lays the basis for change. The press reports that the recession will last until 2017; business/capitalism is using the banking crisis to push through job cuts, close down pension schemes etc. The PC calls for Councils to build Council Houses – this would help the economy. It would return energy, transport, water and telecommunications back into public ownership. The PC also calls to end the cost of war in blood and money, scrapping Trident renewal. It is a tragedy that the Vestas wind turbine Factory on the Isle of Wight closed down at a time for urgency on alternative energy supply.

The PC aims to get one million signatures, to be handed in to 10 Downing Street. It was hoped that the PC Conference on Saturday 21st November 2009 would give a clearer direction and, the consequences of the Conservatives forming the next Government. The PC would support candidates like John McDonnell MP. Nick said that people have not heard of the PC; we need to promote it for it to enter the main stream, getting it into the workplaces, amongst the wider membership and the street. The PC is an alternative to the media-three party neo-liberal consensus. We must contact MP's and PPC's on the six points of the People's Charter – do they support it? The present voting system is failing voters and is causing disillusionment – it is worth recalling the original six points of the original Chartists; that politicians are *managing* us and not representing us.

4. Matters arising: The GKN Structures external conference has been postponed ref. Redundancies. Cuba cards sold tonight made £26.

5. Officers reports. The **President** reported on the above.

The **Secretary** reported on the meeting held on Thursday 12 November in Chard reference the formation of Chard and District TUC with Bros, Bill Byrd and Dave Osborne from Yeovil and Colin Rolfe and Belinda Burton from Chard. Belinda and Colin agreed to target local branches and work places about the proposal; put this in the next Yeovil TUC newsletter; get to Colin and Belinda a copy of the TUC's programme of work 2009-10; to promote it with the aim of a formal launch meeting in January 2010; Yeovil TUC donates £25 to them and they apply for the TUC's grant. The **Treasurer** reported that the current account stands at £ 874:06 minus £120 room rent = £774:06

6. Local matters: Concern over cuts to patient transport services in Somerset.

7. Press release: The press officer writes to the *Western Gazette* on the talk given by Nick Quirk on the People's Charter, and asking people to sign it.

8. Correspondence: From the TUC, registration form for 2010, to be returned by Friday 29th January 2010.

9. Any other business: Dave Osborne to Contact Keith Hatch to com to the next meeting, about the May Day event.

President _____