

YEovil & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL



President: Joe Conway 01935 429813 joe.conway@agustawestland.com

Secretary: Vivian Willis 07855 320041 vivianvjw@aol.com

Treasurer: Dave Osborne 01935 472661 oz_yeovil@hotmail.com

Press Officer: Mark Hoskins 01935 413292 mark_hoskins24@hotmail.com

www.yeoviltuc.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 21ST July 2010 at Unity Hall Yeovil BA20 1JL

Present: Dave Osborne, Unite/Amicus; Vivian Willis, Unite/Amicus; Brian Wadsworth, Unite/Amicus; Rex Brown, Unite/Amicus; David Kingdon, Unite/Amicus; Bill Byrd, Unite/Amicus; Joe Conway, Unite/TGWU; Mark Hoskins, PCS; Andy Wilkins, Unite (Visitor); John Burbidge, Unite (Visitor); Ali Chown, NUT (Visitor) and Ken Keable, Prospect (Visitor).

1. Apologies: Brian Macrae, Unite; Dave Symington, Unite; Mark Lambden, Unite and Jim Thomson NUT (Visitor)

2. Minutes: after the following correction in item 5, Treasurer's report, delete "The **Treasurer** reported that Dave Kingdon returned the cheque for £12 affiliation to the SWTUC Annual Pensioners Conference, as he was unable to attend it." And insert "The **Treasurer** reported that Dave Bro Kingdon *repaid* Yeovil TUC the sum of £12 as the delegates fee of £12 was paid to the SWTUC Annual Pensioners Conference, as he could not attend it." The minutes are accepted as a correct and true record.

3. Matters arising: it was emphasised at the meeting that given the recent increase in visitors, only *bona fide* delegates may vote and nominate.

The Peoples Charter should be a prominent feature in the cuts campaign and offers up a possible way forward. Following up from the recent Public meeting on the cuts advocated by the LIB-CON Government, a sub-committee be set up to organise and co-ordinate with local progressive groups and communities affected by them. The meeting agreed that the logical step would be to call a meeting of the Somerset Association of Trades Union Councils, given the recent demonstration called by Somerset County Unison branch and their newsletter "Scoop" that gave detailed coverage of the cuts programme initiated by the Conservative Somerset County Council; SCC has called for voluntary redundancies, about 800 people have responded. It was noted that Ben Hartshorn of the local Green Party wrote a very good letter to the *Western Gazette*. We make contact with him. An essential part of the campaign would include producing a quality and eloquent leaflet giving explanation what public services and provision are; compile a list of local schools applying for 'Academy' status. The civil service union PCS has produced a leaflet giving a cogent alternative to cuts (See latest Yeovil TUC newsletter 13).

Other concerns included a 20% reduction in road repairs and the sale of SCC farms (Which began 20 years ago by the Liberal Democrats).

4. Tolpuddle event: the meeting wished to express thanks to the SWTUC and everyone involved for organising a great event. Lots of people of different ages, there were a lot of people there on the Saturday. Must be the biggest attendance for many years, including participants in the march. It was noted there were many RMT banners.

5. Officers reports: The **President** made no report; The **Secretary** reported that "The Right to Work" campaign <http://sites.google.com/site/righttoworkconference/> is calling for a mass demonstration outside the Conservative Conference, Birmingham Sunday 3rd October; the ETUC is calling for a Pan-European day of action against the "Austerity measures" on Wednesday 23rd September 2010; received cheque for £300 from the TUC development grant; and the latest newsletter 13 is currently available in hard copy and on http://www.yeoviltuc.org.uk/?newsletter_4 .

The **Treasurer** reported that we paid a £20 affiliation to the National Shop Stewards Network, and with the £300 development grant brings the balance to £1414:17p. The meeting agreed that an initiative ought be taken between us, The YLIS and the CLP to upgrade the photo copier/printer.

Dave Osborne our **SWTUC Delegate** presented a written report and read out highlights: Some delegates expressed the view that the Peoples Charter was "Nebulus and luke warm" with some unions and delegates opposed to it, what is the Labour Party leadership contenders position on the PC? The Regional Development Agency is under threat, likely to be closed down; feedback from the SWTUC Pensioners Conference that motions must go through the appropriate Trade Union. Did anyone vote for the cuts? And the rise in VAT, etc. This was not

it any General Election manifesto. A call was made to promote the value of public services. There is strong opposition to Conservative Prime Minister, David Cameron giving a guest speech to this year's TUC congress.

6. Press release: Giving details, and our support for the Tolpuddle event.

7. Correspondence: receipt from the United Campaign for repeal of anti-union laws.

8. Any other business: recognition from the meeting to Jim Tompson, a local NUT rep who had a letter published in the *Western Gazette* on issues affecting education and particularly, academies.

Also recognition to SWTUC Secretary, Nigel Costly, for his detailed statistics in *Western Gazette* on the levels of unemployment in the Towns of Somerset.

We have been given space on one of the notice boards at Unity Hall to display Trades Council information but we cannot get access. The Chair agreed to locate a key.

Given that the latest Yeovil TUC newsletter is out and available, is it getting around the workplaces? Is there any known feedback? And, are people getting signatures for the Peoples Charter?

President _____