



MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH. MAY TONY BENN HOUSE

Simon Crew, President, opened the meeting by welcoming new delegates, made reference to the recent local elections, the International Workers' Memorial Day and May Day events.

22/19 ATTENDANCE

Officers Simon Crew, Unite, (President), Hugh Kirkbride, Unite, (Vice-President), A. Robertson, RMT (Secretary), Tom Mewies, PCS, (Treasurer), Alex Kempshall, Unite, (Communications Officer)

Delegates PCS (1) and Unite (8)

23/19 APOLOGIES RMT (1), NEU (1), UCU (1), NUJ (1) and Unite(2)

24/19 Minutes of meeting held on 24TH. April 2019 were read and agreed as a correct record.

25/19 MATTERS ARISING

53/18 University of Bristol Court. Awaiting final document regarding new proposals.

Clarification is still awaited.

26/19 REPORTS

(i) International Workers Memorial Day, Sunday, 28th. April

It was felt that more information prior to the event needs to go out and perhaps we need to look at the format.

Jim Wheelen, Unite Road Transport and Kay Timbrell, USDAW spoke very well and were joined by Brendan Kelly, RMT Regional Organiser, Roger Thomas, PCS and Simon Chapman, NUJ. Simon Crew, President officiated.

-2-

(ii) May Day

At the Rally following the March around Broadmead led by the Musicians Union marching band speakers from the Bristol's Kurdish Solidarity Network brought a message of support highlighting that May Day is an historical day for the working class and has great importance for the revolutionary movement worldwide. The message asked for the rally's solidarity in support of thousands of people across the world who are on hunger strike calling for an end to the isolation of imprisoned Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish people's elected representative in the peace process.

Chair of the Bristol branch of NUJ spoke about the recent death of Lyra McKee and reminded all about the dangerous circumstances that journalists can find themselves in when trying to do their job.

Roger Thomas (PCS) demanded that the first thing on the order book of an incoming labour government must be to get rid of all anti trade union legislation and that trade unions must fight to ensure that pledge is actually honoured.

Nicola Bowden-Jones, the Prospective Parliamentary Labour Party candidate for Kingswood, also spoke about the need to protect the rights of workers when she said that Labour will give equal rights from day one whether full time, part time or temporary protecting workers from discrimination.

Steve Turner, Assistant General Secretary of Unite the Union opened by exclaiming how fantastic it was to be holding a demonstration for May Day on May Day and went on to say that it is really important to recognise, and remind all, that May Day is Labour Day. Steve reminded those at the rally that 133 years ago, on May 1st, Chicago mounted police tore apart striking workers and mowed down people with many workers being killed. Steve said that as a consequence of that demonstration, in Chicago, we got May Day.

Steve said that we must never forget our history. He spoke about the struggles taking place in Bristol at the same time as the police attack on workers in Chicago. In particular Steve mentioned the Bristol gas workers, mainly women, fighting for an 8 hour day, they went on strike along with others in London and Manchester and won the 8 hour day and better rates of pay.

He said that organised labour have always recognised that as individuals we can do very little to improve our conditions whether that be at work, a decent home, a health service, free education, an end to fuel poverty and pensioner poverty, an end to zero hour contracts or the raising of collective bargaining to replace the pittance of a minimum wage. The Assistant General Secretary of Unite the Union said that whatever the struggle we do it collectively and we do it in a united way through our trade unions and that it's incredible important we never forget that we are stronger together than we're ever be divided and apart.

In remarking on the local elections taking place the next day, Steve said that we must take these battles into the political arena as well. For all those people who feel

abandoned by politics, not listened to, it's our duty to fight against the far right. He asked everybody at the rally to take a message back into their workplaces to defeat the rise of the very dangerous divisive, hateful and spiteful message of division and racism.

Steve asked those at the rally take the message back into your homes, into your workplaces on to the buses and back into your communities that it's only when we're well organised, when we're standing in unity together, black and white, men and women, gay and straight. It doesn't matter who you are the struggle is your struggle of working class politics to better and improve society for all of us.

Steve concluded that under a Jeremy Corbyn Labour government that's exactly what we strive to do. It's not about the individual it's about all of us winning the politics of ideas to build a better society, a fairer economy, a better politics that engages and involves all of us in building a better fairer society and a better world.

A discussion followed the reports and it was felt that although Leaflets have been produced advertising the events and both events have been advertised on the Bristol TUC and SWTUC websites, it would have been useful to had leaflets to hand out on the May Day March. This was the original idea but we did not have time to produce one, we need to plan for these events months in advance.

Although both events had been successful there appears to be a lack of Labour Party support and we should consider approaching the Peoples' Assembly, ACORN, BADACA, Extinction Rebellion and the Green Party to participate. We could also look at holding the May Day event on a Saturday.

Other ideas included having a May Day banner and lightweight flags. We should seek commitments and funding from other 2 wings of the labour movement – the Co-operative and Labour parties.

(iii) SWRTUC Executive

Simon Crew gave a report on his first Executive meeting which included;

- Update of the number of applicants for the "Future Leaders Programme. At the time of the report there were only 6 applicants therefore it was agreed to shorten the Course.
- Living Wage campaign. Appears to be difficulties obtaining support from the West of England combined Authority as all 4 Authorities would need to support.
- Creative Unions' Initiative to be launched in June and Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival in July
- Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival preparations include organising various Workshops and fringe meetings. There will be International speakers.

- Reports of various Trades Councils' activities around May day and IWMD were given by the TUCJCC Representative.

27/19 CORRESPONDENCE

TUC

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT – APRIL

2019 TRADES UNION COUNCILS CONFERENCE - PROPOSED COMPOSITE C1
PUBLIC TRANSPORT – RESPONSE REQUIRED BY 7TH. JUNE

Agreed to advise of support.

SWTUC

TRADE UNION REPRESENTATION IN BRISTOL

28/19 AOB

It was reported that Tom Mewies, Brian Mead and Daryl Collins were elected as Labour and Co-op Party Councillors in the local elections in S. Gloucestershire.

In closing the meeting Simon Crew gave his apologies for the June Meeting as he will be attending the Unite the Union Rules Change Conference.