



## **MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup>. JULY 2019 TONY BENN HOUSE**

**38/19** In the absence Simon Crew, President, Hugh Kirkbride, Vice President chaired the meeting.

### **39/19 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 (2)

**40/19 APOLOGIES** RMT (1), NUJ (1), PCS (1), UCU (1) and Unite (2)

**41/19 Minutes of meeting** held on 26<sup>th</sup>. June 2019 were read and agreed as a correct record.

### **42/19 MATTERS ARISING**

37/19 Next Climate Change Strike will be on 20<sup>th</sup>. September

45/19 Tolpuddle 2019. It was reported that there was a massive attendance this year.

### **43/19 REPORTS**

(i) Simon Crew supplemented his Written Report of the 2019 Trades Councils Conference, 8-9<sup>th</sup>. June held in Bournemouth with the following comments;

The largest debate at Conference was on which motion should go to 2019 Congress;

1. To give Trades Councils a bigger voice in Congress and 2. a composite motion calling for a formal apology for Jallianwala (Armitisar) Massacre in 1919 and similar atrocities throughout the British Empire, and for the school curriculum to cover the full impact of imperial and colonial history. The motion for a stronger voice in Congress was selected to go forward by 21 votes to 16.

Sheffield Trades Union Council will be employing someone to campaign on the “gig economy”

(ii) A Unite delegate reported that the NEU are organising a joint meeting with the National Pensioners' Forum re Green issues and that Age concern are campaigning for Free BBC License for over 75's.

(iii) SW TUC Regional Council. Simon Crew reported matters discussed at the meeting included;

Launch of the Creative Trade Unions Campaign. Unions involved included NUJ, BECTU and PCS, a Parliamentary Report was given by Thangam Debbonaire, Labour MP for Bristol West, Climate Change and the need to encourage workplace meetings.

Arising from the report by a Unite delegate it was felt that more clarity and evidence was required regarding climate change. A number of delegates gave examples of evidence including the melting of the permafrost, rising sea levels, plants and insects thriving in northern countries for the first time. It was felt that a small number of companies are producing the majority of pollutants and these should be the target of organisations such as Extinction Rebellion (XR). This is a Trade Union issue given the impact on jobs brought about by new technology and changes in manufacturing processes when seeking changes.

Simon then reported that issues discussed at the Strategy Day event included; Developing Trades Union Councils, Climate Emergency, Tackling the Far Right and Cornwall Trades Council's event to be held on 31<sup>st</sup>. August commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the South Crofty Tin Miners' Strike.

#### **44/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Congress House

Invoice £53.90 re Annual Conference Pooled Fare

2. University of Bristol - Update from Court Reform Steering Group

Secretary reported that he received an email at the end of June from the University informing him that we are entitled to one delegate and a nomination was required by the 1<sup>st</sup>. August 2019. After consultation with the current members of the UOB Court it was agreed that the President (Simon Crew) should continue in the role as the representative and he informed the University and received confirmation and acceptance. He then received a copy of correspondence the SWRTUC Secretary had received inviting them to forward a name. After discussion with the SWRTUC It was agreed they would also support Simon. Following other confusing correspondence the Secretary contacted the UOB and it appears that the Trade Unions have in fact now been allocated two seats. They were under the mistaken impression that the Trades Council and SWTUC had merged!!

Secretary has written to both the UOB and the SWTUC stressing that Bristol Trades Union Council's nomination under its own right is Simon Crew. It will now be up to the SWTUC to nominate its own Representative.

Secretary's actions were endorsed.

Cuba Solidarity Campaign

Unions for Cuba Conference – Saturday, 2 November 2019 noted

Cuba *Si* Magazine - Summer 2019 noted

Shrewsbury 24 Update for Trades Councils noted

Acorn – Crowdfunder Appeal Agreed to donate £50

Banner Theatre Current Productions noted

#### **45/19 AOB**

It was reported that Unite Community Branch have organised an event protesting Universal Credit

Being no further business the meeting closed at 2045