



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON
30TH. OCTOBER 2019
TONY BENN HOUSE**

Apologies: RMT (1), Unite (6) and PCS (1)

Present: Simon Crew (President - UNITE), Hugh Kirkbride (Vice-President – UNITE) and delegates from NEU (1), PCS (1), CWU (2), UCU (1) and Unite (3)

President's Announcement:

The President informed the meeting that our former President, Mike Langley, had died, and gave details of the funeral. Delegates stood in silence in his memory.

Regular delegates will be informed of any transport arrangements to the funeral.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

These were unanimously agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

The President will ascertain who the speaker, on climate change, for the November meeting.

Reports:

SWTUC: Our delegate reported on the speech by Luke Pollard (Labour MP in Plymouth), but said there were no other new issues to report.

Unite Reps Seminar:

The President reported on this and confirmed that a couple of Unite branches had agreed to re-affiliate.

Boston Tea Party:

Unite has pointed out the hypocrisy of Boston Tea Party pretending to be an ethical company given its labour practices. This may be followed by some action, which the Trades Council has agreed to support. Hugh Kirkbride to contact the relevant Unite Regional Officer about tactics in Bristol.

Royal Mail Dispute:

CWU delegates were invited to speak on their current industrial dispute:

A CWU delegate reported that the ballot for industrial action had been 97% in favour on a 76% turnout. Apart from this magnificent display of solidarity, he said it blew apart the Tory assumptions about the behaviour of workers in mass ballots.

He went on to explain that the dispute was based on management breaching a series of collective agreements with the CWU, including the Agenda for Growth, and now the Four Pillars Agreement. He also explained the background of privatisation, and the imposition of the union-busting Rico Back as Chief Executive.

A CWU delegate talked about the company's attempts to move away from the Universal Service Obligation, and the intention of the employer to move closer to the gig economy model of Amazon or Sports Direct.

In response to questions, it was agreed that the CWU branch secretary would advise the Trades Council of where they could most usefully help in the case of industrial action. It was also agreed that the establishment of supporters groups would be consistent with the

CWU's strategy, and a CWU delegate spoke on how we could build on the community support already shown in Sea Mills.

UCU Motion:

"This branch formally resolves to offer full support to the next Global Climate Strike day on November 29th and calls upon Trades Councils and their affiliate branches in the South West to support and mobilise for the day"

The tabled motion on support for the proposed Climate Change Strike on 29 November was moved by a UCU delegate and seconded by a Unite delegate.

It was passed unanimously. The Communications Officer agreed to inform all on our e-mailing list of our support, and the President agreed to raise the matter at SWTUC Executive.

Correspondence:

It was agreed that issues relating to the South West AGM of Trades Councils would be placed on the January agenda, including motions.

The SWTUC report on the Bristol Living Wage accurately reported the concerns of BTUC, and so BTUC will watch developments in the next couple of months.

All other correspondence was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm