



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON
27TH. NOVEMBER 2019
TONY BENN HOUSE**

53/19 ATTENDEES

Simon Crew (President - UNITE), Andy Robertson, Secretary, (RMT), Alex Kempshall, Communication Officer (Unite) and delegates from PCS (2), UCU (1) and Unite (4)

54/19 APOLOGIES:

Hugh Kirkbride (Vice-President), UNITE(4), PCS (1) and RMT (1)

55/19 PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Former President, Mike Langley's funeral has taken place on Monday, 11th. November. The President, Vice President, Secretary and other delegates attended.

56/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

These were unanimously agreed as a true record.

57/19 MATTERS ARISING:

It was agreed that the speakers invited to this meeting will be invited to attend in the new year.

Boston Tea Party. Agreed to await developments

Royal Mail Dispute:

Despite the Communication Workers Union ballot where over 110,000 members voted by over 97% in favour of strike action in a massive 76% turnout, the Royal Court of Justice has stopped the Communication Workers Union members from striking.

A message has been sent by Bristol Trades Union Council to the CWU that we see this is an attack on the entire trade union movement and will support any resistance by the union to this.

58/19 SPEAKER

Suzy Cheeke, Vice President, University of Bristol UCU Branch

Suzy reported that Sixty UK universities have been hit with eight days of strike action from Monday, 25 November to Wednesday 4 December 2019.

In the South West Universities of Bath, Bristol, Exeter are affected by strike action for both disputes and Bournemouth UCU members will strike over pay and conditions only.

UCU members backed strike action in two separate legal disputes, one on pensions and one on pay and working conditions. Overall, 79% of UCU members who voted backed strike action in the ballot over changes to pensions. In the ballot on pay, equality, casualisation and workloads, 74% of members polled backed strike action.

The union said universities had to respond positively and quickly if they wanted to avoid disruption this year. The disputes centre on changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and universities' failure to make improvements on pay, equality, casualisation and workloads.

The overall turnout in the USS ballot was 53% and on pay and conditions it was 49%. The union disaggregated the ballots so branches who secured a 50% turnout can take action in this first wave. The union's higher education committee has now set out the timetable for the action.

As well as eight strike days from 25 November to Wednesday 4 December, union members will begin 'action short of a strike'. This involves things like working strictly to contract, not covering for absent colleagues and refusing to reschedule lectures lost to strike action.

Suzie reported that seven hundred members have attended 20 picket lines plus taken part in a March and Rally. There will be a further March and rally this Friday where they will be joining the Climate Strike event in College Green. A further Rally has been organised for 10.00 am, Wednesday, 4th. December and will be held at the Victoria Rooms. There has been a large number of Students turning out in support.

Other University Trades Unions, including Unite are being balloted for strike action.

Suzie was thanked for attending the meeting and it was agreed to support the forthcoming events and the Secretary to find out details regarding a Hardship fund.

59/19 REPORTS

- (i) SWRTUC Executive held on 6th. November 2019. Simon Crew reported the following items were discussed; General Election advice for Trades Unions and Trades Union Councils, Tolpuddle Review where financial losses will need to be addressed and the Bristol Mayor's aspirations to make Bristol a Living Wage City. It appears there has not been a great response from Employers therefore it was being requested that Trade Unions engage with the large employers in the city.
- (ii) Tom Mewies, PCS reported that there may be possible actions taken at the MOD by PCS and Prospect due to attacks on present Terms and Conditions.

60/19 CORRESPONDENCE

GMB CAMPAIGN – AMAZON EMPLOYEES ON FRIDAY, 29TH. NOVEMBER AND MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2019 AT AMAZON'S FULFILMENT CENTRE, AVONMOUTH. Agreed to support where possible and to advertise the event on our website. Further details of the events can be obtained from the GMB Old Market offices.

CONGRESS HOUSE

NOTIFICATION OF CONFERENCES 2020

SWRTUC

ISSUE 8 OF "WEST COUNTRY WORKERS" Copies were made available

61/19 AOB

SWRTUC Conference on Climate Change. Training was given regarding Green Workplaces and feedbacks were given by various TU Representatives.

In closing the meeting Simon made reference to the forthcoming General Election on Thursday, 12th. December 2019 and reminded delegates that the next meeting will be held on 18th. December 2019..

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.