



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON
24th June 2020
Via Jitsi**

1. ATTENDEES

Hugh Kirkbride (Vice-President – UNITE), Simon Crew (President, Acting Secretary - UNITE), Alex Kempshall (UNITE), [REDACTED] (UCU), [REDACTED] (PCS), [REDACTED] (NEU), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (PCS), [REDACTED] (NUJ), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (USDAW).

2. APOLOGIES:

[REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (PCS).

3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Hugh advised that he would be chairing the meeting as Simon was now acting secretary. Simon made an opening statement referring to the Covid crisis and Black Lives Matter protests since our last meeting, solidarity was expressed with workers and a minutes silence was held for those who have died especially Martin Egan a Bristol Bus Driver who had been a delegate to this council.

Since the last meeting Andy Robertson had resigned after many years' service as secretary, Simon moved a vote of thanks to Andy for his service. The executive had met and agreed Simon would be acting Secretary, Branch Secretaries had been written to asking for nominations for Secretary, President, Custodian and Executive Committee positions which will be elected at our next meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

These were unanimously agreed as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING: None

6. REPORTS

Hugh and [REDACTED] read a statement from the executive regarding a complaint received after the AGM.

Hugh advised we had asked 2 reps to speak on their experience in the covid situation [REDACTED] from USDAW and [REDACTED] from NEU.

[REDACTED] (USDAW rep [REDACTED]) spoke on his members experiences from the beginning of the lockdown mentioning risk assessments, 2 metre rule, USDAW's representations to government, thousands of new staff – many are agency and hard to recruit, management are listening to reps.

[REDACTED] (NEU Bristol) spoke on the attacks on teachers from the right wing press, it has been a difficult campaign as school by school is different most heads don't seem to know how to do risk assessments and "business managers" have been tasked. The important thing is unions have been active in most schools. NEU had 20,000 new members and 2,000 new reps. NEU has a plan going forward.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] answered members questions and were thanked for their reports.

[REDACTED] (PCS) advised of negotiating a partial return to work in his sector. However DWP members have suffered having to deal with the government disaster of universal credit. There are now no tax offices south of Bristol. Pay deal is another 1.5% which is an insult. [REDACTED] (UCU) said that lockdown had been raised too fast and asked that the TUC also concentrates on public transport and environmental issues.

Black Lives Matter – Members discussed the protest where Bristol made international headlines and felt proud of the people of Bristol for supporting this action.

[REDACTED] (NUJ) reported of himself and other journalists being attacked on extreme right wing counter demonstrations. Members expressed solidarity with the members attacked and the Trades council will be at the forefront of anti-fascist activities in Bristol. Simon Crew advised of a letter being circulated amongst the Labour Movement calling for there to be no prosecutions against those who toppled the statue, it was agreed Simon would sign this on our behalf.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

NSSN Conference 4th July

TUCJCC bulletin

Virtual Tolpuddle 16-18th July

Organise 2020 9-11th July

EC – One nomination for the EC had been received – [REDACTED], UNITE as declared elected. Branches were encouraged to nominate to the EC for the next meeting.

8. AOB

[REDACTED] asked about members who were not used to online meetings, Communications Officer Alex had offered to train members re online meetings, anyone who would like this please get in touch. Next meeting 29th July.