



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
Via Zoom**

**1. ATTENDEES**

Sheila Caffrey ( President - NEU), Simon Crew (Secretary – UNITE) and others

**2. APOLOGIES:**

Accepted.

The President welcomed members it was good to see so many new delegates, thanks to the TUC for providing the zoom, TUC conduct of meetings was shared on the chat. It was agreed that a proposed motion on the Police & Crime Bill was an emergency and added to the agenda.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Agreed as correct record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** None

**5. SPEAKER** Tim introduced himself and spoke of his work as a GMB organizer, mentioning GMB work in the NHS and Wessex Water. The talk concentrated on Bristol Water, Tim shared slides and spoke of the history of the dispute. Robyn also spoke saying this had been a hard year and that should be acknowledged in the pay rise. Members discussed the presentation, congratulated Robyn and colleagues for beating the 50% threshold, agreed to fully support any strike action and to make a donation to the strike fund.

**6. MOTIONS**

Simon moved and Suzy seconded the executive motion on the police and crime bill, In the debate Roger moved an amendment. After debate the amendment was passed 14 votes to 7 and the amended motion passed 21-1.

The motion passed was:

This Council strongly oppose the ill-conceived and dangerous Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill being proposed by the Home Secretary. To push through repressive legislation under the cover of the pandemic is awful politics and will make dreadful law.

As it stands, the Bill seeks to:

- Erode fundamental rights of protest including vital trade union actions and activities that support working people
- Draw false links between violence and the Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion protests
- Attack those marginalised from society, such as traveller communities and other minority groups
- Create a fake 'culture war' where moves to establish a more tolerant and diverse society is somehow destroying our history.

We are saddened by the violent scenes in our city. As a trade union movement, we believe in the right for workers to be able to protest without police harassment or violence. We condemn the police violence towards peaceful demonstrators and members of the press. Furthermore, we note with concern the reports of police intimidation towards journalists as they are trying to carry out their job, as well as preventing an independent media coverage.

These incidents need to be fully independently investigated and those responsible held to account.

## **7. REPORTS**

Workers Memorial Day – Agreed to hold event at Castle Park, Tim and Simon will help with RAs, Simon will inform police liaison. Chris Marsh will speak, a short march was discussed, our meeting to be WMD themed.

May Day – The May Day Committee had met it was agreed to hold an event, preferably a march.

## **8. ELECTIONS**

Ian , USDAW was elected to the Executive Committee.

## **9. AOB**

Meeting was out of time, next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April.