



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON
22nd December 2021
Via Zoom**

1. ATTENDEES

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

2. APOLOGIES: Accepted

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

4. MATTERS ARISING: Keith had written a well received review of the Cry of the Poor leaflet. Mike had drafted a document on the Clean Air Zone charge, it was agreed to email this to Simon Chapman, NUJ for consideration of putting out a statement. UCU strike Roger attended the rally on the first day and spoke. The Clarks dispute had a successful outcome.

5. SPEAKER: Suz Muna, UNITE Housing Branch sent apologies and a message that the dispute at St. Mungos was settled and thanking the Trades Council for support.

6. DISCUSSION – Referendum on Mayor of Bristol: The President introduced the debate remarking that the Trades Council opposed having a Mayor in the 2012 referendum and she would take notes of the points made for a statement. Members had a wide ranging discussion – there was 36 years' experience of being Labour Councillors in the meeting – points raised included the committee system is more democratic because more people are involved in decision making and it is impossible for one person to control and organisation the size of the council so with a mayor unelected officers are more powerful, under the committee system our experience was councillors formed more of a team, the mayoral system was introduced by the Tories to restrict democracy and make it easier for big business to influence decisions, no councillors should be on £60k per year, the committee system worked well 1837-2002 compared to how the leader/cabinet and mayoral systems have worked since then, under previous systems Labour Leads had regular meetings with the Trades Council Executive yet

under the Mayoral system this has not occurred, personalising the system is wrong, a committee system will counterbalance big business and national party influence, the costs of having a mayor can be put back into council finances.

The Bristol Trades Council resolved unanimously that we would support a vote for the Committee System in the referendum. Officers will put together a statement.

Concern was expressed that the strongest voices so far for this position have been Tories, Lib Dems, Greens and even Ferguson. Our statement will be based on our principles and distance ourselves from these opportunistic groups.

6. REPORTS

COP26 – Simon reported that the Bristol Coalition had met and decided to continue and will now be called the Bristol Climate Coalition.

University Court – Was at the same time as the strike so our delegate did not attend. The Chancellor has been re-elected for another 5 year term.

NPC – Keith raised concerns that the SWTUC Pensioners Committee had not met in 2 years. Roger, Keith and Barbara will draft something to send.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Mayors Inclusive Cities Stakeholder Meeting – Agreed to take a place, the Secretary will attend January and the new Executive will decide after the AGM.

9. AOB

The President wished everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Delegates were reminded to make sure that their branches affiliate in time for the AGM in February.