



Bringing Workers Together

**Minutes of the Trades Council meeting held on
20 April 2011 at 7:30pm.**

Location: CVS Offices, Guild Hall Precinct, Preston.

Delegates present:

Lynne Wallace (LW), Andy O'Donnell (AO) Dave Rochester (DR) Derek Barton (DB) Les Parker (LP), Ian McGill (IM) Terry Bayes (TB), Peter Moss (PM)

Guests/observers present:

Apologies for absence given:

Andrew Wheatley, (AW) Dave Wilson (DW), David Savage (DS), Patrick Coyne (PC) Janet Newsham (JN) Michael Parkinson (MP) Shaun Cairns (SC), Amjad Ismail (AI), Stephen Smith (SS), Heather Park (HP), Paddy Magill (PM) Steve Radcliffe (SR) Polly Haigh (PH), Andy Birchall (AB), Jim Leigh (JL), Steve Flynn (SF), Gavin Hartley (GH) Glyne Greenidge (GG) Ian Leeming (IL), Matthew Brown (MB Sarah Robinson (SR) Darryl Fryer (DF), B Hill (BH), Bill Etherington (BE), Steve Harman (SH) Peter Baily (PB) Kevin Deacon (KD)

Presidents Remarks

TB opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

LW confirmed the auditors agreed at the AGM were Matthew Brown and Steve Ratcliffe

LW summarised future events

22 April PAC stall at the Continental

28 April Workers Memorial Day Chorley

30 April Workers Memorial Day Preston

4 May Next PAC meeting Stanley Arms

7 May NUT support against academies flag market

21 May PAC fun raising social

Presidents Report

TB reported on two official disputes which had the support of P&SRTC The disputes related to Vehicle maintenance staff at Bamber Bridge and DWP Job Centre Plus staff TB had given message of support to the picket lines on behalf of P&SRTC. TB also noted that Home Start was on the brink of closure. TB also informed of the reality of many workers not living longer enough to draw their pensions at 65 and how this disproportionately affected women in the lower social groups.

TB suggested that future P&SRTC meetings should start at the earlier time of 7.00. This was agreed

AP 1 LW to inform members of the new meeting start time.

Treasurers Report

None received.

Secretaries Report

LW gave an update on delegate status. The P&SRTC currently represented over 16.000 workers. Also good progress had been made on affiliation fees being received.

Organising Committee Report

Preston Against Cuts

LW gave a brief overview of the last PAC meeting discussions.

TU Education

LW advised that the new course prospectus had been sent out. All delegates were reminded the importance of supporting the Preston TU education program.

Workers Memorial Day (WMD)

IM gave an update on the WMD arrangements for Preston and Chorley. He informed of an FBU article relating to historic origins of WMD. He also informed that fire stations were lowering flags to half mast to mark WMD. It was agreed that the Chief Executive of Preston City council was written to on behalf of the P&SRTC requesting they also lowered flags to half mast in recognition of WMD.

AP2 IM to write to the chief Executive of PCC to request lowering of flags to mark WMD

Preston Guild

There was a discussion of the traditional banner for Preston Guild and what should be incorporated. Gold on Blue and the PP lamb was suggested. Also it was suggested that historical images of the old banner should be researched for further ideas for the banner. TB volunteered to start a project researching into what historical information was available (What, were) relating to the Preston and South Ribble Trade Council and the original Preston Trades council. It was agreed that this information was valuable to P&SRTC and efforts to preserve it before it was to late should be made

AP3 TB to start a project gathering P&SRTC historical data

Workplace Reports

Reports received sent out electronically.

UNITE

LP gave a report on the industrial dispute UNITE vehicle maintenance members were facing. This was an example of the true effects the cuts were having on the road workers affected. LP predicted that this was only the beginning and other workers affected by the cuts could also soon be taking action. He thanked TB for giving P&SRTC support to the picket lines at Bamber Bridge. He gave an overview of further planned action. The next strike action was due on 11 May followed

by work to rule action. LP agreed to provide a summary to publish on the web site to raise awareness of the situation.

AP 4 LP to provide a summary to AO for the web site

FBU

IM gave an update on the new duty shift patterns affecting 6 stations. The new rotors would mean officers being on duty for 84 hours a shift. This also meant the loss of 50% of full time officers. There were many concerns raised at the implications this would have on the officers involved at the H&S implication to the public.

UNITE

DR gave an update on the pay situation at Coupe Foundry. There had been no pay rise for 2 years. A interim pay rise of 3% until October had been offered. There was also concern raised on the land lease running out in 2 years time.

PCS

AO reported on the impending national Ballot for industrial action relating to pensions, pay, job cuts. He also informed that HMRC along with other civil service departments had made 25% cuts. Members were also facing a second year of pay freeze. Also the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (redundancy scheme) had been drastically reduced. There was a real fear that the cuts to the compensation scheme was a precursor to further job cuts on the cheap. AO also reported that the Revenue and Custom group members had been balloted on taking industrial action against a newly introduced draconian sickness absence policy. Many members felt that the new policy had been introduced as a further measure of reducing staff levels cutting jobs on the cheap.

Correspondence

Sent via email or made available at the meeting.

Any other business

DB gave some feed back on the National Pensioners Convention. He also proposed affiliating to the North West Pensioners Association for £25.0 This was agreed

AP 5 DB to provide affiliation details to PC

DB requested that Julie Humphries as coordinator of the voluntary community is invited to speak at the next P&SRTC meeting. This was agreed.

AP6 DB to invite JH to the next meeting.

Dates and times of next meetings

7.0pm Wed 18 May 2011

Venue of meetings

CVS office, Guild Hall, Preston

Lynne Wallace

Secretary

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