
Trades Union Councils' Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of the second meeting held on 10 January 2011

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Present

For the General Council: Jeremy Dear, Dave Harvey, Pat Stuart

For the Trades Union Councils: Linda Kietz, Alec McFadden, Robert West, Michael Fletcher, Kevin Donnelly, John McCormack

TUC: Tom Mellish (Secretary to the Committee), Paul Nowak (Head of Organisation and Services Dept.), Karina Ross (Office)

Item 13 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Matt Wrack, Jason Hill, Amarjite Singh and Andy Robertson.

Item 14 Keith Faulkner

The committee held a minute's silence in respect of Keith Faulkner, TUC Senior Events Officer, who passed away just before Christmas. Funeral arrangements had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **NOTED** that the TUCJCC would be represented at Keith's funeral by Alison Shepherd of the General Council and former members of the committee Ian McDonald and Teresa MacKay.

Item 15 Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2010

Action That the minutes of the 25 October 2010 meeting were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

Item 16 Matters arising

Page 1 – The presence of General Council members at meetings of the TUCJCC was discussed. Due to the retirement of Brian Caton the committee had one less General Council member. It was **AGREED** to invite Bob Crow to sit on the committee, since Bob has recently been re-elected to the General Council. The Chair would raise the matter at the next meeting of the General Council.

Page 2 – John McCormack gave an update in relation to the proposal to the Northern TUC to reduce the number of trades union council representatives. A discussion was held on the formal process of dealing with proposed rule changes noting that all rule changes must be agreed by the General Council. It was **AGREED** that the office facilitate a teleconference between Paul Nowak, Tom Mellish, John McCormack and Kevin Rowan ahead of the Northern Regional Council on 22 January.

Page 3 – It was reported that following discussions with Plymouth & District Trades Union Council, the trades council and dockyard unions had met and that there is now an understanding on how to go forward to include as many local union branches as possible in a united fight against job losses and cuts to public services. It was **NOTED** that this matter can now be considered to be resolved.

Page 4 – Alec McFadden informed the committee of a pamphlet on the issues of climate change which will be made available free of charge. It was **AGREED** that the office contact Chris Baugh, AGS at PCS, and circulate the pamphlet to all trades union councils and county associations prior to the annual conference in May.

Page 5 – The office had written to Mark Serwotka and Caroline Lucas MP with an invitation to speak at the annual conference. Mark Serwotka is unable to speak due to PCS having their own conference the following week. The office had not yet heard back from Caroline Lucas MP. This was **NOTED** by the committee.

Page 5 – Tom Mellish informed the committee that the first email bulletin was sent to trades union councils last week with regards to the 26th March demonstration. The bulletin included information on mobilising for the march, transport, stewards and regional events. A copy was circulated at the meeting. Future bulletins will be circulated every 2 weeks. These points were **NOTED**.

Item 17 Annual Conference 2011

Points made in introduction

A document was circulated to the committee outlining the key dates and deadlines for the annual conference. This document was **NOTED** by the committee.

Tom Mellish confirmed that Peterborough Town Hall has been booked for Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May 2011 and that the office will be following up arrangements Keith Faulkner had previously made with PCS in relation to the use of their offices on the morning of Friday 13th May for the TUCJCC to have their pre-conference meeting.

Points made in discussion

A discussion was held on speakers. It was suggested to invite Sally Hunt, Billy Hayes, Steve Gillan and Len McCluskey to speak at conference.

The point was raised on what the situation will be with regards to site visits and conference arrangements in the absence of Keith. The office explained that Tom Mellish would take over the bulk of trades council annual conference activity until arrangements had been made by the TUC with regards to Keith's areas of work.

Action That the points made in discussion were **AGREED**.

Item 18 Trades Union Councils registration

Points made in introduction

A document was circulated to the committee showing the trades union councils and county associations that had so far registered for 2011. The deadline of Friday 28th January 2011 was

NOTED and the committee was asked to continue to encourage trades union councils to register with the TUC.

Points made in discussion

The point was raised that a number of trades union councils were waiting until their AGM to formally complete the registration form. It was confirmed that trades union councils can affiliate with the TUC before their AGM as long as they ensure that the registration is ratified at their AGM.

Action That the points made in discussion were **NOTED**.

Item 19 All Together for Public Services campaign

Points made in introduction

Paul Nowak reported on the All Together for Public Services campaign, in particular the arrangements for the national demonstration on 26th March.

A brief update was given on campaigning activity across the regions in addition to upcoming events including the 'TUC National Rally for Young People' to be held in Manchester on 29th January and the 'A Future for Civil Society' event to be held at Congress House on 8th February.

A number of campaign materials including leaflets and posters are now available to order through the TUC website.

Stewarding arrangements for the national demonstration are key and the TUC is asking trades unions and trades union councils to provide stewards for the event, in particular route and transport stewards. The TUC will be providing training briefings and materials for stewards.

Plenty of transport has already been booked across the country. Regional Councils have been asked to coordinate transport and provide an assessment of what transport has been booked so the office can identify any gaps where assistance is needed. Trades union councils should also make the TUC aware of any local transport that has been arranged.

The false economy website is now live and attracting a wide range of people, particularly local campaign groups.

Points made in discussion

The point was raised in relation to the alternative marches being organised in London on 29th January which is of concern and the need to highlight that the youth rally in Manchester is the one being backed by the TUC.

The need for close liaison with the police was highlighted. It was reported that there had been lengthy discussions at a recent General Council meeting on this issue and that the TUC will be involved in further discussions with the police.

There was a discussion on transport arrangements and the need for transport to be well organised across the country, particularly as the event is on a Saturday when trains, for example, are less frequent. The importance of the office being made aware of transport arrangements was stressed so any gaps can be identified. It was reported that further discussions on transport will take place at meetings of the cuts campaign group.

Action That the points made in discussion were **NOTED**.

Item 20 Model rules and standing orders

Points made in introduction

At the last meeting of the TUCJCC, Alec McFadden, Linda Kietz and Jason Hill volunteered to look at the revised rules in more detail. It was reported that once the rules are agreed by the committee they will go to the General Council and hopefully be ready for publication by Conference in May this year.

Points made in discussion

It was suggested that the office receive comments within two weeks of the meeting and that this item be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the TUCJCC.

Action That the points made in discussion were **AGREED**.

Item 21 Any other business

Trades union councils development grant - the committee asked what the situation was with regards to the development fund for the coming year. It was reported that the fund remained at £21,000 with individual grants for trades union councils at £300. The office is currently working on retrieving funds from trades union councils that, for example, no longer

exist, and identifying areas where these funds could be of use. An update will be given to the next meeting of the TUCJCC.

Sketches of the miners' strike – Michael Fletcher informed the committee of paintings and sketches of the miners' strike that may be of interest but it was proving difficult to obtain copyright. The office agreed to investigate the issue of copyright with the TUC's Campaigns and Communications Department.

Action That the points made in discussion were **AGREED**.

Item 22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the TUCJCC will be held on Monday 7th March, 1.30pm at Congress House.