
Trades Union Councils' Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of the first meeting held on 25 October 2010

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Present

For the General Council: Jeremy Dear

For the Trades Union Councils: Linda Kietz, Alec McFadden, Andy Robertson, Robert West, Jason Hill, Amarjite Singh, Michael Fletcher

Graham Peterson, TUC tutor

TUC: Tom Mellish (Secretary to the Committee), Karina Ross (Office), Keith Faulkner, Alice Hood

Item 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Nowak, Matt Wrack, John McCormack, Kevin Donnelly and Dave Harvey.

Item 2 Election of Chair

Nominations were sought from the General Council members present. Jeremy Dear was nominated and elected unopposed.

Item 3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 July 2010

Action That the minutes of the 12 July 2010 meeting were **AGREED** as an accurate record

Item 4 Matters arising

Action It was **NOTED** that the silver badges for Dennis Duffy, Brian Kennedy and Wilf Carter will be with the office next week.

Action Alec McFadden reported concern of a proposal to the Northern TUC to reduce the number of trades union council representatives. It was **AGREED** that Tom Mellish would arrange a meeting with Kevin Rowan, Paul Nowak and John McCormack to discuss this issue and would report back to the TUCJCC at a later meeting.

Item 5 Trades Union Councils development grant

Points made in introduction

A paper was circulated to the committee showing the development grants that have been paid to trades union councils in 2010. The committee was asked to note the amount that has been granted through the Development Fund and comment on how they may wish the Fund to be prioritised for future use.

Points made in discussion

Out of 16 trades union councils in Wales only 4 had made use of the development fund. Amarjite Singh had recently written to all trades union councils in Wales offering assistance with regards to the development fund and will continue to encourage them.

There was a discussion around recent events and campaigns, particularly the cuts campaign and how it was hoped trades union councils would come forward in applying for grants for this campaign.

It was **NOTED** that overall the system had been working well.

Action It was **AGREED** that the office would circulate a letter to all registered trades union councils about development grants encouraging them to contact their TUCJCC rep for assistance.

Item 6 Trades Union Councils registration

Points made in introduction

The Chair introduced the latest version of the Trades Union Councils Directory which had been circulated to the committee.

Points made in discussion

The number of registered trades union councils is now at 160. The Chair praised this significant rise and suggested the committee continue to encourage active trades union councils to register with the TUC.

The point was raised that the contact details of TUCJCC representatives were not published in the directory. The office said this has not happened in recent years but it was down to individual members as to whether or not they would like their contact details to be available in a public document. The Chair suggested that for the 2011 directory the committee be contacted asking if they would like their contact details published.

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

Item 7 Regional Report – events in the South West region

Points made in introduction

Andy Robertson gave a report to the committee concerning the recent activities of Plymouth trades union council, which has resulted in a dispute with local trade unions.

Andy Robertson informed the committee he will be meeting with South West TUC and officers of Plymouth trades union council to discuss the issue and will report back to the Executive.

Points made in discussion

It was pointed out that in previous cases it has been the role of the TUCJCC to conduct an investigation. The Chair suggested that the Office write to the South West regional council outlining what the TUCJCC feel the procedure should be. It was also suggested that in the event of an official complaint being received by Congress House, and an investigation was required, then Alec McFadden would be the other TUCJCC rep to work with Andy Robertson on the investigation and report back to the committee.

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

Item 8 Training for the TUCJCC: Greening the workplace

Points made in introduction

The Chair introduced Graham Peterson who would be leading the training session on greening the workplace. Graham outlined the national picture and reported on issues around government policies and effects of the comprehensive spending review. Graham also spoke about what can be done at local level.

Points made in discussion

The committee had a discussion on these issues and the problems currently being faced. It was suggested that 'greening the workplace' be the main focus of the workshops at the Annual Conference.

The Chair referred the committee to the Programme of Work and suggested they encourage trades union councils to build links with local government campaign groups.

It was suggested that the unions in the community website be expanded to include information on greening the workplace and basic guidelines that trades union councils could work to.

The committee thanked Graham for his contribution.

Action That the points made in introduction were **AGREED**

Item 9 Annual Conference 2011

Points made in introduction

Keith Faulkner, TUC Senior Events Officer outlined arrangements for the 2011 Conference. It was confirmed that Peterborough Town Hall had been booked for 14-15 May 2011. Keith informed the committee that we only had use of the Hall on the Saturday and Sunday which would mean finding an alternative venue for the committee meeting on Friday 13th May. PCS had offered their offices for use on the Friday.

Points made in discussion

As a new member of the committee Amarjite Singh asked what the arrangements would be with regards to accommodation. It was confirmed that the TUC organises and covers the cost of accommodation for TUC staff and committee members. Keith informed the committee there were a couple of hotel options and that he would be arranging a site visit in the next 2-3 weeks, after which more information will be available.

It was reported that Peterborough aimed to be the leading environment city, which would link in well with the theme for the workshops.

It was suggested the office contact Caroline Lucas MP and Mark Serwotka to speak at conference.

Keith proposed that the committee look ahead to the 2012 conference and suggested that when the 2011 conference papers are circulated to trades union councils the office include a paper asking trades union councils to consider hosting the 2012 conference.

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

Item 10 All Together for Public Services campaign

Points made in introduction

Alice Hood, Senior Policy Officer for Public Services, gave a presentation to the committee on the All Together campaign. Alice highlighted key points from the comprehensive spending review and reported on the national rally and lobby of Parliament that took place on 19th October. Alice also talked about what information was available to the public and what trades union councils can do at a local level.

Points made in discussion

Committee members gave a brief outline of what was happening in their region around the campaign.

Linda Kietz reported that 23rd October had been a major campaign day in the South East which coincided with GLATUC's 150th celebrations at which Brendan Barber spoke.

Alice informed the committee there would be a national demonstration on 26th March in London and this date had been chosen purposefully to build momentum over the Autumn/Winter period and to encourage a larger turnout.

The committee thanked Alice for her contribution.

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

Item 11 Any other business

Public services/cuts campaign – Tom Mellish informed the committee he had arranged visits to a number of trades union councils to discuss public services and the cuts campaign.

Model rules and standing orders – Tom Mellish introduced the revised Model Rules and Standing Orders for Trades Union Councils, which had been circulated to the committee. The committee held a brief discussion on the rules and it was suggested three reps look at the rules in more detail and that this item be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The office reported that once the revised rules are agreed by the committee they will go to the General Council and hopefully be ready for publication by Conference in May 2011. Alec McFadden, Linda Kietz and Jason Hill volunteered to look at the revised rules in more detail.

Wales TUC conference – Amarjite Singh informed the committee that Wales TUC were holding a special conference on the cuts on 26th November

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

Item 12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the TUCJCC will be held on Monday 10th January, 1.30pm at Congress House.