



## **Plymouth Trade Union Council**

Secretary: Tony Staunton

Chair: Dave Franklin

**07803 620390**

[www.plymouth-tuc.org.uk](http://www.plymouth-tuc.org.uk)

### **Agenda for meeting of Plymouth Trades Union Council to be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at the Transitions Offices, 171 Armada Way, Plymouth**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 to be agreed as a correct record, and the following Matters Arising taken:
  - 3.1. Item 3.1. Plymouth *Fightback* Against the Cuts/Right to Work Campaign:
    - ✿ **Unite the Resistance Plymouth Conference:** To receive a report.
    - ✿ **National co-ordinated strike for public sector pensions:** To receive a report.
    - ✿ **Occupy Plymouth:** To receive a report, inc: Protest at Pickles 19<sup>th</sup> January; lobby of Question Time 26<sup>th</sup> January.
    - ✿ **Save Our NHS:** National day of action – London lobby of Parliament, and Rally at 6pm at central hall, Westminster. Transport from South West. To agree transport from Plymouth (mini-bus shared with Taunton?).
  - 3.2. Item 3.2. **Anti-Incinerator Campaign:** To receive a report.
  - 3.3. Item 9.1. **Health Inequality in Plymouth:** To receive a report.
4. **Class Struggle**
  - 4.1. **RMT/ASLEF/TSSA Strikes**
  - 4.2. **PCS strikes**
  - 4.3. **CWU Save Royal Mail**
  - 4.4. **Plymouth Royal Devonport Dockyard**
  - 4.5. **UCU**
  - 4.6. **Plymouth City Council**
  - 4.7. **Southampton Local Government Strike**
  - 4.8. **Balfour Beatty Strike Action:** Unite announce 67% vote in favour of further strike action. To agree message of support for Day of Action on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, and to leaflet the Life Centre site, Outland Road.
5. **Officer Reports:**
  - 6.1. **Chair, inc:**
    - 5.1.1. **PTUC Website:** [www.plymouth-tuc.org.uk](http://www.plymouth-tuc.org.uk)
  - 6.2. **Secretary, inc:**
    - 6.2.1. **Correspondence:**
      - 6.2.1.1. **Affiliated union branches:**
      - 6.2.1.2. **PCS Left Unity meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January**
  - 6.3. **Treasurer:** KT referred to his printed report from the earlier AGM.
  - 6.4. **Delegates to External Bodies:**
    - 6.4.1. **South West TUC Executive 7<sup>th</sup> December:** to receive a report
  - 6.5. **Campaign against Climate Change TU Group:** to formally support the TU group's national AGM on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February, and CCC AGM on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, London. Further, to sponsor with resources the CCC Caravan Against Climate Change

tour, including a visit to Plymouth in March. Plymouth's motion re CCC was carried at SWTUC, but amended to water-down opposition to coal and nuclear.

**6.6. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament:** spending on Trident has been increased by 50%, representing an additional £2bn of expenditure before 2016.

**6.7. Plymouth Climate Council:** to receive a report

**6.8. Pensioners Forum:** to receive a report

**6.9. Palestine Solidarity Campaign:** the meeting is asked to welcome the announcement that Fatah and Hamas have agreed to form a unity Government in Occupied Palestine and call upon the UK Government to support this progress in democracy in Palestine, with a letter to the Foreign Secretary. Further, to agree support and publicity for the Plymouth PSC Benefit Gig at Voodoo Lounge on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**6.10. Unite Against Fascism:** to receive a report

**7. May Day 2012:** to receive a report

## **8. Motions:**

### **Motion to Plymouth Trades Union Council 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

Plymouth Trades Union Council notes:

1. The statement by Labour leader Ed Miliband and shadow chancellor Ed Balls that Labour cannot pledge to reverse any Tory cuts. Balls said the "starting point" is "we're going to have to keep all these cuts".
2. Balls and Miliband have endorsed the public sector pay freeze that is slashing living standards for millions of workers.
3. That Unite leader Len McCluskey has denounced the statements as "discredited Blairism" and said "The real points of differentiation between Labour and the government on the economy are now very hard to identify."

Plymouth Trades Union Council believes:

1. That the statements from Len McCluskey and others attacking Balls and Miliband are welcome.
2. That it is more than ever clear that we cannot "wait for Labour" to deliver change and that we will have to fight ourselves against the Tories.
3. That the millions of pounds shovelled to Labour by some unions have been wasted.
4. That workers should not pay for the bosses and bankers' crisis. We could defend and improve public services by such measures as taxing the rich, collecting the £120 billion of tax that is avoided and evaded by the rich and corporations, imposing a tax on financial transactions ("Robin Hood tax"), getting rid of Trident nuclear weapons and withdrawing the troops from Afghanistan.
5. That we need socialist policies – public ownership and control of the banks for example – not more pandering to the rich.

Plymouth Trades Union Council resolves:

1. That we are totally opposed to the Tories, their austerity drive and all cuts.
2. To encourage a major debate throughout the labour and trade union movement on the question of working class political representation, affiliation to Labour and the alternatives.
3. That the Plymouth Trades Union Council should support only those Labour MPs who support the policies of the TUC and who supported the 30 November strikes.
4. To inaugurate a national process to enable Trades Councils to be able to change their nationally approved Constitutions so that trade union members can democratically decide that, as well as supporting Labour MPs who support us, it can also be used for campaigning alternatives and to support left political formations that support our policies.
5. That Labour is no shield against the Tories and that trade unions must be in the frontline against capitulation to the politics of austerity. We encourage trade unions to immediately set the day for mass, coordinated strikes as a follow up to 30 November, and to support all other fightbacks such as the Unilever strikes and the construction electricians' campaign against pay cuts.
6. To support any move by trade union leaders to call for a left alternative to Labour.

## **9. Any Other Business:**

**10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 171 Armada Way, starting at 7pm.**

END