



NOTES from Steering Committee Meeting 3rd September 2019

Maybury Centre Woking

- 1) Attendance: Helen Couchman (UNISON), Paul Couchman (UNISON & Socialist Party), John Tester (Labour Party), Sheila Wright (UNISON), Ginny Eaton (UNISON), Kye Gbangbola (TAZ), Chris Wright (Resident), Lee Belsten (FBU), Petra Todd (Climate striker), Rowan Todd (Climate Striker), Beth Halliday (parent), Mick Dawson (UCU), Robert Evans (Labour Party), Arran Neathey (Labour Party). Kelvin from That's TV Surrey was also in attendance, recorded some of the meeting and did an interview with the secretary Paul Couchman prior to the start of the meeting.
- 2) Apologies received – Fiona Harkin, Sue Bryers, Debbie Monksfield, Kate Chinn, Jan Doerfel, Veena Siva, Serena Powis, Rodney Bates, Susan Doran, Brian Creese, Malcolm Beecher, Gerry Mitchell & Mike Roberts.
- 3) Minutes from last meeting on 5th June (AGM) noted and agreed.
- 4) Treasurer's update & Collection – Treasurer was absent but it was reported that we have around £600 in the bank.
- 5) Global Earth Strike Day on 20th September – Petra and Rowan presented an inspiring and motivated case for supporting the international day of action on climate change on 20th September. There was a good discussion and the meeting agreed to spread the word about the day and encourage support and attendance:
10.30am outside Holy Trinity Church in Guildford High Street.
Marching through Guildford to the Borough Council offices where letters will be delivered to councillors.
Then marching to Guildford Railway Station for a rally at 12pm with UNISON outside their regional office at Ranger House.
Surrey County Council are supporting the day of action but staff need to book annual leave or attend in their lunch break/own time.
- 6) Fire Service Cuts – Lee Belsten gave the meeting a detailed update on the proposed cuts to fire services by SCC and the campaign so far. 13,000 signatures on the petition and the right to speak at full council on 8th October. There was a robust discussion on what we should do. Agreed - As the Cabinet is meeting to discuss on 24th September and we have geared up to lobby this meeting, Paul Couchman will write to SCC asking for the right to address Cabinet instead of Full Council. FBU will be organising a major lobby of the Cabinet (with SOSiS support) from 1pm till 2pm on 24th September at County Hall in Kingston. We may also need to mobilise some people on 8th October as well if the petition has to be presented there.

- 7) SOSiS Charter – Paul presented the existing 10-point Charter and suggested an amendment. Further amendments were discussed and agreed. The final updated Charter (below) will be added to the website and councillors/MPs and candidates for election urged to add their names.
- 8) Truth About Zane – Kye gave the meeting an update on the campaign so far. Invited to speak at the recent Grenfell memorial event. Over 80,000 signatures on the petition and an Early Day Motion signed by 40 MPs so far. TAZ will be represented at TUC Congress and the Labour Party Conference.
- 9) National Shop Stewards Network Rally at TUC – Paul gave details of this annual event. A number of Trade Union General Secretaries are speaking including Len McCluskey (Unite). The Guildford Climate Strikers are also speaking. Holiday Inn Brighton seafront on Sunday 8th September at 1pm.
- 10) Any Other Business
 - a) Frimley, Heatherwood and Wexham hospitals transferring services to a wholly owned subsidiary. Trade unions are mobilising against this – Paul will investigate and let people know what we can do to support.
 - b) Durham Miners Gala – Lee gave a plug for this really important and enjoyable event next year. The Tolpuddle Festival is also worth attending.
 - c) Runnymede Labour Councillors raising a number of climate change motions in the council. Aaron will circulate details.



Save Our Services in Surrey

10 point charter

Agreed in January 2015, updated in 2017 and again in September 2019

Save Our Services in Surrey asks all progressive* prospective parliamentary and council candidates to agree, if elected, to:

- 1) Oppose all cuts to public sector jobs, services, pay, terms and conditions and to work towards the reversal of all Tory cuts. This means voting against all austerity cuts.
- 2) Support all workers' struggles against the cuts, outsourcing and privatisation. To put the argument that ordinary people should not have to pay for a crisis caused by politicians, big business and bankers.
- 3) Reject all unaffordable increases in taxes, rents, fares and service charges to compensate for government cuts. To support the reversal of the Tory tax cuts for the rich. To support the adequate resourcing of HMRC to stop tax avoidance and evasion by the super-rich and by multinational companies.
- 4) Vote against the privatisation of public sector jobs and services, or their forced transfer to 'social enterprises', 'arms length' companies or the community sector.
- 5) Oppose racism, discrimination and fascism. Promote equality for all.
- 6) Actively campaign alongside trade unions and community organisations to oppose cuts, privatisation and outsourcing.
- 7) Campaign for an increase in the minimum wage and actively promote the introduction of the London Living Wage in Surrey.
- 8) Support and actively promote action against climate change, working for a future where sustainability comes first.
- 9) Call for the repeal of all the Tory anti-trade union laws.
- 10) Support and promote the full renationalisation, under democratic public ownership and control, of the NHS, the Railways, Royal Mail and the major energy companies.

*progressive will exclude far right parties, including Ukip.