



Save Our Services in Surrey

Meeting Notes

26 November in Woking

In attendance: Paul Couchman, Helen Couchman, Liz Mansfield, Fred Greaves, Barry Faulkner, Vicki Kirby, Annette Egan, Thelma Snelgrove.

Apologies received from: Ginny Eaton, Alan Clyne, Sheila Wright, Fiona Harkin, Mick Dawson and Subhi Al Zuhari,

The notes from the previous meeting on 3rd September were read and agreed.

Treasurer's report: Thelma reported that we had £1,325.17 in the bank. Paul handed in £35 in donations arising from his Facebook NHS appeal.

Updates:

- Care Homes – the first two homes are now closed. The council are entering second phase. Unions are pushing for a full review into the first phase. Redundancies are mostly being avoided.
- Fire stations – no update received
- Childrens Centres – Good news. It was reported that plans to close childrens centres had been shelved following a recent Ofsted inspection.
- HMRC offices – Thelma reported that there are to be major cuts in tax collection – down to only 13 offices in the UK. Most of the local Surrey offices are scheduled for closure. PCS will respond and we need to be ready to support any campaigning activity.
- Libraries – Paul reported that a new wave of cuts is likely to hit libraries as the budget has been slashed again. Watch this space.

Truth About Zane – There will be a further pre-inquest hearing at Woking Coroners Court on Monday 7th December. Anyone available for a photo-protest and to attend in visitors gallery please do so.

£10 ph Minimum Wage Campaign – It was agreed to take this up and support any union initiatives pushing for an increase in the minimum wage. It was noted that the street activity planned for 17 October had been cancelled due to ill health.

Campaign materials – Liz and Paul had worked on a new promotional flyer for SOSiS. It was agreed to rejig the flyer to make it easier to print and cut and to send it out to the email list asking people to print their own supplies. **ACTION:** Paul agreed to do this.

Oast House squatter group – Liz proposed that we invite the community activists from the Oast House in Staines to attend a future meeting. Agreed. **ACTION:** Liz to invite them.

It was agreed to try to get some of the local town-based anti-cuts groups up and running again. **ACTION:** Fred to contact Redhill activists with a few to restarting that group.

Jeremy Corbyn, Momentum and the Left – Paul raised the idea of trying to get a broad-left meeting off the ground in Surrey around the wave of support for Jeremy Corbyn. Ideally to get Labour, Greens, TUSC etc. to appear on a joint anti-austerity, anti-cuts platform in the Spring. **ACTION:** Barry will contact local Momentum (Jeremy Corbyn campaign group) to see if they are willing to organise and host. If not, SOSiS to look at doing so.

Next meeting – January 21st 2016 at 7pm in the Maybury Centre, Woking.

AOB: Liz handed out flyers for the Climate Change march on Sunday.