



MINUTES AND RECORD
of the
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HAMILTON HOUSE, MABLEDON PLACE, LONDON WC1
ON 11TH JUNE 2009

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Bro. I ALLINSON, Sis. P BARTLE, Bros. R BENJAMIN, D BOWYER, D BRADY, P BREWSTER, D BROCKETT, T CASHMAN, W COLEMAN, J COOPER, P COYNE, S DAVISON, Sis. A DAYKIN, R DOBLE, J ELLIOTT, Bros. J FITZPATRICK, A FRASER, Sis. G GEORGE, Bros. M GIBBONS, S HIBBERT, Sis. S HUTCHINSON, S JOPSON, J LEWIS, Bros. D LOVELIDGE, M LYON, D MATHIESON, M MAYER, Sis. J McDOWALL, Bros. T McDOWELL, S McGHIE, Sis. J McLEOD, Bros. A MERCER, I MONCKTON, J MURPHY, M MURPHY, J NEILL, D NESTOR, P OLIVER, C PERRETT, Sis. B PLEASANTS, Bros. M PLUMB, D RITCHIE, Sis. P ROBSON, Bro. P RUSSELL, Sis. M RYAN, Bros. N SHEEHAN, J SHERIDAN, M SHERRIFF, P SIMPSON, D SMEETON, B SPIERS, Sis. J STEWART, Bros. M STEWART, J STOREY, M TAJ, Sis. J TAYLOR, M TAYLOR, Bro. M THOMPSON, Sis. A TOLMIE, Bros. H TURNER, D WILLIAMS, F WOOD, M WOOD, T WOODHOUSE

EX OFFICIO: Bro. D SIMPSON (Joint General Secretary)
Bro. T WOODLEY (Joint General Secretary)
Bro. L BAYLISS (AGS Finance & Operations)
Sis. G CARTMAIL (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. D COLLINS (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. J DROMEY (Deputy General Secretary)
Sis. S ENDEAN (National Officer, Equalities)
Bro. G GODDARD (Deputy General Secretary)
Sis. G HIRSCH (Director of Legal Services)
Sis. D HOLLAND (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. C MATHESON (PA to Joint General Secretaries)
Bro. L McCLUSKEY (Assistant General Secretary)
Bro. P TALBOT (Assistant General Secretary)

IN THE CHAIR: Bro. T WOODHOUSE

**Minute
No.396**

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Formal apologies had been received from the following Council members for the reasons stated:

Name	Circumstances
Bro. R Bazeley	Holiday
Bro. S Beatty	TU Business
Sis. L Cousins	TU Business
Bro. D De Lacy	Holiday
Sis. E Donnelly	TU Business
Bro. G Jackson	TU Business
Bro. A Johnston	Illness
Bro. B Holmes	TU Business
Bro. J Kendall	Holiday
Sis. L Malone	TU Business
Bro. I McDonald	Holiday
Sis. S Sharp	TU Business
Sis. P Stuart	Holiday
Bro. P Taylor	TU Business
Sis. M Vannet	Holiday
Bro. T Burke	Illness

A member of the Council referred to a resolution at the previous EC meeting relating to Branch resolutions and the Policy Conference and stated that currently geographical branches are unable to put delegates forward for the Policy Conference. In response, the Council were advised that the Policy Conference would be discussed later during the meeting. Joint General Secretary, Tony Woodley responded that the concerns were noted and would be taken on board.

**Minute
No.397**

2. CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

Joint General Secretary, Derek Simpson advised that he would be responding on behalf of both Joint General Secretaries. He reported that this was an important meeting, at the heart of the Union, and acknowledged that the structures being proposed, whilst not perfect, the underlying structure is essentially the structure that can best bring the two former Sections together. There was concern as to how Industrial Sector Committees be arrived at ensuring minority positions were recognised. The final formula arrived at was to establish constituencies whereby smaller groups can be put into constituencies and have a vote. Consultation took place with Regional Secretaries and National Officers and colleagues on lay committees within the Regions. There are still issues that may require attention and there is a mechanism in place where an appeal can take place. Between 6 – 8,000 shop stewards and representatives are going to be involved in this massive exercise in setting up these Unite committees.

The implementation of the Rule Book was delayed and did not come into operation until May instead of November last year. It was anticipated that there would be a Policy Conference within twelve months of operation of the Rule Book which would have been November 2009. Due to the complexity of establishing the structures for the constitutional committees, after much deliberation, it is proposed that there will be conferences in November but conferences borne from the committees being established now that will deal

with national industrial sector business and will generate business for a Policy Conference early next year, not later than May 2010.

There has been concern about this interim period between the old structures and the establishment of the new committees. Under the new Rule Book, there is no constitutional basis for any other meetings of the former constitutional committees to take place and, in response to questions raised by Regional Secretaries, the guidance is to use common sense. The Executive Council, Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Sub-Committee are meeting regularly and business is being well taken care of. Regionally, there may be a gap but, with Regional Secretaries working together with the Regional F&GPC, there is a way forward.

Deputy General Secretary, Graham Goddard referred to the discussions that had taken place in the 4x4 meetings together with the consultation and discussions to arrive at the proposals being put to the Council.

Deputy General Secretary, Jack Dromey referred to the sheer scale of what had been undertaken and that it had been the biggest task in the respective histories of the unions coming together, with 240 RISCs, 76 Area Activist Committees and 40 Equality Committees.

Adrian Weir gave a detailed explanation of the spreadsheet and documents that had been circulated to the Executive Council.

A discussion ensued and questions raised by the Council were addressed.

At the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: “That the Regional Industrial Sector Committees, Area Activists Committees and Equalities Committees report be agreed; subject to 17 Regional Industrial Sector Committees where further dialogue and consultation is necessary.”

**Minute
No.398**

2.1 Draft Standing Orders – Regional Industrial Sector Conferences

The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: “That the Draft Standing Orders – Regional Industrial Sector Conferences be endorsed.”

**Minute
No.399**

2.2 Draft Standing Orders – Regional Equalities Conferences

The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: “That the Draft Standing Orders – Regional Equalities Conferences be endorsed.”

**Minute
No.400**

2.3 Draft EC Guidance on Regional Industrial Sector Conferences

The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: “That the Draft EC Guidance on Regional Industrial Sector Conferences be endorsed.”

- Minute No.401** **2.4 EC Guidance on Implementation of Rule 9 – Young Members**
- The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council
- RESOLVED:** “That the EC Guidance on Implementation of Rule 9 – Young Members be endorsed.”
- Minute No.402** **2.5 Draft EC Guidance on National Industrial Sector Committees**
- The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council
- RESOLVED:** “That the Draft EC Guidance on National Industrial Sector Committees be endorsed.”
- Minute No.403** **2.6 EC Guidance: Regional Women’s, Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority, Disabled Members and LGBT Committees**
- The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council
- RESOLVED:** “That the EC Guidance: Regional Women’s, Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority, Disabled Members and LGBT Committees be endorsed.”
- Minute No.404** **2.7 EC Guidance on Regional Equalities Conferences**
- The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council
- RESOLVED:** “That the EC Guidance on Regional Equalities Conferences be endorsed.”
- Minute No.405** **2.8 EC Guidance on National Equalities Committees**
- The document had been circulated to the Council and at the close of consideration, the Council
- RESOLVED:** “That the EC Guidance on National Equalities Committees be endorsed.”
- Minute No.406** **2.9 Draft EC Guidance to implement Rule 10 – Members in Retirement**
- The document had previously been agreed at the January 2009 meeting of the Executive Council but an amendment had since been made.
- At the close of consideration, the Council
- RESOLVED:** “That the revised Draft EC Guidance to Implement Rule 10 – Members in Retirement be endorsed.”
- Minute No.407** **2.10 Timeline for the Establishment of Regional Industrial Sector Conferences & Committees; Area Activist Meetings & Committees; Regional Equalities conferences & Committees; and, Young Members’ Conferences**
- The timeline for the establishment of the constitutional committees had been circulated to the Council. Deputy General Secretary, Jack Dromey stressed

that discussion was continuing on what is a draft at this stage. In response to questions and comments from members of the Council, Joint General Secretary, Tony Woodley advised that there is no constitutional basis for the old arrangements to continue and it is necessary to move forward on the arrangements agreed by the Council. In reiterating Derek Simpson's earlier comments, it had been agreed that Regional Secretaries, together with Regional F&GPCs, can continue with any regional business. Joint General Secretary, Derek Simpson confirmed that the business of the Union is continuing and the Regional Political Committees are already in place to discuss political issues.

Deputy General Secretary, Jack Dromey reported that the Joint General Secretaries had convened a meeting of the Regional Secretaries to brief them on the establishment of the constitutional committees. Mailing lists are being updated to ensure that all accredited representatives are invited to the conferences. There is a communications strategy being developed, which is crucial, to bring to the attention of all members via journals and the website and to ensure that all reps, shop stewards and Officers know what is happening, when it is happening, what it all means and roles and responsibilities. Work is continuing on the allocation of members to sectors. If a member is elected to a Sector Committee and is then transferred to another Sector, as a transitional measure, that member will automatically transfer over to the appropriate Regional Industrial Sector Committee.

At the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: "That the report on the Timeline for the establishment of the Constitutional Committees be endorsed."

**Minute
No.408**

2.11 Policy Conference

Joint General Secretary, Derek Simpson proposed that the dates set for the Policy Conference in November 2009 now become National Industrial Sector Conferences and that a date, to be determined, in the Spring, no later than May 2010, be set for a Policy Conference.

At the close of consideration, the Council

RESOLVED: "That the report be agreed."

**Minute
No.409**

Documentation

The Executive Council noted that all documents specified within the Minutes had been circulated to all members of the Council and were filed on the records of the Council.

**The Meeting of the Council
thereupon terminated**