

The minutes of the Zoom meeting of Edinburgh Trade Union Council held on Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 6.30pm.

Claire Robertson presiding,

Apologies: J Munz, T Anderson, S Lycouris, A King, G Smith, A Henderson.

Attendance: there were 12 delegates in attendance.

1. Minute of ordinary meeting held on 8/3/22. Minutes approved on the motion of D.Gluckstein, seconded by Claire Robertson.

2. Matters Arising.

2.1 Scottish Local Trade Union Council Conference 26/3/22: Several delegates from Edinburgh TUC had attended. The Secretary gave a report of the meeting as did Ian Mullen.

3. P & O Dispute: the secretary and Carmen Simon had attended the RMT blockade at Cairn Ryan on 8/4/22. There may be another blockade at Cairn Ryan on 22/4/22. The date is still to be confirmed. if it was going ahead there is the possibility of booking a minimus to take people through from Edinburgh. It will still be possible to go to Glasgow by train and get the RMT buses to Cairn Ryan.

4. Trade Reports

4.1 D Gluckstein (EIS-FELA) reported that industrial action has started over their wage claim.

4.2 I Mullen (UNISON) reported on a consultative ballot over wages. There is a consultation on the future of the EIJB. The closing date is on 22/4/22.

4.3 H Horrocks NUJ - reported on indicative ballot of the Herald Group regarding sackings of Feature team of journalists. the NUJ may wish messages of support and donations.

4.4 M Hickey (PDA) reported on a dispute with Boots regarding Opening times of branches and the pharmacy departments.

4.5 Terry Brotherstone (UCU) reported on the continuing university unions action on issues regarding their pension scheme, wages and overwork.

4.6 C Robertson (EIS) reported that the EIS a issued manifesto on local authority elections. They had sponsored an Edinburgh Evening News article on teachers and stress.

5. Ukrainian Situation - there was a report on the Edinburgh TUC meeting that took place on 22/3/22. The secretary referred to his written report. It had been proposed that there be a day of solidarity with refugees during Scottish Refugee Week. A possible date was 26/6/22. It was agreed that Edinburgh TUC would cover the publicity expense of the solidarity day. M.Hickey expressed the PDA solidarity with the Ukrainian people. I Mullen reported that UNISON will look at the the issue of disinvestment from Russian enterprises with Lothian Pension Fund.Ian had not heard from the Council about the availability of Leith Links on 26/6/22. T. Botherstone reported that he was liaising with Zenya Dove regarding the educational needs of refugees. Zhenya Dove is involved with ReAct. H Horrocks said that the solidarity of pharmacists is important regarding medical supplies.

6. Ray Wolff Trust Fund: The secretary recommended the approval of three documents. These were the Trust Aims, the Board of Trustees and the Trust Constitution. After discussion the three documents were approved. It was agreed to set up a special bank account for the Trust Fund. It was agreed that chair and the secretary draft a project application form for an annual grant of up to £1000.

7. Local authority Elections - the secretary reported on lobbying efforts. Questions had been circulated to candidates.

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8. Proposed Project: 'Trade Unions in the Communities'. Rab Paterson, secretary of Midlothian Trade Union Council, spoke to Council about the project. It was agreed to distribute manifesto to affiliates with a contact address. Possible first base for the project could be in Craigmillar.

9. International Workers Memorial Day - Thursday 28/4/22. DL reported on arrangements and publicity. I. Mullen asked the secretary to write re lighting of the City Chambers. National Gallery are to be asked them to lower their flags.

10. Edinburgh May Day Celebrations 2022 - 7/5/22: Leaflets advertising the march and rally and the social on 1/5/22 would be circulated.

11. 5th Grenfell Anniversary. The secretary and Hilary Horrocks reported. It was agreed that we ask Living Rent to support an online solidarity event on 7/6/22. It was agreed to have a vigil with our photoplacards on the day (14/6/22) at Princes Street at the Mound.

12. Support@Work Report: It was agreed to postpone a report until the May meeting.

13. Any other business

13.1 Anne Henderson: requested that the Edinburgh International Festival be on the May meeting agenda.

13.2 Ian Mullen: reported that John Stevenson (UNISON) passed away last weekend. Ian paid a tribute to a long standing trade union and labour movement activist.

14. Date of next meeting - 10/5/22