



Notes from Meeting 26th September 2018 7.30pm Maybury Centre, Woking

- 1) **Welcome and introductions** by the Secretary, Paul Couchman, with a request to sign in.
- 2) **Present:** Paul Couchman, Helen Couchman, Sheila Wright, Jo Tester, John Tester, Jamie Devey, Lee Belsten, Rob Williams, Liz Mansfield, Fiona Corr, John Hadwin, Amanda Creese, Brian Creese, Robert Evans, Daniel Ewen, Ginny Eaton, Kelvin Foote, Helen, Howard Smith, Beth Halliday, Nick Chaffey, Aidan Todd, Paul Thompson.
- 3) **Apologies:** Matt Clarke (Chair), Iain Raymond, Steve Trafford, Mick Dawson, Kye Gbangbola, Thelma Snelgrove (Treasurer), Subhi Al Zahari, Stephen Spence, Ros Godson, Alan Clyne.
- 4) **Treasurers Report** – Treasurer was not present but written report circulated. We have around £780 in the bank at present.
- 5) **Truth About Zane (TAZ).** Liz Mansfield updated the meeting on the latest in the campaign for truth and justice for the family of Zane Gbangbola. A Campaign Committee is being established with representatives from political parties, trade unions and community campaigns.
- 6) **Guest speakers,** Lee Belsten from Surrey Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and Paul Thompson from the Railworkers Union (RMT), addressed the meeting regarding the dire situation in the Surrey Fire Service, the social media war and the RMT strikes over keeping a Guard on the Trains on SWR. Guest speaker Rob Williams from the National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN) then spoke from a national perspective and a good discussion followed.

Note: There will be an RMT picket line at Staines Railway station from 4am-9am on both 5th and 6th October. Solidarity visits are much appreciated. Keep the Guard on the Train!

7) **What can we do?**

Paul Couchman introduced a discussion on what we can do as SOSiS, as trade unions and as individuals. After discussion, consensus was arrived at the FBU leading the call for a major event in Woking on 15th December. All agreed to take the date back to our respective organisations, political parties, trade unions and tenants associations and prepare for a show of public support for public services. It was agreed that there would be a bulleted list of specific cuts and corresponding demands related to actual services and the cuts in each sector – under the broad themes of:

- No to Austerity
- Yes to Public Safety
- For Fully Funded Public Services
- For a General Election Now!

8) **Next meeting** – Weds 7th November at 7.30pm at the Maybury Centre in Woking. This meeting to be a planning meeting for the event on 15th December. All welcome if you want to help.

Meeting ended 9.30pm.

Minutes taken by Helen Couchman.