2016 Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 7th April**

**at 7.30pm in**

**Staines Community Centre:**

Thames St, Staines-upon-Thames,

Staines, Middlesex TW18 4EA

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Paul Couchman, Helen Couchman, Mick Dawson, Barry Faulkner, Ginny Eaton, Matt Clarke, Iain Raymond, Thelma Snelgrove, Fiona Corr, Glenda Thisdell.

**Apologies:** Robert Evans, Liz Mansfield, Steve Trafford, Nick Trier, Fred Greaves, Ted Truscoe, Vicki Kirby.

**Minutes of last AGM** in 2014 were approved.

**Secretary’s Report** – Paul read a prepared report covering the past 18 months. SOSiS are now well established as the leading anti-austerity, trade-union based anti-cuts network in the County. Mick moved a vote of thanks for Paul’s continued work in supporting and developing the group. Carried.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Thelma reported that we have £1,286.71 in the bank (after paying for tonight’s room) and have paid 34p tax. The issue of a third signatory was discussed and Paul proposed that we agree that the Secretary, Chair and Treasurer should be signatories. Carried. **ACTION** - Thelma will look at Unity Trust bank as a possible new bank for SOSiS.

**Election of Officers.** All elected unanimously:

Paul Couchman – Secretary

Matthew Clarke – Chair

Iain Raymond – Vice Chair

Thelma Snelgrove – Treasurer

Paul Couchman and Annette Egan to work jointly on Comms.

Youth Officer post remains vacant.

**Election of Steering Committee:** All Officers plus Annette Egan, Liz Mansfield, Steve Trafford, Ginny Eaton, Barry Faulkner and Mick Dawson.

Agreed to hold meetings every two months, alternating between Staines and Woking. All Steering Committee meetings will still be open to the public. Steering Committee can make decisions between meetings.

**General Business**

**Minutes of last Steering Committee meeting** in November 2015 were approved. **Matters arising:**

* Barry asked the group what they thought re trying to pursue a local Momentum group as agreed at our last meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that SOSiS would participate in any local Momentum group/event – as long as it was established as an inclusive project. **ACTION** – Barry will ask Momentum to hold a local event.
* New SOSiS flyer – **ACTION** - Paul to send out electronic copy to all supporters for printing and distributing.
* HMRC Office closures – Thelma updated the group.
* Other local cuts – Paul gave an update

**Updates**

**Fire stations** – closure plans under way for Spelthorne stations and building of new station will begin soon. FBU have worked on a County Fire Safety Plan and we need to ask about this (does it mean further cuts and/or privatization)?

**Care Homes** – 2 closed last year. Two due to close this Summer and the last two next year. Some families still want to fight closures but limited support and unlikely to be further protests.

**Probation Service** now private in Kent, Surrey, Sussex.

**FE colleges** in Surrey being reviewed – likely to be mergers and cuts.

**Academy schools** in Surrey – **ACTION** – Paul to write to Teacher unions and to School Support Staff trade unions and SCCTU offering SOSiS support for a campaign against academisation.

**Junior Doctors Strikes** – Paul reported that there will be a major rally to support Junior Doctors on 16th April in Farnham. Local BMA rep suggested that this may be a major event. SOSiS agreed to support and promote. **ACTION** – Paul to commission a new SOSiS Banner on NHS and Health Workers.

**EU Referendum** – Paul advertised the forthcoming EU debate in Staines, hosted by the Socialist Party, on 12th May.

**Any Other Business**

Matt told the group of the prison reform programme and the pilot private prisons.

Paul updated the group on the Truth About Zane campaign and promoted the funding appeal and LBC radio phone-in to support the family.