

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**5<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Present:** F Mendelson, W Aitman, J Yugire, R Kain, M Haddon, D Gormley, J Imhoof, J Liepins-Hall, L Hannon, V Suddes, D Tree, A Watt, N Proudlock, S M Herron, M Temperley, I Mackintosh, R Sheikh, N Gray, E Lipscombe, L McGurk, C Smith, M Dobson, S Kipling, C McArdle, L Ashbridge, E Whitby, K Bensley, R Fenton, J Young, E Wilson, L Hardie, J Kennett, R Holland, M Symington, B Wilson, L Jackson, B Gates, S Hicks, M Wilkinson, J Horne, N Oliver, J Arnold, L McDonagh, J Flood, L Storey, P Gilroy, N Nicholson, J Bird, A Hamilton (Chair), N Ramanandi, N .....(cannot read)

In Attendance: K Loughlin

Paul Gilroy informed this was the first Branch Committee since the passing of Kenny Bell, Branch Secretary, in August this year. He spoke of Kenny's huge contribution to the branch, the many lives he had touched, his great guidance and advice and called for a one minute silence as a mark of respect. His Book of Remembrance is at the meeting for anyone who would like to contribute.

**1. Apologies**

A Robinson, H Ord, S Turnbull, P Brown, M Symington, D Scott, B Turnbull, J Dunlop, S Richardson, L Parker, L Hardy, M Hall, L Grainger, H Hawthorn, V Anson, J Carden, A Carson, N Bone, P Bell

**2. Branch Secretary**

Chair had received an Emergency Motion from the floor under this item. Vote taken on whether it should be heard

**Carried** – no one voted against, 1 abstention. Motion will be heard.

**Statement** – K Loughlin, Regional Officer – Senior Branch Officers propose to bring options for filling role of Branch Secretary to October Branch Committee.

**Motion** – R Sheikh moved motion to appoint an interim Branch Secretary until the AGM as we need someone in place due to lead us through this years budget cuts.

**Options** – Chair explained that under UNISON rules post cannot be vacant for more than 6 months and outlined the three options available:

- Branch Committee appoint an Acting Branch Secretary. Only Deputy Branch Secretaries would be eligible to act up;
- Organise an Extra General Meeting to elect a Branch Secretary. This would take 8 weeks; or
- Leave the post vacant and bring the AGM forward to February 2012.

Debate on the options took place. Support Senior Branch Officers but should be a democratic decision made by Branch Committee. Committee agreed this is a decision for the Branch. Vote on motion to appoint an Acting Branch Secretary.

**Carried** – For – 27, Against – 14

Following a short break Chair said Derek Muse had confirmed he did not want to stand. Nicky Ramanandi stated that she would not be standing. Paul Gilroy will stand and automatically elected as Acting Branch Secretary.

**Action** – Inform members that Paul Gilroy is appointed as Acting Branch Secretary

### 3. **Budget 2012**

P Gilroy delivered a powerpoint on the current budget situation and proposals for 2012. An extra Branch Committee meeting will be organised when the proposals for the 2012 package are available. Results of the questions on the pay claim were announced – Question 1, Yes – 765, No – 126, Question 2, Yes – 787, No – 50

**Action** – Branch to feedback results to national

**Action** – PG to check if Children's Services figures include schools staff

### 4. **Single Status**

Appeals Process – Authority requested additional information. Concerns registered about Tyne & Wear Museums – awaiting info.

### 5. **Kenton School – Academy Proposals**

Seeking Academy status; Results of consultative strike ballot, For – 4, Against – 5, Abstained – 4 (13 out of 32 attended). Public meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, other unions balloted for strike action, results due 16 September.

**Action** – Circulate information on public meeting

**Action** – Circulate results of ballots

### 6. **Workforce Development and Learning**

Bridges To Learning DVD shown – information given on future courses.

### 7. **National and Regional Committees / Conferences**

**Pensions** – A meeting was held last week. Retired Members meeting tomorrow.

**National Women's Conference** – 16-18 February 2012. Motions submitted by 20 October and delegates registered by 18 November.

**Northern Region Women's Network** meeting – 16-17 Sept.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Conference** - 18-20 November

**Action** – Circulate information on pensions to all stewards

**Action** – Circulate information on Women's Conference

**Action** – Suggested motions for Women's Conference to Branch by 10 October

**Action** – Requests to attend Women's Conference to Branch by 9 November

**Action** – Circulate information on Regional Women's Network meeting

**Action** – Requests to attend LGBT conference to Branch by 10 October

### 8. **Directorate Reports**

**Adult Services** – Consultation in Learning Disabilities – staff briefed today; trawl for voluntary redundancy; Learning Disability section to produce newsletter.

**Environment & Regeneration** – Review of Technical Services; School meals consultation next week.

**Culture** – Adult Learning consultation over summer. Libraries meeting next week.

**Children's Services** – Management response circulated to Youth Staff about their concerns. Early Years Provision met with worker groups over the summer 3 events to be set up with reps attending. School Working Group meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Whilst meeting quorate Branch Treasurer proposed N Ramanandi to be the 4<sup>th</sup> signatory for Unity bank issues. **Agreed**

Whilst meeting quorate request that all donations to be accepted – **Agreed**

**Chief Execs** – Waiting date for DJC.

**Admin** – Concern over split of admin at Springfield. .

**CVS** – Nothing to report.

**Action** – Circulate information on events for Early years provision

**Action** – Review Springfield admin

**9. Health & Safety** – Nothing to report.

**10. Membership / Recruitment**

Region will be recruiting on behalf of branch. Circulate dates to local reps.

**11. Minutes for Confirmation** – Agreed

**12. Any Other Business**

PSA meeting – 20 September

For the Alternative TUC march and rally – 2 October

**Action** – Circulate information on PSA meeting

**Action** – Circulate information on TUC rally

**Next Branch Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011.**