

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
3th October 2011

Present: J Bird (in the Chair), L Walker, A Carson, L Newton, W Aitman, J Yugire, L Alderson, R Sheikh, B Wilson, M Temperley, N Proudlock, S Turnbull, S Hicks, M Wilkinson, S Loughrey, R Nelson, B Oliver, J Liepens-Hall, E Whitby, L McGurk, E Wilson, C Mullinder, J Carden, C McGuinness, C McArdle, J Arnold, J Imhoof, J Horne, M Haddon, J Nicholson, S Rounthwaite, V Powell, L Hannon, P Gilroy, A Hamilton, G Brown, D Tree, V Suddes, J Kennett, I Mackintosh **In attendance:** K Loughlin (Regional Officer)

1. Welcome and Apologise for Absence

B Oliver, M Brown, A Russell, J Dunlop, S Herron, N Bone, R Clarke, P Brown, G Gora, M Henderson, L Parker, L Ashbridge, K Bensley, R McGrath, J Reed, A Dargon, N Ramanandi, K Khan, P Furness, M Dobson, S Heron, L Hardie

2. Budget 2012 – ‘HR Package’

P.Gilroy presented details of the proposed HR package for people at risk from 2012 budget cuts and our response. Information can be found at www.unison-newcastle.org.uk . A Hamilton said there are still places available on the Equality and the Budget Consultation Training. Anyone interested in attending should contact the branch office

Action – Circulate up to date information as it becomes available

Action – Anyone interested in equality training to contact Branch Office

3. Pensions

P Gilroy gave an update on the meetings that have been held on pensions and the current position. Discussion followed on the ballot for strike action. Latest presentation on pensions can be found at www.unison-newcastle.org.uk

Action - Circulate PowerPoint

Action – Arrange meeting at Partnership House

4. Academy Proposals

J Arnold gave an update on the campaign against academies and details of schools who may be going to apply for academy status.

5. Hardest Hit Campaign

A Hamilton gave information about the Hardest Hit Campaign. There will be a public meeting in Sunderland on 21 October and a march and rally in Newcastle on 22 October. It is important that there is a large turnout.

Action – Circulate information about the public meeting and march and rally

Action – Anyone interested in attending to contact Branch Office

6. Workforce Development and Learning

W Aitman updated on the courses coming up and also Employee Support Question and Answer session. J Yugire updated on Bridges to Learning

Action – Circulate date of Employee Support event

7. National and Regional Committees / Conferences

Information has been circulated on all National Conferences. This will be updated and circulated on as more information becomes available

National Women's Conference – 16 – 18 February 2012 in Brighton. Meeting of Branch Women's Group organised for 10 October

Action – Suggested motions to Branch by 10 October

Action – Expressions of interest to attend conference to Branch by 9 November

National Black Members Conference – 3 – 5 February 2012 in Brighton

Action – Expressions of interest to attend conference to Branch by 24 October

Community Service Group conference – 3 – 4 March 2012 in Brighton

Action – Suggested motions to Branch by 28 October

Action – Expressions of interested to attend conference to Branch by 25 November

National Disabled Members Conference – 5 – 7 November in Brighton. Four delegates attending

Action – Suggested emergency motions to Branch by 14 October

National LGBT Conference – 18 – 20 November in Glasgow.

Action – Circulate motions for LGBT conference

8. Directorate Reports

Adult Services – Learning Disabilities – weekly staff meetings. Mental Health interviews now in January not December

Environment & Regeneration – School meals overtime and retainer pay to go.

Culture – Tourist Information Centre briefing for staff next week

Children's Services – Mass meeting to be held on term time working. Springfield issues around staff relocation and parking/travel issues. Travel plans were to be arranged but this has not happened.

Community and Voluntary – no update

Admin – no update

9. Health & Safety

Issue with the roof at Palatine was raised.

10. Information

Membership – decrease in September across the board not just in the Council.

Density is still 70% but we need to maintain membership figures.

Festivals Report – A team of volunteers worked with the Worker's Beer Company at a number of festivals. A Hamilton asked that thanks be sent to Louise Reeve for the hard work she puts in to make this a success, this was seconded by C McArdle.

Agreed This year the team raised £646 which they would like approval to donate to Lifespan in memory of Kenny Bell. **Agreed**

Financial statement – More information requested about £7,000 credit card spend

Action – Thanks to be sent to Louise Reeve for hard work on festivals

Action – Money raised at festivals to be sent to Lifespan in memory of Kenny Bell

Action – More information on credit card spend to next Branch Committee

11. **Affiliations Donations and Correspondence** – Agreed. C McArdle gave a brief report on Columbia visit and will produce a full report for next meeting.

Action – Produce a report on Columbia for next Branch Committee

12. **Minutes for Confirmation** – Agreed

13. **AOB** – Impact of Osborne's speech discussed

14. **Next Meeting – Monday 7th November, 4.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.**