

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES - Amended
7th November 2011

Present: J Bird (Chair), L Hardie, J Arnold, M Leach, L Scorfield, F Mendelson, W Aitman, L Alderson, G Burin, R Kain, J Liepins-Hall, M Harrison, L Ashbridge, L Newton, L Walker, A Carson, J Horne, D Tree, V Suddes, L Hannon, J Imhoof, A Lamb, S Rounthwaite, N Ramanandi, D Muse, N Proudlock, S Herron, K Corbett, R Nelson, B Oliver, N Oliver, M Wilkinson, E Wilson, P Ball, W Ndlovu, E Whitby, J Young, N Nicholson, C McCardle, P Gilroy, M Henderson.

Signing In – Record of who attends is important for negotiation and also the review of facility time. Important that members ask Managers for time to attend meetings.

1. Welcome and Apologise for Absence

I Mackintosh, V Powell, C McGuinness, H Ord, S Richardson, B Turnbull, R Fenton, M Dobson, R Clarke, M Cunny, J Dunlop, L Parker, P Furness, C Armstrong, R Wilson, M Thompson, J Nicholson, M Hall, M Haddon, B Gates, A Robinson, Angela Hamilton

2. Budget 2012 – HR Package

PG gave a presentation on the HR package relating to the Budget process including an update on what has been agreed. This will form the basis of the HR Policy.

Action – organise an event when Budget details are released.

3. Pensions Campaign

PG gave an update on the results of the pensions ballot and the updated offer from Government. He explained this is **not** an offer. A copy of Outlines – Strike Special No 1 was distributed for comments. General strike information was discussed including exemptions, hardship, turnout and pickets. The Hardship Fund currently stands at £31,000.

Action – Outlines - Strike Special no 1 to be amended and sent out to members

Action – Clarify when strike action will be deducted from pay

PG said we are required to have an industrial action committee. Nominations were taken and agreed.

Industrial Action Committee

P Gilroy – Branch Secretary acting

Josie Bird – Branch Chair

E Whitby – Children's Services

L Hannon – YHN

N Ramanandi – Deputy Branch Secretary

J Young – Chief Executives Directorate

D Muse – Deputy Branch Secretary

L Ashbridge – Admin

I Mackintosh - Treasurer

V Suddes – Adult and Culture

K Loughlin – Regional Organiser

E Wilson – Adult and Culture

A Hall – Assistant Treasurer

J L-Hall – Environment and Regeneration

F Mendelson – Retired Member

Nick Oliver – Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

Action – Circulate dates for Industrial Action Committee meetings.

Agreed – Not to increase the Hardship Fund at the current time

4. Part Year Working

PG gave an update on Part Year Working. Each individual needs to be informed of how much they will lose. Road shows taking place re Part Year.

Action – Reinforce we haven't accepted proposals.

5. NEC Nomination

JB provided information on vacant NEC seats. We have received 2 nominations for the National Local Government Female Seat from Pheobe Watkins and Lynn Poulton. Branch Officers recommend we nominate Lynn Poulton. EW felt we did not have enough time to fully debate the nominations and recommend we did not nominate.

Vote on whether to nominate – Yes – 27, No – 2

Vote on nominations – Lynn Poulton – 20, Pheobe Watkins – 1, Abstention – 1

Action – Branch to nominate Lynn Poulton

6. Workforce Development and Learning

WA gave an update on Stewards Training . Learning events are being held on 23 Nov with funding from TUC in Learning Zones at the Civic Centre and Allendale Road.

Action – Circulate information as soon as possible.

7. National and Regional Committees and Conferences

NR said a number of requests have been received to attend National Women's Conference. We are only allowed to send 3 delegates but people can go as sharers or visitors

Agreed – 5 people to attend National Women's Conference

Action – Submit forms for National Women's Conference by 18 November

8. Directorate Reports

Admin – LH attended Lets Talk meeting

Adult Services – no update

Chief Executives – no update

Children's Services – Springfield update. Youth Service restructure – recruitment ongoing. Staff travel plans – Martin Surtees had looked at travel in relation to Springfield closing this will be reviewed in 3 months.

Community and Voluntary – no update

Culture – Tourist Information Centre discussions are ongoing

Environment & Regeneration – Update was provided on school meals consultation.

Action – EW to update LH on admin problems that have arisen since the closure

9. Health and Safety – nothing to report

10. Information – to be noted

11. Affiliations, donations and correspondence – agreed

12. Minutes for confirmation - agreed

13. Any other business

Council is undertaking a piece of work on how to deal with budget in times of austerity to show best practice. We would like to be part of this and possibly involve Dexter

Agreed

14. Next meeting – Monday 5 December, 3.00pm, Committee Room, Civic Centre