

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
6th June 2011

Present: M Haddon, J Imhoof, D Gormley, J Young, J Horne, D Tree, V Suddes, L Jackson, S Hazel, WN Wilson, E Wilson, P Robertson, M Leach, J Arnold, A Carson, M Syminton, B Turnbull, C McGuinness, J Carden, L Alderson, J Yugire, W Aitman, J Liepens-Hall, G Burin, S Loughrey, N Proudlock, B Oliver, E Whitby, B Mokhtare, R Sheikh, D Muse, L Newton, A Hamilton, P Gilroy, N Nicholson, K Bell, S Hicks, J Kennett, J Nicholson

In Attendance: K Loughlin, S Praszczalek

Informed previous Minutes now moved to Item 11 on the agenda. Reminder that all at meeting to be treated with respect and dignity.

1. Apologies

S Mulligan, P Furness, M Cunny, P Elliott, H Ord, C McArdle, L Hardie, J Dunlop, M Thompson, L Ashbridge, A Ibbetson, L Scorfield, M Temperley, S Herron, L Gormley, L Grainger, B Taylor, R Fenton, P Keenan, E Miller, S Heron, N Ramanandi, M Wilkinson, M Dobson, C Mullinder

2. (a) Pensions

Powerpoint presentation given, key issues - working longer, pay more, increased contributions, reduced value, accessing and accrual rates – final salary scheme. Have workplace meetings in July, potential ballot October/November – publicity from Region and National. Newcastle College has different pension scheme. Young Members to be involved.

Action – Invite Retired Members to future meeting to discuss pensions/poverty

(b) STEP/Budget Cuts

Powerpoint presentation given – avoid compulsory redundancies, expect commitment soon for current financial year; weekly meetings with Unison lead and HR for each directorate. Labour Group Exec meeting on 4th July. No date set for CJC.

Action – Email policy to reps re full-time/rolling contracts – for info

Action - Clarify staff structure re next April will be 1.75 redundancy -Mental Health Resource Centres

3. Single Status

Window closed – still have right to appeal if 50% of worker group agree. NCC should complete this year. Update given on retirement age changes, Workstreams – Health and Wellbeing event 19th July – focus on women; Learning Development workshops in about 3 weeks time.

Action – Send out info when available for Health & Wellbeing Event

4. Academies and Part Year Working

An update given on Academies not the right route; amended leaflet through PSA to be delivered soon; meetings re TUPE process; Catholic schools liaising together; no progress on part year working.

Action – PSA -Request J Khoshooee, Regional Office, to speak at next Branch Committee

5. Workforce Development and Learning

New Shop Stewards Training Course in July, including refresher; B2L workshops; CLC and Learning/Training courses to contact R Sheikh/W Aitman; J Yugire gave info on further courses available.

6. Feedback from National and Regional Committees

P Gilroy and J Bird re-elected to NEC; all nominees branch supported for NEC were elected. Updates from committees will be given at future meetings.

7. Directorate Reports

Update given of closure and mergers of Adult Services centres; Connexions; cuts in Anti-Bullying team; review of training services; closure of Springfield.

Action – Springfield Closure - Reps meeting to be arranged

Cross cutting EINA meeting this Friday; Contact W Aitman queries within E&R. Job loss's at Newcastle College; de-recognition of UCU member – raise through Labour Group.

8. Health & Safety – Nothing to report.

9. Membership – Noted.

10. Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

Information will go out with minutes in the future.

All Agreed at meeting

£500 extra required for Northern Pride. Region to contribute – KB to contact.

11. Minutes for Confirmation

Agreed.

12. Any Other Business

Email Shop Stewards / Reps requesting return rail ticket from members who attended March & Rally in London 26th March – requesting refund due to train delays.

Action – Email to Shop Stewards / Reps

13. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 4 July 2011, 4pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre