

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
9 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: N Ramanandi, J Liepins-Hall, J Nicholson, J Imhoof, M Haddon, K Bensley, N Bone, E Whitby, L Ashbridge, L Alderson, J Carden, C M McGuinness, L Hardie, J Arnold, A L Robinson, C McArdle, M Wilkinson, S Hicks, L Newton, A Carson, W Aitman, F Mendelson, R Sheikh, D Tree, V Suddes, J Horne, J Yugire, R Fenton, I Mackintosh, N Proudlock, S M Herron, L Scorfield, P Ball, E Wilson, L Jackson, N Oliver, R Nelson, B Oliver, G Burin, M Dobson, D Muse, J Kennett, L McGurk, W N Wilson, P Gilroy, A Hamilton
K Loughlin – Regional Officer, J Bird – Chair

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

L Parker, R Clarke, C Mason, C Armstrong, L Walker, V Powell, J Dunlop, M Caney, P Furness, P Satterthwaite, B Turnbull, C Armstrong, B Taylor, H Ord, R Wilson, L Walker, M Harrison, L Hannon

Living Wage - Guest Speaker – Kevin Rowan, Regional Secretary of Northern TUC

Detailed information was given by Kevin Rowan about the nationwide Living Wage Campaign and the work of the Living Wage Panel in Newcastle. This calls for every worker in the country to earn enough to provide their family with the essentials of life. There are 2 consultation events on 20 & 27 January. Final report by end of March 2012.

ACTION: Promote consultation events.

2. Affiliations and Donations

Affiliations – Agreed

Donations – Recommend £50 for ACTSA and £50 for MAP – Agreed

3. Pensions Update

Principles in key consultation document approved - 0% increase until 2014; keep admitted body status; prevent opt outs. Continue to negotiate; members make final decision; keep momentum going. SGE meeting in London tomorrow.

ACTION: Send out circular with update next week. (PG)

4. Part Year Working

Discussions continue with Authority. LA contacting schools, potential to mitigate loss. Nursery nurses to be re-evaluated; Support Asst. Special Needs re-evaluation on school to school basis.

5. Facility Time

PG reflected on agreement for proposals from last Branch Committee – but wants to involve others in the process. A working party will be set up to bring a report to next branch committee chaired by M Clayton to Chair small group, not branch officers.

ACTION: PG to email info to Shop Stewards

ACTION: Shop Stewards to email interest in taking part

6. Pay Claim

Defer to February Branch Committee for update.

7. Workforce Development and Learning

22 new stewards trained in 2011; ULR course 16 February at Regional Office; spaces on Equality Diploma course 26 January.

Articles for newsletter to be submitted to branch; info given on Skills for Life and Collective Learning Fund; Admin Conference – info out shortly.

ACTION: Info to Shop Stewards re Organising Course (WA)

8. Colombia

Due to time C McArdle will give report to February Branch Committee or AGM in March.

9. National and Regional Committees and Conferences

Women's Conference in February – meeting next week.

Regional Disabled Members AGM – 24 January, Regional Office

FM – Retired Members can attend SOGs meetings, should be kept informed.

ACTION: Info to all women members re Women's Conference (NR)

10. Directorate Reports

Adult – Update on Mental Health Resources; Welfare Rights issued redundancy notices. Culture meeting tomorrow afternoon; queries on mobile libraries and home services.

ACTION: Inform Adult & Culture Reps of DJC (MS)

Children's Services – Phase 1A / 1B awaiting JDs; DJC 18 January.

ACTION: Email reps info Children's Services DJC (LH)

Chief Execs – Budget DJC Wednesday; interviews started, concern about redundancies (compulsory/voluntary)

Enviro & Regen – Budget cuts across all divisions. ABR to be disbanded.

ACTION: Email reps info E&R Budget DJC mid February (NR)

Admin – CX – Accepted all VR with Scrutiny; PAs – extra funding found, meeting displaced staff this week

CVS – Community Service Group Conference 3rd March, Brighton; nominations open for SGE this week. Believes future bleak for NE

AH – EINAs on budget agenda this week, needs final comments by end of week.

11. Health & Safety

Any comments or concerns to be communicated to branch.

12. Information

December membership noted.

Financial year for Unison January to December – info with auditors now.

13. Correspondence

All noted.

14. Any Other Business

Bid to be submitted to branch for trade union studies for learning

Meeting to be arranged with chairs of SOGs.

Remove note from Action Log re format of minutes.

Policy Cabinet meeting on Wednesday will include 'Fairness Committee' – open to all.

15. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 6th February 2012.