

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
6 February 2012

Present: R Sheikh, R Clarke, D Tree, A Gregory, V Suddes, J Horne, E Wilson, M Symington, J Nicholson, R Fenton, N Gray, C Hodgson, V Powell, B Oliver, T Cook, S Hicks, E Whitby, L Newton, C McArdle, J Arnold, L Hardie, K Bensley, L Alderson, J Carden, C M McGuinness, L McGurk, L Walker, J Kennett, N Oliver, W Aitman, J Yugire, I Mackintosh, P Gilroy, J Bird, N Ramanandi, N Nicholson, R Holland, R McGrath, A Hamilton (Chair)

- 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence** – R Nelson, K Samuelson, P Keenan, K Harrison, A Robinson, K Loughlin, H Ord, A Hall, S Rounthwaite, A Carson, L Hannon, C Smith, M Dobson
- 2. Affiliations and Donations**
Affiliations – **Agreed**
Donations – Medical Aid for Palestinians £105, J Imhoof, Young Member, requested £1,000 donation towards funding for Kenny Bell Memorial minibus in Cuba (Northern Region require £3,000), P Gilroy requested £1,000 donation towards resources for health and wellbeing in workplace, working with Leisure Services – **Agreed**
Action: Raise cheques – P Gilroy
- 3. Branch Structure & Honoraria** – Working party looking at structure – second meeting this week, will report back April/May Branch Committee, therefore not included in this year's March AGM.
Action: Working group to report by May Branch Committee
- 4. Branch Rules** – Draft Branch Rules were circulated for discussion. A draft Standing Orders paper is being written. The rules will sit alongside the current structure. Comments from the floor were taken and suggested changes will be incorporated in a new document which will be circulated before the next Branch Committee. Rules and Standing Orders be circulated before next Branch Committee for final comment before reference to AGM
Action: Final draft Branch Rules and Standing Orders to be circulated before March Branch Committee
- 5. Council Budget combined with Directorate Reports**
Adult – Update provided on Welfare Rights and Community Mental Health Resource structure
Admin – Training is required on school system.
Culture – Concern about volunteers in libraries services proposals due 5 March. Has been discussed at CJC, a shop steward will be on working group. Tourist Information Centre – staff move to NGI on secondment,
Children's Services – Management meeting 10th February, Residential Care 17th February. Waiting for response on fixed term contracts. EINAs are of poor quality.
No-one appointed after interviews in Youth, waiting for response from J Collings.
Enviro & Regen – ABR disbanded some staff appointed to Fairer Housing Unit and Community Section. Director of ABR leaving 30 April. 300 staff being interviewed in N/Services, 45 at risk.
Chief Execs – Possibility of a disproportionate affect on BME and part time workers. HR interviews ongoing
Action: To follow up training on schools system – W Aitman
Action: To follow up disproportionate impact on BME and part time workers
Action: Final equalities comments to be emailed to A Hamilton by end of week.
- 6. Pensions Campaign** – National meeting held last week ongoing discussions taking place

7. Northern Region Service Group Executive (SGE) Nominations

Nominations received from Julie Wynn and Margaret Clayton – **Agreed.**

Regional Council Nominations received from Clare Williams (Regional Convenor) Julie Wynn (Deputy Regional Convenor), Eileen Thompson (Treasurer) – **Agreed**

Kenny Bell Memorial Regional Award for Union Organising – Region seeking nominations for someone who has shown to have good strong organising skills and initiative. Contact Branch for nomination form to be March Branch Committee.

Action: Submit regional nomination forms for above - Admin

Action: Kenny Bell Memorial on agenda for March Branch Comm.

8. Workforce Development and Learning – No update given.

9. Colombia – Report deferred (due to lack of time) to March Branch Committee.

10. National and Local Government Conferences – Anyone interested in attending these conferences in June to contact branch. Motions must be submitted to by 28 February for National and 24 February for National.

Action: Send information to all stewards – Admin

Action: Expressions of interest to be sent to the branch – All

Action: Further discussion at April Branch Committee – All

11. Health & Safety – No update given.

12. Information

Membership – noted.

Financial Statements - Financial statements including draft year end balance sheet and budget for 2012 were discussed. Final audited accounts to be submitted to March AGM.

13. Correspondence

Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival 13-15 July, travelling 11 July, returning 16. Anyone interested contact the Branch office.

Action: Expressions of interest to Branch – All

14. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee 9th January – Agreed

Branch Education 11th January – Noted

15. Any Other Business

Community Service Group Conference 3-4 March, Brighton. Service Group Exec nominations required by 17 February – verbally nominate Roger Holland – **Agreed**

Open Clasp Theatre 23rd February, Gosforth Civic – branch to promote performance and workshop of 'Swags and Tails' which is about the quality, or lack of quality, of care of older people and carers in our society.

Action: Email info to members – P Gilroy/E Lipscombe

16. Date of Next Branch Committee – Monday 5th March 2012