

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
5th March 2012

PRESENT: B Metters; E Whitby; L McGurk; E Wilson; J Mead; N Nicholson; P Gilroy; A Hamilton; T Gregory; V Suddes; J Liepins-Hall; I Mackintosh; T Cook; J Horne; L Patterson; S Hicks; L Alderson; M Wilkinson; N Gray; J Reed; R Sheikh; J Carden; W Aitman; J Yugire; C McArdle; J Arnold; L Hardie; M Symington; N Ramanandi; S Hazel; F Mendelson; J Bird (Chair); K Loughlin (Regional Officer)

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence** - R Clarke, B Oliver, R Holland, J Kennett, C Mcguinness; K Khan; L Parker; J Nicholson, P Brown, L Hannon, A Carson, L Walker, N Oliver, J Musham, R Fenton, H Ord, Z Toori, L Scorfield, A Robinson
2. **Affiliations and Donations**
Affiliations – **Agreed**; Donations – **Agreed**. Chair requested £500 to Jafra Centre – **Agreed**
May Day – Re-commit advert in brochure – £220 - **Agreed**
3. **Branch Rules and Standing Orders**
Rules - Changes and additions have been made to the Rules which were noted at the previous Branch Committee.
Standing Orders – Appendix 2 – Equality Reps and Disabled Members Officer job roles to be added – **Agreed**; Appendix 3 – to include Disabled Members Officer – **Agreed**; Appendix 4 – wording issues-fair representation and proportionality; timing of changes; – vote taken – Accept 15; Reject: 8; Abstentions 3 – **Agreed**; 2 new Standing Committees – International and Campaigns.
ACTION: Rules and Standing Orders to be recommended to AGM to be formally adopted.
4. **Council Budget and Branch Lobby**
Lobby of the Council meeting Wednesday, 7th March, 4.30pm, critical to attend - meeting will review severance scheme & reduce redundancy payments. Compulsory redundancy situation; mayoral elections not supported by Unison.
Children's Services – Snr Management post being looked at; Youth Staff - appointment process. Res. Care rota issues, looking to extend consultation period . Shared Services – being explored. 44 posts at risk.
Adults – Welfare Rights – 2 people not appointed, looking at process. Hill Court will be Wentworth Court, separate review, possibly 2 posts at risk. Community Mental Health – ongoing rota issues. Domestic Staff – need further clarification about care assistant role. Transfer team – 1 post at risk.
Culture – Tourist Info Centre – meeting next Monday with NGI. Libraries – Met focus worker group; reps concerned, management to state position. Awaiting info re Jesmond Library merging with pool.
Enviro & Regen - DJC last week, Leisure staff notified of cuts.
Neighbourhood Services – Grounds, Parks and Rangers – high numbers at risk.
Redeployment – need to access training.
Agency staff have access to redeployment newsletter – need clarification.
Security Training Course – Friday 9th March, Allendale Road. Security – ½ post vacant for redeployment opportunity.

Chief Execs – End of process – Issue of BME workers affected in Community Section - raised at CJC. Need report for this year where cuts have hit.

YHN – Supporting people funding – CVS not doing this – will lose jobs.

ADMIN – WA has costings for Sims training course.

CVS - Community Service Conf. report to be submitted to April Branch Comm. **ACTION – DM**

Newcastle College – NCC does not support Free schools – in dispute with college.

Redundancy Scheme – Council intends to reduce redundancy package to x 1.25; those actively employed to 30th April entitled to x 1.75; fixed term contracts up to 6 months will be protected.

5. **Colombia Report**

Written report available for April Branch Comm. Quarterly meetings are arranged for International Committee.

6. **Pensions**

No further information. Government has to sign off draft agreement – detail to be shared with branches – members will be balloted.

- No pay rise next year – arbitration refused. Pay starting to be a bigger issue for members - must put pressure on employers. This branch was the only one from Northern Region to submit motion to conference on Pay.

7. **Part Year Working Update**

NCC to give final offer tomorrow. Branch to ballot affected members at end of month-meetings to be arranged.

8. **Workforce Development and Learning**

£3,000 Learning Fund – **Agreed**. Branch funding for courses, all applications looked at. Lack of training through NCC.

Equality Monitoring Form – to monitor and review members contacting branch. Pilot for 3 months from AGM. Briefing for branch officers; to be included in Shop Stewards training - **ACTION – RS**

9. **National and Regional Committees and Conferences**

Motions have been submitted to Conference – 7 to National Delegate Conference and 5 to Local Government. Expressions of interest to attend conference received, need low paid worker. Focus more on recruitment in this area next year. Special Branch Committee to be arranged to discuss – **ACTION – PG**

National Women's Conference – report update to be given for website and April Branch Committee – **ACTION – NN**

Black Members report on website, from conference to be available for April Branch Comm. – **ACTION - PG**

10. **Health & Safety**

Asbestos issue in schools –. Work related stress can be a disability issue. Members should complete stress survey form to enable monitoring. Health & Safety Officer to obtain list – **ACTION - JH**

11. **Information**

Membership down 26. Financial statement – Noted.

12. Correspondence

Newcastle Dogs – Free tickets available for 24th March.

KB Memorial Award – Nominate James Imhoof, Young Member – **Agreed**

13. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee 6th February – **Agreed**

No matters arising.

14. Any Other Business

- Opening Branch Library (including dvds), encourage members to borrow, list to be compiled – **ACTION – PG**

- Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, speaking at Newcastle University. 6 March.

- International Women's Day, 8th March, event at Civic Centre – **ACTION – resend – Admin**

- Tolpuddle Festival – 13-15 July, contact branch with expressions of interest before end of March.

- Rally and March against Lib/Dems – 10 March, 11.30am Quayside.

- Hardship Fund – 12 applications all supported re Day of Action 30 November 2011.

15. Date of Next Branch Committee Meeting – Monday 2nd April 2012, 4pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre