

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
7 January 2013

PRESENT: N Nicholson(NN), T Cook, D Gormley, J Young, L Ashbridge, M Wilkinson, S Hicks, E Whitby, B Oliver, M Symington (MS), P Gregory, J Shortt, A Hamilton(AH), A Green, L McGurk, D Carroll, V Suddes, A Gregory, B Oliver, R Dixon, P Cobb, J Yugire, W Aitman, N Ramanandi, J Bird (JB-Chair), P Gilroy (PG), N Bone, M Clark, C McArdle, L Patterson, J Carden, C McGuinness, I Mackintosh(IMac), L Jackson, R Fenton, C Smith, M Dobson, G Burin, G Brown, W Ndlovu, J Imhoof, D Mead, W Aitman (WA), J Yugire(JY)

In Attendance: K Loughlin (KL), S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: C Armstrong, E Wilson, K Bensley, K Nesbitt, J Nicholson, J Liepins-Hall, I Royal, A Carson, R Sheikh, L Crosby, D Tree, L Hannon, J Jarvis, M Henderson, A Watt, J Horne

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

JB welcomed all to this part of the meeting – absences Noted. Introductions required when stewards speaking from the floor.

- Chair asked Shop Stewards and Branch Officers to return completed nomination forms to branch office before deadline 11 January – AGM 18 February.

- Info to go out to members in next Outlines – importance of the of role of Shop Stewards and Branch Officers– **ACTION PG**

2. THOMPSONS SOLICITORS BRIEFING

Thompsons Lawyers - Nicola Waugh, Personal Injury, and Gill Muir, Clinical Negligence Specialist, both gave informative verbal presentations with regard to their own specialist areas, plus an overview of the services Thompsons offer UNISON members and their families. With the recent attack from central government on legal services this free service from Thompsons is a huge benefit to members. A Q&A session followed.

The Chair thanked Nicola and Gill for a very useful presentation.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

IMac – Draft Budget 2013 (paper distributed) – explained allocation of funding, headings can be changed, branch reserves are strong, Senior Officers mindful of reduced income if membership drops – will bring back to Branch Committee.

Draft Budget 2013 – **AGREED**

Any queries to be directed to Branch Treasurer.

4. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Abortion Rights, Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Unite Against Fascism – Re-affiliate – **AGREED**

- Medical Aid for Palestinians - £50 – **AGREED**

- Hazards Campaign - £50 – **AGREED**

- Stonewall – LGBT - £150 – **AGREED**

- Coalition of Resistance – Save Our Libraries - £500 – **AGREED**

5. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- Branch Committee 3rd December **AGREED** with the following amendments:

Page 1 – Medical Aid for Palestinians - £50 – **Amend - Endorsed**

Page 2 – Stonewall index NCC have **NOT** put a submission in last few years, pressure being applied to do so – **Amend - Endorsed**

- Matters Arising – None

- Branch Education – **NOTED**

6. NEC ELECTIONS

Nomination period has not yet opened. Will circulate all nominations at Special Branch Committee 25 January and February Branch Committee – **ACTION PG**

7. **PAY CLAIM 2013**
PG gave update from lodging claim with LGE on 17 October to present date. LGE may offer 1% this year WITH changes to terms and conditions – this is not acceptable. NJC meets on 10 January – will then update – **ACTION PG**
Pay leaflets in branch. Main focus on jobs at the moment.
8. **CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION**
PG presented Shop Stewards Training certificates to relevant stewards. Those not present will be given at next Special Branch Committee.
9. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**
WA – funding proposal submitted to financially assist members studying - £5,000 - **AGREED**
- Advertise to members the availability of training and various courses – Ongoing
- Job Centre Plus in Civic on Friday (730 redundancy / 400 compulsory) – need closer working relationship to link in with NCC.
Various courses/workshops available; next Shop Stewards course 6th March – send out reminder – **ACTION WA**
Bridges to Learning - Professional Development for Teaching Assistants and Non-Teaching Staff in Schools Conference, 28th February, 9.30am – 3.30pm, Durham – info to members – **ACTION JY**
Various courses/workshops available - contact JY at Branch Office.
10. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**
All directorates were covered in pre meeting.
Meeting with HR on Friday to discuss part-time working, agency staff, voluntary redundancy etc; workstream leads to take charge and track with HR, maximise those who stay, lack of communication through management.
11. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**
Women Members NN – Women’s meeting 14 December with Regional Convenor, low attendance. Possibility of Press to be notified about various campaigns – discussion with Senior Officers required. Lack of continued legacy with Olympics – should be ongoing.
Disabled Members AH – Report written by NCC not in correct format – apology received.
Welfare JY – UNISON Winter Fuel Grant – info sent to all members – deadline 28th February.
Young Members JI – Social Justice event cancelled. Young members meeting tomorrow – will discuss YM work plan for next year.
13. **HEALTH & SAFETY** - No report – any issues direct to J Carden/J Reed, H&S Officers.
14. **INFORMATION**
Membership down; encourage colleagues to join.
Financial Statement – **NOTED**
15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- ‘Stop The Cuts – Save Our Services’ demo 16th February, branch supporting – EW to bring costs to next Special Branch Committee – **Funding AGREED**
16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday 4th February 2013, 3pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.