

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**4 February 2013**

**PRESENT:** C McGuinnes(CMcG), C McArdle, L Patterson, A Carson, L Ashbridge, M Wilkinson, L Jackson, E Whitby, G Brown, M Symington, P Keenan, N Oliver, V Suddes, A Gregory, D Tree, J Liepins-Hall(JLH), J Nicholson, T Cook, LA Kennedy, I Mackintosh, D Gormley, J Shortt(JS), J Yugire, R Clarke, A Green, P Gregory, L McGurk, N Nicholson, K Loughlin, G Burin, T Carr, R McGrath, S Batty, P Gilroy(PG), W Aitman(WA), E Whitby(EW), M Dobson(MD)

**In Attendance:** K Loughlin(KL), D Atkinson(DA), S Praszczalek

**APOLOGIES:** R Nelson, J Bird (JB), N Ramanandi, L Hardie, C Simblett, J Horne, A Hamilton, J Carden, S Hicks, S Bond, L Hannon, R McGrath, B Oliver, D Muse

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

PG welcomed all to this part of the meeting, informed he would chair meeting acknowledging Chair's (JB) apology. All absences Noted.

- Thanks given to K Loughlin, Regional Officer, for all the assistance she has given the branch over the past 2 years, and welcoming D Atkinson, the new Regional Officer for Newcastle City Branch.

**2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Affiliations – National Pensioners Convention, War on Want, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Colombia Solidarity Campaign, Show Racism the Red Card, Medical Aid to Palestine, ACTSA – **AGREED**

**3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

- Branch Committee 4<sup>th</sup> February - **AGREED**
- Matters Arising – Page 2 – Update given on Pay Claim 2013 – Discussions have been taking place with employer - may offer 1% from 1<sup>st</sup> April, which has been included in budget.
- Certificates presented to two shop stewards who have completed the training.

**4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

- Financial and General Purpose Committee (F&GP) proposal to create a dedicated fund as a provision for redundancy costs for branch employed staff (paper enclosed) – **ACCEPT**
  - Revenue Account year ending 31.12.12 planned deficit – submit to Branch AGM – **ACCEPT**
  - Balance Sheet year ending 31.12.12 – submit to Branch AGM - **ACCEPT**
  - Donations and Affiliations year ending 31.12.12 – submit to Branch AGM – **ACCEPT**
- All accounts to be audited and submitted for AGM.

**5. NEC ELECTIONS**

Senior Branch Officers discussed incoming nominations and have identified on spread sheet those recommended – vote from the floor – Accept 22; Against None; Abstentions 2 – Recommend as identified – **AGREED**

**6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

- Next Organising Shop Stewards Course begins 6 March – info been sent out.
- Info given on Job Centre Plus and ULRs meeting in Learning Zones – dates to be circulated – **ACTION WA**
- Hand outs given on various future courses, constantly being updated – many opportunities to learn new skills. CJC informed how UNISON embeds with NCC learning. This could be used as a recruitment tool.

## 7. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

No reports.

- (a) Motion for AGM submitted by EW – ‘Councillors should vote against the cuts’. PG suggested the motion was in breach of national policy and recommended ruling it out of order. A debate took place.
- (b) Vote motion not competent and not to go to AGM – Should not – 17; Should 5; Abstentions 3 – **Not to go to AGM – AGREED**

## 8. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Adult & Culture Services – Meeting at Welford on Wednesday.

Children’s Services – No report

Chief Execs – Budget on-going

Enviro & Regen – JLH question on performance management being part of matrix, only half info given at previous meetings. Workstep members have been affected – PG and MD to discuss – **ACTION**

YHN – Tolpuddle 2013 – info been given out.

CVS – No report

Newcastle College – No report

## 9. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS

Women Members – SOG meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February – Vera Baird, elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Police will be guest.

- Northern Region Women’s Network meeting Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Regional Office.
- National Women’s Conference 14-16 February – 2 delegates + 1 visitor attending, 2 motions on agenda + regional motions. Report to next Branch Committee – **ACTION NN**

LGBT – No report

Disabled Members – CMcG informed deletion of NCC HR Advisor Post (Health & Wellbeing); Regional Disabled Members AGM 21<sup>st</sup> February – details to be circulated – **ACTION AH**

Black Members – No report

Young Members – No report

Welfare – No report

International – No report

## 10. HEALTH & SAFETY

No report

## 11. INFORMATION

Membership down – need to recruit.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- MD – Discussed new pension proposal for women – discriminatory to a certain age range. NN informed there is a motion to National Women’s Conference about this.

- EW – ‘Stop the Cuts, Save Our Services’ – march on 16<sup>th</sup> February, assemble Centre for Life, 12 noon. Leafleting on Wednesday for full Council meeting, 5,000 signed petition against cuts – to help contact EW.

- JS – Reg. Sec. for NPC – also campaigning for a decent State Pension for all set above the defined poverty level in UK – newsletter to be emailed to all Shop Stewards and put on website – **ACTION JS/PG**

- Motions required this month for National Delegate Conference and LG Conference – submit to branch office.

## 13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm, Committee Room, Civic Centre.**