

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
4 March 2013

PRESENT: J Bird(JB) Chair, L Hardie, N Ramanandi(NR), E Whitby(EW), R McGrath, L Ashbridge, J Shortt, J Liepins-Hall, A Hamilton, C McGuinness, R Fenton, D Mead, J Imhoof, W Ndlovu, M Symington, P Gregory, L McGurk, P Keenan, D Gormley, S Hicks, J Yugire(JY), N Oliver, P Cobb, R Nelson, J Horne, T Cook, T Gregory, D Tree, V Suddes, L Patterson, W Aitman(WA), P Gilroy(PG)

In Attendance: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: A Ibbetson, E Wilson, M Dobson, M Clark, C McArdle, L Jackson, N Crosby, D Smith, B Oliver, J Dunlop, I Royal, K Bensley, R Sheikh, A Hall, L Hannon, A Carson, S Bond, N Bone, M Henderson

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chair welcomed all to the meeting, especially new stewards following the AGM, asked for introductions to be given when speaking from the floor. All absences Noted.

2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Affiliations – UNIMAG and Employment Research Service – **AGREED**

(b) Donations – UNISON Northern Region – International Activity – £1,000 – **AGREED**

Additional donation – NPC Women’s Group - £500 - **AGREED**

Medical Aid to Palestinians – Refugees – NO; Refugee Council – NO

3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

(a) Branch Committee 4 February 2013 – **AGREED**

- Matters Arising – None

- Health & Safety January 2013 – **Noted**

- Branch Education January 2013 – **Noted**

(b) Resolution to change signatory to branch bank accounts – D Muse – **AGREED**

4. PAY

Pay Matters LG pay claim 2013 bulletin distributed. LG employers put forward 2 options when they met joint unions last week. Options included 1% on all pay points, with changes to terms and conditions; and 1% increase on salary points 4 – 10, and a 0.6% increase above that. NJC rejected both offers. Floor discussed various actions that could be taken to highlight concern over pay. Next NJC meeting is on the 15th March. UNISON is committed to holding an all-member branch consultation to take place on any final pay offer.

5. CONFERENCE 2013

- Motions – have been submitted to Local Government and National Delegate Conference (papers distributed).

- Delegation – Expressions of interest deadline – Friday 8th March, to branch office. Proportionality issues to be followed by guidelines given from national office.

6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

- Including Bridges to Learning – School Support Staff seminar in Durham last week was very successful.

- Funding has been secured for B2L for 2014.

- Flyers distributed for various courses including Stress Awareness and CV sessions

- ‘Moving On’ course (those leaving the authority) helps support and develop skills – induction end of March.

- City Learning – pilot course – to brush up skills re job related.

Contact WA and JY at the branch office for further information.

7. **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

PG – NEC – Equal pay issues – informed can now submit claim up to 6 years from leaving job – through Civil Court. Members who think they may be affected need to contact the branch or Unison Direct.

NR – Regional Committee – Recruitment drive starts for 2 weeks from 11th March, focus on south of region. Each branch will work with their Regional Organiser on future plans. JB informed membership is down, therefore important to be recruit more members.

8. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Discussion opened up for all directorates. Questions from floor - re formula for sickness with part-time working within matrix – formula now changed; concern about future of elderly sector; Welford included with day centres, clarification needed - **PG ACTION**

Issue over duplicate litter picking - YHN and NCC – **PG & NR ACTION**

9. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Women Members – 3 members from branch attended Women’s conference – report to be tabled at next Branch Committee – **NN & KN ACTION**.

N Nicholson, Branch Joint Women’s Officer, attended as Regional Rep.

International Women’s Day – 8th March – Branch meeting 12noon, Civic Centre; same day -Women Human Rights and the Globalisation of Resistance – Inspiration and culture in times of crisis with various speakers – 4.30pm, Assembly Rooms, Fenkle Street – speakers include: Alfamir Castillo - President of the Women Sugar Cane Cutters Committee, Colombia; Rafeef Ziadah - Palestinian performance poet & War on Want Senior Campaigns Officer and Clare Williams - UNISON Regional Convenor & Chair NTUC Women’s Group - encourage all to attend.

LGBT Members – No report

Disabled Members – Cabinet conference – will bring report to next Branch Committee –

AH ACTION

Black Members – AGM cancelled – rescheduled for next week. Black Members Officer position still vacant – encourage members in workplaces to come forward.

Young Members – There is a Young Members Policy Weekend, to be held in Durham, in two weeks time. Two young members will be singing at the Women’s event – 8th March.

Welfare – No report.

International – Bi-monthly newsletter will be produced. Hoping to have film nights, live music events etc for fund raising.

10. **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Informed that Street Wardens are to act as security guards at Wednesday’s council meeting, concern over health and safety as they are not trained for this.

11. **INFORMATION**

Membership – discussed under Item 7.

Financial Statement – Postage costs were high due to an exceptional mailing to all members – will keep checking this expenditure. Any financial queries to be directed to the Treasurer.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Incident after the event at the Monument – Police followed up complaint – PG to get back to EW.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 11th April, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.