

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
1 July 2013

PRESENT: N Nicholson(NN), E Whitby(EW), J Liepins-Hall, S Hicks, M Wilkinson, L Patterson, B Oliver, C McArdle, P Gregory, A Green, N Bone, D Tree, V Suddes, R Sheikh, J Horne, T Cook, J Shortt, D Gormley, M Dobson, W Ndlovu(WN), S Barnes, G Brown, J Yugire(JY), M Symington, P Cobb, J Imhoof, D Mead, J Bird(JB-Chair), L Hardie, N Ramanandi(NR), P Gilroy(PG), L McGurk, N Oliver, J Kennett, S Hazel

In Attendance: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLGIES: L Ashbridge, K Nesbitt, K Bensley, D Muse, G Burin, M Linford, V Powell, J Miller, R Dixon, L Parker, D Carroll, S Cook, L Kennedy, J Haden, J Reed, W Aitman, A Carson, J Dunlop, A Butterfield, J Nicholson, A Hamilton(AH), C McGuinness, J Carden, L Hannon, T Gregory, M Harrison

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chair welcomed all to meeting and acknowledged apologies for absence.

2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Affiliations – City of Sanctuary – **Agree Resolution**, Endorse September Branch Committee

Donations – Stonewall-£50; ACTSA-£50; MAP-£50; YOT(Anti-Racist Activities) - £200–
AGREED

Correspondence – Noted

- Ann Frank Trust UK Exhibition (Nunsmoor and Riverside) – Fund Flyer - £300 limit –
AGREED
- 'Utter Legends Film' – support ongoing work (cuts impact on communities) - £360 –
AGREED

3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

(a) Branch Committee 3 June 2013 - **AGREED**

(b) Matter Arising – None

(c) Health & Safety June 2013 – Not tabled

- Contact H&S Officer re Asbestos Register forms for Shop Stewards – **PG ACTION**

(d) Branch Education May & June 2013 – Noted

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted. Any questions/queries to contact Branch Treasurer.

5. SCHOOLS UPDATE

Update given around status of 94 schools in NCC re Academies, Foundation Trusts, Free Schools etc – high workload with re-organisation, representation and redundancies.

School Support Secondment – Proposal to Branch Committee for branch to fund secondment to do organising work in schools – **AGREED**

6. MEMBERSHIP

Same pattern in reduction as in previous months. This should even out over the next few years as budget cuts/redundancies were front loaded, so level of job loss will not be as severe as past year.

7. **SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

Near end of process – all managers should have been contacted – close of consultation. Council updating web page, information available via link.

8. **SENIOR MANAGEMENT PAY**

£1.5m savings over 2 years – will level the disparity in directorates, there are 63 UNISON members in Senior Management. Information given on pay bands, increments, yearly reviews, performance related pay, lift and drop, protection and implementation date – feedback given to Council from unions but still awaiting response. Possible ballot with 3 week turn around.

- Multiple requests to find out where savings are coming from – as soon as info received details will be published.
- No proposals from NCC to share IT services with university.
- CJC / DJC continue with shop stewards; facilitate discussions with Chief Exec.

9. **PAY CLAIM 2013 UPDATE**

General update given; Majority of members voted to accept 1% pay offer, therefore NJC have accepted, while noting that the offer was well below member aspirations and pay will need to maintain a high profile in order to build a strong campaign for next year. GMB & UNITE have also accepted the 1% offer. Should be included in August/September pay.

- Motion submitted by EW – Pay 2014 Campaign. Motion discussed strategy for campaign. Vote from the floor – **SUPPORT**

10. **CONFERENCE 2013 REPORT**

Update given on Local Government and National Delegate Conference, Liverpool – both conferences very busy – majority of the delegation spoke on motions. Branch had high profile at conference.

LGC – Included - 'Pay' was key debate; libraries discussed at fringe meeting.

NDC – Included - 'Colombia' motion prioritised; 'Pensions' composited.

Expressions of interest for next year's conferences – inform branch office.

- Motion from EW – 'Building for National Save NHS Demo 29 September 2013 Protest at Tory Party Conference in Manchester' – Details to be finalised at September's Branch Committee. Vote from the floor – **SUPPORT**
- Regional Council meeting in July will start to coordinate arrangements. NR will also raise at NTUC exec and PSA meetings

11. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

(a) Bridges to Learning – update given on various courses including Social Work conference scheduled in November, NTUC courses start again in September. Contact JY for further information.

12. **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

NEC – After elections members were stepping down at the end of conference. 3 seats in region – Male Seat vacant. JB and PG were re-elected. New presidential team – all female. New NEC has first meeting this week, where committees and work areas will be allocated.

National Local Government SGE – Pre conference business.

Regional LG Exec – covered earlier.

13. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Wellbeing, Care and Learning

Adults: All closures have been informed, challenges made, bump opportunities to be released. Care at Home: Road shows announced re Care Co-operatives information. Community and Procurement: Complete. CMH – More work coming up.

Children's Services: Discussed on-going issues at Cheviot – working group to be formed; travel passes; fixed term contracts; redeployment. Good meeting with Sure Start – discussed video diaries – discuss at next Branch Committee.

Resources – previously covered.

Chief Executives – previously covered.

Communities – First shop stewards meeting held, DJC on Thursday – well attended.

Work on year 1 budget still on-going. Briefings have begun on bringing together services. Shadowing taking place now.

Investment and Development – Update given on asset transfers, libraries and volunteers, training opportunities and mentoring.

YHN – NCC wants a closer relationship with YHN.

Newcastle College – First redundancies will be 24th July. 62 posts at risk – branch will support.

14. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Equalities – (a) City of Sanctuary meeting at The Sage – awaiting report from Children's Services. (b) Region Equality Weekend 5/6 July may be cancelled due to lack of numbers.
Women Members – Activity session on the 14th June (power hoop) was well attended. Next meeting 18th July and a Self Defence session is also arranged for September.

- Chair informed meeting NN had obtained job as an Area Organiser to Region, working with Living Wage, and thanked her for all her hard work and dedication in her role as Joint Women's Officer.

LGBT – National LGBT Conference in November, in process of submitting motions and nominating delegates. Anyone interested please contact LGBT Officer.

Disabled Members – Apologies from officer, any queries to be directed to AH.

Black Members – Officer position still vacant – need to encourage members to play a greater part in this SOG. National Black Members Conference 16-18 January 2014.

Young Members – Flyers will be handed out at Durham Miners Gala re Welfare Cuts.

Welfare – Informed closing date for School Uniform Grant - 5th July.

International – Continue to support TUC around overseas garment workers. Still costing for future international film event.

14. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Any issues to contact Joint Health and Safety Officers – Jaci Carden and John Reed. Discussed pregnancy issues re risk assessment and reasonable adjustments.

15. **INFORMATION**

Nothing further to report.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Labour Link – discussions cannot be held at Branch Committee about Labour Link issues.

- Bedroom Tax – local meeting and demo on 27th July. Need to challenge local MPs and Councillors in region.

- Congratulate WN on birth of son!

17. **NEXT MEETING: 3pm, Monday 2nd September, Newcastle Civic Centre.**