

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**7<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

**PRESENT:** N Oliver, P Gregory, E Wilson, M Wilkinson, S Hopper, C Smith, S Barnes, V Suddes, D Tree, A Carson, L Patterson, G Burin, M Clark, G Brown, T Rayne, E Thorp, E Whitby (EW), T Cook, A Hall, D Gormley, J Shortt, J Yugire, W Aitman (WA), T Carr, A Hamilton (AH), B Oliver, W Ndlovu, K Nesbitt, A Stewart, L Hardie (LH), P Gilroy (PG)

In Attendance: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

**APOLOGIES:** J Reed, R Fenton, J Dunlop, L Kennedy, C Armstrong, N Bone, S Hicks, J Haden, R Sheikh, C McGuinness, J Bird, N Ramanandi, M Dobson, C McArdle (CMcA), J Kennett, L Crosby, J Nicholson, J Carden, C Simblett

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

LH to chair - all welcomed to meeting and apologies acknowledged.

**2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Donations – ACTSA - £50; MAP - £50; Red Pepper Magazine - £50 per month, to be reviewed at later date; War on Want - £50; Show Racism The Red Card - £50 per month; Rochdale Care Workers Strike - £500 – **ALL AGREED**

Bring list of branch received publications to next branch committee.

Correspondence - **Noted**

**3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> September – **AGREED**

Matters Arising – **None**

Health & Safety – No meeting

Branch Education September 2013 – **Noted**

Discussed membership – 42 new members per month needed. Density good, recruitment could be significant in schools and CVS.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

(a) Branch finances are healthy. OLBA will eventually allow more detailed reports to be given.

(b) Industrial Action Fund Proposal – Branch Secretary explained how funding is calculated for branch, what funds we have, that the Industrial Action fund is substantial and ring-fenced. Could some of this money be used for other branch activities? A floor discussion took place and any changes would have to be agreed at a Special Branch Committee – **AGREED in principle.**

**5. PAY CONSULTATION UPDATE**

PG informed 19% responded to consultative vote – majority favoured Option 2 (£1 per hour increase) – results forwarded to Regional Office. May need to include extra option in future for votes where neither recommendation is acceptable.

**6. BUDGET 2014/15**

End of Year 1, beginning of Year 2 – Integrated Services Review in CCS, Leisure & Libraries – 50 jobs to go. On-going issues with matrix.

**Cooperative Council** – Continue to challenge 3 year budget cuts plan – lobby locally, regionally and nationally. PG + TC to visit Directors and Asst. Directors to discuss experience of working within Year 1 – project to be completed quickly need feedback with evidence. Floor discussed excessive

flexi, sickness, working time directive etc. Campaign actively to encourage members to complete Stress Survey – to be done in November, will bring results to branch committee.

**Care Cooperative** – Branch has asked Council lead for meeting with shop stewards to have an opportunity to discuss and inform, will arrange special Branch Committee as soon as date is known – facility time to be approved, Retired Members to be involved. Questions asked about TUPE, privatisation, social enterprise, ALMOs etc. Literature available from the branch office.

## **7. TEACHER'S INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN SCHOOLS**

NUT & NASUWT Industrial Action – 17<sup>th</sup> October. Council has given advice to schools; UNISON has written to all Head Teachers and advice in Outlines is included. Contact branch office if unsure – still awaiting list of school closures.

## **8. LGPS 2014**

Update given from PG, changes in place from 01.04.14. Post Xmas arrange series of briefings in workplace. Capital Stewardship Programme explained – to get control of pension scheme – enabling ethical investment. Meeting was held in London, now working on briefings. Need more pension's champions, training will be given – contact branch if interested. Working with NCC to encourage more people to join the scheme – cannot rely on state pension only.

## **9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

(a) Report handed out and update given on future courses. Any queries contact WA.

- 2 members acquired online Equality Diploma

- At the NE Equality Awards, 4<sup>th</sup> October, the TUC UnionLearn Award was won by the UNISON Community Organising Project. Unfortunately C Simblett could not attend ceremony – W Aitman & J Yugire accepted award on her behalf. A Hamilton, Disabled Members' Officer, won category for Individuals 'Who Have Made A Difference'. Congratulations to all.

(b) Bridges to Learning – List of future courses handed out, including BSL with £10 discount, correct dates given for Minute taking and Dyslexia Awareness workshops.

## **10. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

No meetings.

## **11. MOTION**

Proposed by EW. Paper distributed to members. Congratulates branch on supporting the 'Save our NHS' Rally and March, 29<sup>th</sup> September. Believes region and branches should play a more significant role, also noted little activity from the health branches. Recognise to engage with wider public to defeat government – show of hands to support – **All in favour.**

## **12. DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Reports from directorates were distributed at the meeting. In future they will be emailed beforehand with branch committee papers.

PG updated with matrix issues, including sickness calculations - requires consistency of approach. Will look at what NCC needs to do – will keep branch committee informed.

- Unpaid Traineeships in City Build – advert been withdrawn, clear exploitation; discussions on-going with Credit Union; NE Peoples Assembly event was a success – will support in the future, branch sent 3 coaches to demo but press coverage disappointing - article in next Outlines.

Retired Members – L Gregson is now acting as Retired Members' Secretary – election in January.

RMS will remain a social activity with possibly becoming a little more political.

Day of Dignity – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014, event in Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre.

**Wellbeing, Care and Learning** – Adults – Report handed out. Sickness query – travelling time for hospital appointments – if disability related contact AH. Children's – Reviews ongoing. Academy and Foundation Trust issues, any queries to contact LH or CMcA.

**Resources** – No report.

**Chief Executives** – No report – topics covered earlier in meeting.

Clarification required about TUPE and asset transfers in Leisure – PG to Action, NR leading.

**Investment and Development** – Newly appointed Director.

**YHN** – Report tabled – any queries contact D Muse.

**CVS** – Report tabled – any queries contact D Muse.

**Newcastle College** – No report.

**13. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

**Equalities** – No report

**Women Members** – 3 motions submitted for National Women's Conference 2014.

**LGBT Members** – No report

**Disabled Members** – National C-onference end of October, only branch to submit motions.

**Black Members** – Vacancy

**Young Members** – No report

**Welfare** – Need to promote Welfare; working with Credit Union and Welfare Rights Service; possible joint survey with NCC around availability of credit. Welfare Fund is ringfenced.

**International** – Report tabled – any queries contact CMcA.

**14. HEALTH & SAFETY**

No report.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- To promote to all members the Xmas party at Red's Bar, 19<sup>th</sup> December.

- Churchill Cleaners (Metro) won their case for 20% pay rise over 4 years.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.