

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
2nd December 2013

PRESENT: P Gilroy(PG), L Hardie, N Ramanandi(NR), T Carr(TC), A Hall, J Yugire, C Simblett, A Carson, L Patterson, T Cook, P Cobb, D Gormley, N Bone, M Symington, E Wilson, M Clark, J Liepins-Hall, E Whitby, M Wilkinson, B Oliver, S Hopper, G Brown, M Dobson, D Meqad, A Lamb, S Rounthwaite, J Imhoof, T Rayne, A Hamilton(AH), J Shortt(JS), L Ashbridge, C McArdle

In Attendance: D Atkinson(DA)

APOLOGIES: L Crosby, M Temperley, J Carden, J Reed

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PG chaired meeting and apologies were noted.

2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Donations – Philippines Typhoon Appeal Disaster Emergency Committee - £250 suggested from the floor – **AGREED**; £50 towards sponsored event around International Day for Disabled People. Charity is UK Acquired Brain Injury Fund – **AGREED**.

3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Branch Committee 4th November 2013 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – No meeting held

Branch Education November 2013 – Noted

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

AH presented draft 2014 budget and took questions around SOG budgets, honorariums and health and well-being. – **AGREED**.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Apologies from JC and JR

6. GENERAL BRANCH MEETING 2/11/2013 REPORT

PG explained that in order to be quorate, attendance from members had to be at least 50. As only 32 members attended the meeting, discussion on the proposals could not take place.

7. BUDGET

Communities Report – Noted. NR gave further update around leisure and highways.

TC distributed a factsheet around the new matrix for shop stewards. Questions were taken around the matrix, work performance and work related stress. PG advised for individuals who have concerns / queries to contact the branch office.

WCL Report (Adults & Childrens) – Noted. TC drew attention to the Branch Cooperative Meeting which is on 11th December 2013.

Resources Report – Noted. PG explained admin to be reduced by 111fte pooled across Resources and WCL. Seeking to increase reps in that area as many of the existing reps are already in the branch office.

8. **BRANCH ASSESSMENT**

DA presented report for questions. PG moved that, following the General Branch Meeting, the action points relating to the proposed change in branch structure be replaced with references to the work around the CVS post - **AGREED**

9. **LGPS 2014**

NR reported back on a seminar in London regarding the funding of the LGPS. PG and TC also attended. Discussions were around how and where the funding goes, and we were asked as a region to identify people who would be able to sit on pension boards – keen to maximise representation. NR & PG sit on a small focus group to look into how to put this in practice. PG added pension scheme is changing in April 2014 and the branch will need to do some local briefings on this.

10. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

Bridges to Learning – Written report delivered.

ULF Inclusive Learning Project – Community Organiser not present.

11. **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

NR reported back from Regional Service Group. Campaigning due to begin around pay – lobby on 15th January 2014 in Gateshead – stewards encouraged to attend.

12. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Issues covered earlier in meeting.

13. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Distributed prior to meeting – any queries contact the branch office.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JS reported back from a lobby at Houses of Parliament last week and highlighted the fuel poverty campaign.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7th January 2014, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.