

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
6th January 2014

PRESENT: P Gregor, N Bone, M Wilkinson, L Ashbridge(LA), E Whitby, L Taylor, L Jackson, A Lamb, L Patterson, J Yugire(JY), W Aitman(WA), L Hannon, J Shortt, D Gormley, C McGuinness(CMcG), D Tree, S Hopper, G Brown, C McArdle(CMcA), B Oliver, T Cook, J Horne, N Oliver, P Cobb, K Nesbitt, J Liepins-Hall, L McGurk, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi(NR), L Hardie(LH), T Carr(TC), J Kennett(JK)

IN ATTENDANCE: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: C Armstrong, A Carson, A Hamilton(AH), S Middleton, J Dunlop, A Hall, M Dobson, J Bird, J Nicholson, J Carden, D Muse(DM), J Carden

BUDGET

PG wished all a Happy New Year, and informed NR would chair the meeting. Apologies given that Directorate reports were not circulated previous to the meeting. PG updated with Branch Secretary's report; NR – Communities & Investment & Development; LH & CMcA – Wellbeing, Care and Learning; PG – Assistant Chief Execs & Resources. Floor discussed future budget cuts – forthcoming 3 year proposal; asset transfers; safeguarding issues – including Voluntary Sector; facility time – PG to discuss with Chief Exec; Admin being reduced, meetings well attended (encourage more reps) - direct members through formal response, info to be sent out.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NR chairing meeting and apologies noted.

2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Affiliations – Cuba Solidarity Campaign – **AGREED**

Donations – ACTSA - £50; War on Want - £50 – **AGREED**

Correspondence - Noted

3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Branch Committee 2 December 2013 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – No meeting held

- Joint H&S Officer, J Reed, will be leaving YHN later this year – career change.

Branch Education December 2013 – Noted

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Any queries direct to Treasurer, A Hall.

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

No issues.

6. YHN UPDATE

PG referred to DM's report, giving general overview of the future of YHN. Concern about management of City Council housing stock; need closer alignment between YHN and NCC's priorities; investment programmes; encourage tenant involvement; identify efficiencies from joint working. Discussed bedroom tax, review in housing management and staff worries about shared services. Will bring update to next Branch Committee.

7. **CO-OPERATIVE SEMINAR REPORT**
Branch meeting held on 11 December for members – good turnout, document to be circulated. NCC Senior Officers and SES representative informed what a care co-operative could mean although there is no plan as yet – roadshows to follow. Feedback given from National Seminar – no unified position.
PG clarified and answered questions from the floor.
8. **COUNCIL POLICY DISCUSSION – ‘My Conversation’**
This item deferred to February Branch Committee.
9. **BUDGET 2014/15**
All items covered at session beginning of meeting.
10. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**
WA gave an update, including ECDL course being offered at a reduced price for January. Next Organising Stewards Course begins in April; there will be a New Rep day organised beforehand. Any queries contact WA at the branch office.
B2L – JY informed all course / activities are listed on the branch website. Sign Language starts 28th January. As Welfare Officer JY stated the Winter Fuel Grant was now available to apply for – hard copies have been sent, email to follow.
11. **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**
Nothing to report.
12. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**
All reports covered in previous budget meeting.
13. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**
Equalities – No report
Women Members – Nothing to report
LGBT Members – No report
Disabled Members – Apologies from AH, verbal update given by CMcG – £400 raised for UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum on sponsored walk for International Day for Disabled People; Branch Disabled Members next meeting Tuesday 21st January; Regional Disabled Members AGM 23rd January – encourage members to attend both meetings; NDMC both AH and CMcG elected to represent Northern Region – meeting in February in Leeds.
Black Members – AGM 7th January, 6.00pm, Regional Office.
Young Members – No report
Welfare – Info given earlier – Winter Fuel Grant, closing date 28th February.
International – International Forum 13th January, Regional Office.
Schools’ Organiser - LA informed about forthcoming school visits/recruitment; 21st January – School Forum including medication info.
14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- Redcar-Stockton Branch - solidarity to campaign re Cuts in Public Services, support message was tweeted.
- AJK -Thanks from All Saints re support with redundancy issues.
15. **DATE OF NEXT BRANCH MEETING**
Friday 7th February, 12noon – 3.00pm