

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
7 February 2014

PRESENT: P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi (Chair), J Bird, L Hardie, B Oliver, V Suddes, D Gormley, A Carson, T Cook, A Ibbetson, LA Kennedy, J Horne, P Cobb, L Ashbridge, E Whitby, L Taylor, G Lewis, M Symington, C McArdle, N Oliver, J Yugire, A Hall, W Aitman, J Young, J Liepins-Hall. T Carr

IN ATTENDANCE: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: C Armstrong, C McGuinness, S Hicks, S Rounthwaite, K Bensley, A Steward

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NR to chair meeting and apologies noted.

PG – Spoke about attack on Barnet Local Government facility time to zero – branch to send letter of solidarity - **AGREED**

2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Action for Southern Africa – Re-affiliate – **AGREED**

- Medical Aid for Palestinians – donation £50.00 - **AGREED**

- Correspondence from Cuba Solidarity, War on Want, PSC and Disasters Emergency Committee – Noted

Local Government Service Group Executive branch received nominations from various candidates, a discussion and voting took place and the following were **AGREED** -

General Seat - Tina Roche; Female Seat – Julie Wynn; Low Paid – Shirley Scott; Community & Voluntary Sector – Malcolm Gray

Regional Convenor / Deputy Convenor / Treasurer - branch received the following nominations and all **AGREED** -

Regional Convenor – Clare Williams; Deputy Convenor – Nicky Ramanandi; Regional Treasurer – Arthur Dickinson

Kathy Waugh (HR) gave a very informative presentation on the new appraisal system 'My Conversation' – more about dialogue, should be a 2 way conversation. Information / procedure is available on the intranet. Feedback to be given to branch from members.

3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Branch Committee 6 January 2014 – **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

- Membership decreasing due to redundancies – stewards should recruit in workplaces, LA now going out to schools promoting union and recruiting.

Health & Safety – No meetings

Branch Education January 2014 – Noted.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Annual report with AGM papers for 10th February 2014.

- Updated accounts for January 2014 will be included in March's Branch Committee papers.

- Recognition of Ian Mackintosh's long service of 20 years as Branch Treasurer (stepped down 2013) and Shop Steward - £400 non cash gift to be agreed and submitted at AGM on the 10th February - **AGREED**

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

Need to have regular meetings with H&S reps and council, vary dates and times? To be discussed with H&S Officers.

6. LEISURE ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

- NR gave update about significant importance of asset transfer (to North Country Leisure) for 60 leisure staff including 2 options available – transfer or closure – to be completed by 1st May, aware TUPE rules have recently changed. If required branch will run campaign.

7. CHANGE PROGRAMME

TC distributed a paper which explained the role of the Change Team – Newcastle 2020, in response to the staff survey. UNISON is tied into the programme and is meeting with the 5 leads end of February. Any information that members receive should be passed to TC.

8. CARE CO-OPERATIVE UPDATE

CMcA – Various sessions held throughout the City to update members. Report to Councillors in April, still no business plan. Need to move forward with terms and conditions, working hours etc. New project structure – elected worker reps to be on the board, need half reps and half managers.

9. PAY NJC 2014

National Protest Day – 4th February. Poor uptake by shop stewards – could use flexi to attend. Role of shop steward should be clarified, engage with membership about pay - serious issue. Pay lobby at Gateshead Civic Centre
Sure Start Campaign – Friday 14th February, will deliver ‘cards’ to all centres and present to Leader/Deputy of Council for photo shoot in the afternoon.

10. BRANCH ISSUES

An indepth discussion took place re honoraria, motion to AGM from E Wilson & N Bone, facility time, to calendar appointments for stewards for Branch Committees, dates and times of meetings, locations, prioritising emails from branch, website to be promoted and welcomed suggestions from the floor. Survey will go out soon to shop stewards, then members. Annual report from Branch Secretary to AGM next year.

11. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

Positive feedback from 3 day Pension Course – very informative.

12. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

Motions to conferences to be submitted by 21 February – LG; 25 February – NDC. Email final drafts to shop stewards - 20 quorate.

13. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Reports submitted to meeting. Informed Wellbeing booklet on intranet and hard copies available. Sure Start campaign 14th February. Communities – CCS – selection process for N7 has now begun; Highways structure change; City Build restructure started - will update as appropriate. New Director of Resources appointed.

14. BRANCH OFFICE REPORTS

Nothing further to add.

Welfare – Winter Fuel Grant apply before 28 February 2014.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 30th Anniversary of the Great Miners’ Strike – Saturday 14 June, Catcliffe Recreation Ground.
- Branch AGM – Monday 10th February, 5pm, Newcastle Civic Centre.

16. Next Branch Committee – Monday 3 March, 3.00 pm, Newcastle Civic Centre.