

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
3 March 2014

PRESENT: P Gregory, E Wilson, N Bone(NB), S Hicks, L Ashbridge, M Wilkinson, R Nelson, R Clarke, P Barwick, L Patterson, W Aitman, J Yugire, J Shortt, D Gormley, D Tree, V Suddes, L Hardie(LH), C McGuinness, L Reeve(LR), A Carson, T Carr, J Liepins-Hall, J Horne, C McArdle, M Symington, N Ramanandi(NR), J Bird – Chair(JB), P Gilroy(PG)

In Attendance: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: A Hamilton, C Armstrong, L Kennedy, T Cook, N Oliver, K Bensley, M Dobson, A Hall, P Keenan, J Carden, D Muse

- **LR** informed about volunteers required for Glastonbury(6), Latitude(6) and Leeds(4) festivals this year – working with the Workers Beer Company. Advert will be sent out to all members in the next few weeks giving all relevant details.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chair welcomed all to meeting and asked all from floor for introductions. Apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- Branch Committee 3 March 2014 - **AGREED**
- Matters Arising – None
- Health & Safety – No meeting
- Branch Education – February – Noted

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 2013-14 Year End Accounts to be submitted via OLBA (on-line branch accounting) within the next week.
- Budget Report – Senior Branch Officers to look at clearer breakdown of headings for spreadsheet – to be finalised middle of 2014.

AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Medical Aid for Palestinians – No
- Yarmouk Refugee Camp - £250 – **AGREED**
- UNISON Northern – Multicultural Event 19th April (St George's Day 23 April)
- £500 - **AGREED**

- **EW** informed UKIP event at Sage on 23 April - **NR** to discuss with Region about linking up both events.

4. HEALTH & SAFETY

Meeting with Branch Secretary this week, reps meeting next week.

5. AGM REPORT

Report distributed at meeting. Apologies given about room move, need to review branch rules, agenda, methods of voting, speakers and honoraria. Sure Start and Pay motions not heard were discussed today.

6. BRANCH ORGANISING PLAN

Survey to send out – AGM did not agree putting forward proposed structure. Floor discussed and notes were submitted at end of meeting. Points included setting up a working group, communications, role of shop stewards, convenors & branch officers, mentoring, date and times of Branch Committee, childcare etc.

- Survey to be completed first then working party to be formed. Chair of working party to present report to Branch Committee.
- Working party to be made up of 7 Activists – (including 1 Senior Officer and Convenors – all to be volunteers, if still vacancies nominate at Branch Committee) – **AGREED**

7. **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership remaining constant – Noted.

8. **SAVE SURE START CAMPAIGN**

LH gave update – 18 large cards printed and taken to 6 Sure Start Centres for signatures and comments of support, passed to Leader of Council – photos taken. Flyers to be produced, with tear off portion for contact details etc, to be returned to branch office. Branch has submitted motion to LG Conference – Campaigning to Save Sure Start and Early Years.

9. **PAY NJC14 UPDATE**

PG – Employer not making offer at present. No plans for industrial action before 1st April. 1% pay increase non-negotiable. Shop Stewards, Convenors & Senior Officers to start canvassing, talk to colleagues and to plan open meetings in Civic Centre and workplaces – **AGREED**. Awaiting further information from National Office.

10. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

Report given – information will be sent out when future courses have been finalised.

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

Delegation and Visitors to LG and National Delegate Conference – **AGREED**

12. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Wellbeing, Care and Learning - Adults – Update given about Care Co-operative situation, concern there is neither business plan nor timescale known. Branch to form group with Activists – CMcA to lead, TUPE changes - training needed for Activists – **AGREED**.

Children's – LH gave update on the Schools Improvement Review – various workshops have been held, Regional School Forum will be at Northern Regional Office on the 28 March.

Resources – TC - series of regular meetings for stewards to be held. Facility time available to attend – any issues (reasons why) please contact the branch office.

Chief Exec – Report included.

Communities – Shop Stewards meeting next Wednesday.

Investment & Development – Nothing to add to written report.

YHN - Report included.

CVS – Priority to create job description for CVS Organiser position – intention to fill post by end of April.

Newcastle College – No report.

13. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Branch Secretary and Chair will be meeting all Branch Officers (individually) elected at Branch AGM within the next few weeks. The Women's Conference Newsletter was distributed at the meeting. International Day – 26 March – contact CMcA for details.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

EW submitted emergency motion – re opposing Russian Military intervention in Ukraine - **AGREED**