

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**12 May 2014**

**PRESENT:** T Cook, A Hall, C Hodgson, P Barwick(PB), P Cobb, M Wilkinson, L Patterson, N Oliver, L McGurk, L Ashbridge, E Whitby(EW), E Thorp, L Taylor, J Yugire(JY), E Wilson(EWi), D Tree, J Horne, V Suddes, A Stewart, M Clark, A Carson, N Ramanandi(NR), L Hardie(LH), C McGuinness, T Carr, J Bird-Chair, P Gilroy(PG)

**In Attendance:** D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

**APOLOGIES:** J Liepins-Hall, D Gormley, L Jackson, L Kennedy, A Green, D Muse, D Mead, J Dunlop, A Martin, V Anson, S Barnes, M Dobson, S Hicks, K Bensley, W Aitman(WA), J Kennett, N Bone, A Hamilton, J Carden, S Bond, L Crosby, C McArdle, D Muse, C McArdle

PG informed change to regular agenda for this meeting:

**Strategic Organising Review**

Main roles taken on by 4 Senior Branch Officers - each gave an informative description of their role and aims:

**Recruitment / Membership** – N Ramanandi – gave statistics on membership, future mapping exercise for potential recruitment; need new activists, share info with leads. End September/beginning of October 2 weeks recruitment exercise with Region – 1 week schools, 1 week core employer.

**Publicity / Communications** – L Hardie – update given on moving forward with communications – including website updates, deadlines for articles for bi-monthly Outlines, discuss at shop stewards meetings, campaigns info to be included. Branch Outlines to be published within the next 2 weeks re forthcoming local and Euro elections (concern over UKIP).

**Campaigns** - P Gilroy – Proposals to change document 'In Place of Austerity'. Sure Start campaign very active, further activities to be arranged. Pay campaign ongoing. Equalities and obtaining facility time great concern.

**CVS** – D Muse - Report available – any questions please contact D Muse / P Gilroy.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

JB to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

**2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 7 April 2014 – **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – No meeting

Branch Education May 2014 - Noted

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

Members leaving NCC due to redundancies (voluntary/compulsory).

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer gave breakdown of May's report. Clarification requested for payment to 'Socialist Newspaper' and list of donations agreed at branch committee – will bring to next meeting.

**Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence -**

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

5. **HEALTH & SAFETY**

PB – next meeting 4pm 19<sup>th</sup> May, open meeting to all members, info in member's weekly update.

6. **PAY NJC14 UPDATE**

Ballot from 23 May onwards – need members to vote. Workforce splintered, (schools could now be academies, trust, faith, community etc), need GMB to meet UNISON timescales. Discussed clarification around members: who will be able to vote, industrial action issue, complications around action in schools i.e. picketing etc.

**Emergency Motion on Local Government Pay Dispute (to LG Conference and LGSG)  
– submitted by E Whitby**

**Vote taken: Accept 4    Reject 18**

Motion not carried.

7. **CHANGE PROGRAMME**

Update given in News in Brief. UNISON asked opinion re internal communications. HR developing workshops in organisation for managers. New Director of Resources will also be responsible for overall Industrial Relations within the Council. UNISON lead (Tony Carr) has met the 4 theme leads. Positive involvement for trade unions. Intranet Link to Newcastle 2020 on Home Page – contact branch office for electronic copy if required. Special Branch Committee to be arranged to discuss.

8. **TUPE CHANGES**

Officers / Convenors met Thompsons Solicitors for update on changes – especially pay, terms and conditions. Discussed affect on Leisure Asset Transfer and schools changing to Trusts, Academies etc.

**Emergency Motion on Care Cooperative – submitted by E Wilson**

**Meeting not quorate – no vote taken.**

CMcA to meet with EWi and NB, and worker groups, to discuss this issue in shop stewards meetings.

9. **SINGLE STATUS PROTECTION** – not discussed.

10. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

Papers available at the meeting – any queries to be directed to WA and JY.

11. **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES** – None

12. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS** - Any queries to be directed to Branch Office.

13. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS** – Any queries to be directed to Branch Office.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – None

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 2 June, 2014**