

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**2 June 2014**

**PRESENT:** W Aitman(WA), V Suddes, D Tree, J Yugire(JY), C McArdle(CMcA), P Gregory, P Keenan, M Wilkinson, L Ashbridge, P Cobb, M Harrison, M Dobson, J Imhoof, W Ndlovu, J Liepins-Hall, J Carden(JC), A Hamilton(AH), T Carr(TC), C McGuinness, D Gormley, T Cook, C Owens, L Hardie, E Whitby(EW), E Wilson, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi (NR-Chair)

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

**APOLOGIES:** J Horne, S Hicks, L Taylor, A Carson, EJ Patterson, D Muse, S Rounthwaite, M Clark, A Hall, J Shortt, P Barwick, N Oliver, J Bird, L Jackson, N Bone, K Bensley, A Stewart, M Symington

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

NR to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

**2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 12 May 2014 – **AGREED**

Matters Arising – To change running order of agenda when meeting needs to be quorate for voting - **AGREED**

Health & Safety May - minutes to be submitted at next BC

Branch Education May – meeting was cancelled

**3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP**

Membership declining due to redundancies. Leads to be identified to speak to members and encourage to them to vote in the pay ballot.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Will be submitted next BC. Clarification given on Socialist Paper affiliation – ‘Red Pepper’.

Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence – Justice for Columbia – Affiliation £90 –

AGREED; Refugee Week Celebration Charity Dinner Event – Donation £100 – AGREED.

**5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Report given by JC on money collection and 10<sup>th</sup> floor heating issue in Civic Centre, Shieldfield Centre space allocation and Welfare move.

**6. PAY NJC14 UPDATE**

PG gave update on Industrial Action ballot – closes 23 June, stewards to collect leaflets and posters from Branch Office – floor walk and encourage members to vote – need a strong turnout. Aware of difficulties with balloting schools, co-ordinating with other unions (GMB and UNITE) and noted the teachers’ unions have a different mandate. Info will be sent to schools after ballot closes. Spoke about possibility of working to rule, no overtime or catch ups, event to raise awareness to stop apathy, future industrial action courses, also informed that the LGA newly elected Vice-Chairman is the Labour Group Leader. NJC will make decision after ballot results are known.

**7. CONFERENCE UPDATE - LG and NDC – 14 – 21 June, Brighton**

Some first time delegates attending this year. Need to put together branch policy on motions and how to vote. LGC – Branch supports all motions and amendments except for 3. NDC – rule amendments discussed. Final agenda published previous Friday, not enough time to circulate to stewards – needs to be addressed.

Stewards asked if they would agree for the Senior Branch Officers to take their recommendations to conference or email info to shop stewards before recommendations were made.

Vote taken: SBOs to take recommendations – 25–**AGREED** ; 1–Against ; 1-Abstained

To be picked up in the Branch Organising Strategy.

**8. SINGLE STATUS PROTECTION**

4 year protection deal ends 31.08.14. NCC sent letters / emails to 169 employees. Branch will contact members who received these letters. Also discussed redeployment; extending protection and to arrange a meeting with HR. Will bring update to July Branch Committee. Motion – Privatisation and outsourcing of services – submitted by EW

To reaffirm UNISON's commitment to oppose privatisation and outsourcing and to support the continuation of public services delivered by directly employed workers, accountable to democratically elected local councils (aware of renewed drive by this government to push councils to outsource, specifically care services for both vulnerable adults and children to the profit and not for profit sector).

Motion unanimously supported – to submit to Regional Council.

**9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

WA informed C Simblett, Branch Community Organiser, won the Adult Learners Week B2L Week Award at Gateshead College. Update given on courses and question asked about having course/session with regard to strikes – will look into it.

JY give information on Bridges to Learning and all forthcoming courses. Stall at Allendale Road tomorrow 11am – 2pm. Any queries please contact her at the branch office.

**10. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

Covered earlier in meeting.

**11. DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

WCL – Adults – CMcA – Care-co-operatives - report in paper clarifies branch position, update given on workplace meetings, PG discussion with Chief Exec. Conor and Paul to meet with staff groups asap, keeping staff updated to stop demoralisation, timescale issues and concern about funding being linked to NHS. Need to keep pressure on not to outsource.

Resources – Admin update given by TC - explained cash target, VR and CR with timescale procedure.

Communities / Investment & Development – NR – Awaiting proposals, DJC scheduled next week – will email those involved.

YHN – Written report with papers – nothing to add.

Schools – re link to draft report – new guidance now available.

WCL - Res. Care – Review of jds – awaiting HR to get back to us. Sure Start – events last week, workshop with parents, management supportive with staff involvement, picnic scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Councillors to be invited. Will take Sure Start info to Durham Miners Gala.

**12. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

All distributed with papers. Contact the branch office with any queries.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JLH – Confirmed that HR has to give 3 months' notice to T&W Pension Scheme when employees leave NCC.

CMcG – Disabled Members – TUC Disability Conference discussed zero hour contracts and social care. Motions to be submitted to National Disabled Members Conference in July and expressions of interest required from members for delegation.

Pay leaflets available in the branch office for distribution and floor-walking.

**14. Next Branch Committee – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.**