

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**7 July 2014**

**PRESENT:** C McArdle, W Ndlovu, D Gormley, J Yugire, L Ashbridge(LA), T Rayne, M Wilkinson, K Bensley, P Keenan, N Oliver, M Dobson, J Shortt, J Imhoof, D Mead, E Wilson(EWi), M Clark, C Owens, N Ramanandi (Chair-NR), L Hardie (LH), J Horne, P Gregory, J Liepins-Hall, E Whitby(EW), C McGuinness(CMcG), J Bird, T Carr

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

**APOLOGIES:** J Carden, L Jackson, T Cook, A Carson, J Nicholson, L Taylor, L Kennedy, S Middleton, V Suddes, D Tree, J Dunlop, L McGurk, S Douglas, P Gilroy, D Muse

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

NR to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

**2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 2 June 2014 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety June – No meeting

Branch Education June - Noted

**3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP**

Any person who contacts the office about resigning from the union is spoken to by a Branch Officer before action is taken. Need to recruit in the workplace and floor walk the Civic.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Report distributed – any queries contact Treasurer.

Affiliations – Abortion Rights – re-affiliate – **AGREED**

Donations – War on Want - £50; ACTSA - £50; Medical Aid for Palestinians £50; Refugee Council £50 – **AGREED**

Correspondence - Noted

**5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Contact Health & Safety Officers with any questions / queries.

**6. BUDGET UPDATE**

To be discussed throughout the meeting.

**7. INITIAL CONFERENCE REVIEW**

LGC – NR informed branch had good presence, discussed interventions and amendments to motions.

NDC – LH explained a delegate was involved with the newssheet update; herself being a teller; first-time delegate gave his impressions re bewildered and how union operates nationally. **Full report to be given at October branch committee.**

**8. SURE START CAMPAIGN / PICNIC REVIEW**

LH – Update given on this excellent event. Parents and staff from centres involved; entertainment was arranged; balloons released; petition signed (also online); TV and radio media present. Leader of Council spoke – questions asked. Need to keep momentum going. EW – good to campaign early, need more help from region and stewards.

## **9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

Report tabled.

Bridges to Learning – update given, informed GCSE Eng/Maths session tomorrow 12-2pm.

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

- Regional LGPS Group – Forum to discuss greater member involvement in LGPS, members will have greater say with investments etc, training will be given - next meeting in September.
- Regional Procurement and Commissioning Group – Follow on training; area forums with bite size format; next meeting this Friday.
- Regional Combined Authority Group – 7 Branch Secretaries in group – met with regional officers – concerns over shared services and accountability.
- Regional Committee – Covered LG ballot, will be stronger if co-ordinated with other UNISON service groups. Discussed timeline issues, unions working together and problems with balloting schools – Trusts, Academies etc - clarification needed on secondary balloting in this area. Branch to communicate to all schools.
- Regional Council – Meeting next Thursday.

## **11. DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

- WCL – Adults – Ongoing concerns about Care Co-operatives re terms and conditions plus job security, proposal of outsourcing with greater definition needed. Care at Home concerns – business plan required re in-house catering, need to feedback to project board.
- WCL – Children's – Discussed closure of All Saints and use of sports centre by community and school, plus TUPE of sports centre staff – meeting all staff in 6 months.
- Resources – Report tabled
- Communities – Ongoing reviews across the service. Head of Highways has given briefings to staff about new structure, feedback given, and meeting to be arranged with members.
- Investment & Development – DJC and shop stewards meeting this week.
- Schools – Update of school visits given. Breakdown requested of status of individual schools – EW to meet LA.

## **12. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Reports tabled.

- Equalities - CMcG informed Equalities Weekend 8/9 August;
- Black Members meeting 18 July.

Would like more young members to be involved in all SOGs.

Welfare – Reminder School Uniform applications closes this Friday.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Strike Day – Submit to Branch Office availability to picket at the Civic and various locations throughout the city. Branch Office will be closed. Clarification given on NCC employees working from home; remote access; apprentices; exemptions and code of conduct on picket lines.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday 1 September 2014 (no meeting in August)