

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
1 September 2014

PRESENT: L Ashbridge(LA), C McArdle, L Patterson, L Taylor, N Oliver, J Yugire, P Barwick, D Gormley, C McGuinness, J Liepins-Hall, E Whitby, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi(NR) - Chair, L Hardie(LH), L Jackson, W Aitman(WA)

In Attendance: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: A Hall, P Gregory, S Hicks, L Kennedy, P Cobb, A Carson, D Muse, J Bird, T Cook, N Bone, M Dobson, J Horne, J Carden, A Hamilton, K Bensely, C Owens, M Symington

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NR to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Branch Committee 7 July 2014 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety July – No notes

Branch Education July - Noted

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Increase in July, slight loss in August. Recruiting end of September/beginning October with Regional Officers. Shop stewards to assist.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Meeting not quorate, email all shop stewards for agreement of affiliations and donations to include Barnet Branch Home Care Workers strike 8/9 September- **ACTION**

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Nothing to report.

6. NJC PAY 14

10 July Strike – Overview given by PG – strike was well supported. Discussed employees crossing picket lines; 25 resignations and new members recruited; exemptions; hardship fund. Publicity was good via local news, with great atmosphere and public support. Rally through town attended by members and activists of various unions. Little movement yet from employers via LGA. School staff to be balloted in second round (including Academies and Trusts) 10 – 24 September. Yes voted needed in Health Service; Police in middle of ballot, Firefighters still involved with action.

Protest Day 20 August – Stall on Ceremonial Way; petition to be signed requesting Leader of Council to contact Chair of the LGA to open up dialogue with UNISON and to support employees for increase to pay offer, also employees to send letter to their Cllr and MP for their support too. More signatures for petition required before submitting to Leader. Send email out again to all shop stewards with expectation of approaching colleagues in work locations to sign petition. Table discussions took place with regard to next day of action.

(a) Presence visible –information about cost of food/bills (Xmas, school uniforms etc) now and then future costs; include personal stories in Outlines; MPs pay rise - £10 per hour/LG requesting £1 per hour – who is worth more?

(b) Shop stewards to floor walk work areas but firstly prepare basic info on flyers/cards and place on all desks. Keep message visible, do not forget 14 October.

(c) Stalls in various locations, stewards to be made more accountable, become more confident and encourage each steward to obtain at least 10 signatures.

- (d) Make clear that shop stewards have a job to do; branch can assist with any questions/concerns they may have.
- (e) Contact those shop stewards who did not submit apologies as to why not attending this meeting.

Regional Pay meeting this week – D Prentis attending, will report back to October Branch Committee.

7. BRANCH REVIEW

Working party not met as yet. Meeting to be arranged next week with Convenors and Senior Branch Officers – need to engage in process. Needs to be finalised for March AGM 2015

8. SURE START

LH - gave update – picnic in July and various events held at centres throughout the summer. Concern about the 3 options to be voted on about the 65% cut to budget - wording, choices and how to vote. This is not a consultation. Meeting Cllrs Kingsland & Streather – express concerns about proposal and wider implications on staff. Lobby full Council 1st October; leaflets to centres; event to be held in Banqueting Hall – parents & children, councillors – postcards to be handed to E Weir.

- Invite Labour Councillors to October Branch Committee
- Possibly arrange Labour Link meeting at 5pm after next Branch Committee
- invite
- PG to email levy payers about October / November meeting

9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING

WA - gave update on the Branch Education Meeting; various courses available - including Counselling and Teaching Adults; Stress Awareness sessions well received in nurseries. All course information is now on LMS. Contact WA with any queries.

JY – information given on courses for support staff in schools; future conference for Occupational Therapists – all included in Members' Weekly Update.

10. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

Nothing to report.

11. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

- All directorate reports were emailed and/or tabled.
- LA, Schools' Convenor, has produced a very comprehensive End of Year Review 2013/14, this report was distributed at meeting. Contact LA with any queries.

12. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS

Reports tabled.

- Women's Policy Weekend 5/6 September – 4 women attending from this branch.
- Black Members' motions to conference to be finalised – deadline 17 September.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Concerns about NCC employees who are leaving are not receiving pension calculations etc (TWPF) within correct timescale. Informed issues with software around calculations – this was raised at Provincial Council. Will ask for update at Regional pay meeting and also speak to Head of HR.

14. Next Branch Meeting – Monday 6th October, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.