

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
6 October 2014

PRESENT: M Clark, G Brown, N Bone, J Liepins-Hall, M Oliver, P Gregory, L McGurk(LMcG), R Fenton, N Oliver, T Cook, D Tree, J Horne, G Lewis, J Shortt, D Gormley, P Kennan, M Wilkinson, P Cobb, A Carson, L Patterson, E Whitby(EW), M Dobson, C McArdle, W Aitman, J Yugire, V Suddes, J Carden, C McGuinness, R Nelson, J Imhoof, D Mead, T Rayne, T Carr, P Gilroy(PG), J Bird, N Ramanandi(NR-Chair), L Hardie(LH)

In Attendance: D Atkinson

APOLOGIES: L Taylor, J Dunlop, D Muse, S Bond, A Hall, K Bensley, L Ashbridge, M Symington, S Hicks, A Hamilton, L Crosby

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

NR to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

2. **MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 1 September 2014 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety Sept – No notes

Branch Education Sept - Noted

3. **BRANCH MEMBERSHIP**

There was a recruitment stall outside Contact Centre w/c 29th Sept due to potential for membership in this area. Although unsuccessful in terms of increasing membership, spoke to a lot of existing members about Bridges to Learning. A meeting is to be arranged with members in Contact Centre. W/c 6th October will be targeting schools in Gosforth.

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Noted – no questions.

Affiliations and Donations

Affiliations to Liberty80, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action group and Newcastle Ravens – **AGREED**

Donation requests to NE People's Assembly and ACTSA – **AGREED**

£15,000 rose through the Workers Beer Company, proposed to split 50/50 between local and international activity. Local charities – **AGREED**. Will come back next week with proposal on International - **ACTION**

5. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

National H&S conference report will be made to H&S committee. W/c 22nd October is EU Health and Safety week, asking for all H&S reps to do a H&S check in their workplace. LMcG reported numerous issues at Shieldfield and requested this is followed up - **ACTION**

6. **NJC PAY 14**

PG gave overview on latest pay bulletin regarding the proposal that was rejected by the NJC. Further talks have been held and no new offer has been tabled. As of today UNISON are still committed to strike action.

14 October Strike - Building closures, pickets and exemptions will be the same as 10 July. The situation with schools is less clear as the teaching unions are not on strike.

Awaiting details if there will be a rally, but if there is it will be in Newcastle. NHS strike is on 13th October, stewards are encouraged to show solidarity on picket lines from 6am – 11am.

7. **YHN / NCC Review**

PG gave update. Issues around who manages the housing review account. Proposals for YHN's HR function to transfer into NCC apart from at least 1 senior HR post in March 2015. More discussions are ongoing.

8. **Black Members and Women's Conference**

Black Members delegates – 3 delegates and 2 visitors – **AGREED**
Women's delegates – 2 delegates and 2 visitors - **AGREED**

9. **Surestart Campaign**

LH provided update on campaigning activity. A successful lobby of full council was held on 1st October. Our petition received approximately 3,700 signatures which enabled us to address full council. A parent had come forward to speak – having submitted their name and speech in advance – but unfortunately this parent felt unable to deliver her speech so LH addressed full council on her behalf. A booklet was produced and distributed to elected members and council officers, and videos made by parents were shown in the Banqueting Suite. 8 councillors attended. EW also fed back on the success of the event. PG expressed thanks to LH and EW for work done on the campaign. LH to speak to Joanne Kingsland about petition to Parliament - **ACTION**

10. **Leisure**

NR met with Tony Durcan (TD) remaining leisure facilities regarding future service provision – Walker Activity Dome, Westgate Centre for Sport, Elswick and East End Pool. UNISON formally wrote to TD asking for clarity re did the council intend to retain an in house option or procure a leisure trust. He has outlined the intention to procure a leisure trust, based on the financial pressures the council face. Branch Committee agreed for NR to consult the membership to see which would be the staff's preferred option.

11. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

- All directorate reports were emailed and/or tabled.

12. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Reports tabled.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

PG reported that branch structure meeting will be put in calendars for those attending.

14. **Next Branch Meeting – Monday 3rd November, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.**