

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**3 November 2014**

**PRESENT:** J Bird – Chair, L Hardie, C McArdle, T Rayne, W Aitman, C McGuinness, L Patterson, P Cobb, M Wilkinson, E Whitby, J Shortt, A Hall, R Fenton, J Horne, T Cook, J Liepins-Hall, M Symington, A Carson, A Hamilton, C Collinson, L Jackson, J Yugire, M Dobson, P Gilroy, T Carr

**APOLOGIES:** D Gormley, D Atkinson, L Kennedy, N Oliver, N Bone, L Taylor, R Sheikh, M Clark, K Bensely, J Carden, E Thorpe

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

JB to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

**2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 6 October 2014 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety Oct – No notes

Branch Education Oct - Noted

**3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP**

Report noted.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Noted – no questions.

Affiliations and Donations

Affiliation to Trade Unions Friends of Searchlight – **AGREED**

Donation requests from Newcastle Women's Aid and Hazards 2015 – **AGREED**

As previously agreed, 50% of the Workers' Beer Company money that was raised would be donated to one of our international causes. Suggestion that the money be donated to help fight Ebola in Sierra Leone - **AGREED**

**5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Nothing to report

**6. NJC PAY 14**

PG gave an update on the consultative ballot. A lot of correspondence and questions have been received. PG sent an email to all members reminding them of the deadline to ensure participation is as high as possible. A number of workplace meetings have been held in Communities and WCL. Stewards are encouraged to speak to members to maximise turnout.

**7. Council Budget 2015 / 2018**

PG gave update. Attention drawn to recent report in the Chronicle around the next 3 year budget. The bulk of the savings are expected to be realised in the first year. High level team briefings across directorate are being rolled out. Although NCC has been talking about a three year budget, only details of the first year are starting to emerge.

**8. Surestart Campaign**

LH provided update on campaigning activity. The petition will be delivered to Downing Street in early December by Nick Forbes and the Lord Mayor, and we hope to have two parents and a member of staff from Sure Start attend.

EW spoke to Emergency Motion on Sure Start, seconded by LH, which was carried unanimously.

**9. Branch Review**

PG provided an update. A number of meetings have been held and Branch Committee will be updated in December - **ACTION**

**10. Workforce Development and Learning**

WA provided update. A learning stall will be at Shieldfield and Westgate. Equalities Course will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November facilitated by Ruth Berkley (Region). This is a ½ day taster on equalities which will be at the Civic Centre 1:30 -3.30pm. JY brought attention to the upcoming Life Story session on 17<sup>th</sup> November 11-2pm.

**11. National and Regional Committees and Conferences**

PG gave update around local government. UNISON forced judicial review on charges for tribunals which is currently in high court.

**12. Directorate Reports**

- All directorate reports were emailed and/or tabled

Verbal Reports:

- **Adults** – CMcA gave update on budget proposals for Business Management and the Care Cooperative. A discussion was held on the two options – LATC and further integration with the NHS - which are currently being explored.

**13. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Reports tabled

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

PG highlighted Regional Conference – will be discussing political campaigning in the run up to the General Election 2015. Also encouraged stewards to vote in the Political Fund Ballot, papers distributed in U Magazine.

**15. Next Branch Meeting – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.**