

**Newcastle City Branch  
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES  
1 December 2014**

**PRESENT:** J Bird – Chair, T Carr, C McArdle(CMcA), J Yugire(JY), C McGuinness, D Atkinson, E Thorp, E Wilson, L McGurk, J Shortt(JS), M Wilkinson, E Whitby, M Harrison, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi(NR), D Gormley, W Aitman(WA), P Cobb, T Cook, D Mead, J Imhoof, J Nicholson, J Horne, M Symington **In Attendance:** D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

**APOLOGIES:** P Barwick, L Kennedy, J Carden, A Hamilton, S Bond, J Dunlop, N Oliver, K Bensley, A Stewart, N Bone, L Patterson, J Liepins-Hall, D Muse, A Hall, M Dobson

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

JB to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

**2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

- Branch Committee 3 November – **AGREED**
  - Matters Arising – None
- Health and Safety November – Noted

**3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP**

Down 13 from previous month. Branch income steady but will keep monitoring.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Noted – no questions.

Affiliations and Donations – Affiliate to Unite Against Fascism – **AGREED**

**5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

November report – Noted.

Dignity At Work – Concern expressed about new changes in policy – how will managers implement this? Services may be withdrawn from vulnerable – no discussions have been held. Services from local government and private sector could be affected. PG will report back to next Branch Committee.

**6. NJC PAY 14**

Update given in November OUTLINES. Chief Officers pay offer info sent out - if revised offer made further consultation will be required.

Special LGSG Pay conference to be held before March 2015 (pay claim for March 2016), branch will send delegation – will update asap. Discussed various issues re the national union; officers; tactics; successful strike action; strategies etc. Fuller debate will take place when more info is known.

**7. COUNCIL BUDGET 2015 / 2018**

PG - Proposals to be released as soon as possible, consultations to follow – not all areas affected. NCC have informed that the budget is balanced.

Sure Start – Managers to talk to staff tomorrow – branch working hard to obtain detail for totality of job loss etc. The UNISON petition will be handed into Downing Street (Tuesday 2 December), LH, Sure Start employee and 2 parents, plus Leader of the Council and the Mayor are going. UNISON made a significant difference with this campaign and will publicise to members.

**8. LEISURE TRUST UPDATE** NR gave an update around Leisure – options for facilities to remain with NCC or go through the procurement process. Advert out in January/February

with completion around July. UNISON involved with every step.

**9. BRANCH REVIEW**

Group have met 4/5 times to discuss options – have had positive results – will be shared at branch committee. Branch survey will be sent out to members – encourage members to take part. Any changes proposed will be submitted to Branch AGM in March, if agreed, will be implemented in 2016. Will recommend Branch Officers honoraria be reduced by 30%, in line with NEC guidance. Industrial Framework needs to include UNISON wording on facility time, expectation for shop stewards to have release – greater participation needed. Decisions will be made at AGM.

**10. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

- WA informed the next Shop Stewards Organising course will be held in January 2015. Updated meeting about the latest and forthcoming Equalities session; Stress Awareness; Mental Health Awareness and ULR Forum. Contact WA with any enquiries.  
- Bridges to Learning – JY updated meeting about Stop Loan Shark Training this month and CPD Workshops next year. Contact JY with any enquiries.

**11. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

- Regional Conference was held in November – all northern branches had opportunity to input into manifesto, will be launched January 2015.  
- NEC – National report out in January 2015.

**12. DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Reports tabled.  
CMcA – Reforms in the Care Act 2014 comes into effect April 2015 – what is the cost impact on Local Authorities?  
LH – Family Service Review – Sure Start consultation ongoing. Staff briefings begin tomorrow, review will be emailed. Further meetings to be held on Thursday.  
NR – Newcastle City Learning Review – Funding gap, reductions possible, impact on learners – 5 trade unions involved. Fuller report in January 2015.

**13. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Tabled – nothing to add.  
JS - NPC - Briefing on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – met with D Prentis – panel could not answer some questions. Report will be emailed to branch when available. Report on Framework on Integrated Care should be ready in March 2015.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- PG informed about data protection issues when requests for access to personal files are received into the branch. Requests to be passed to Region for them to make a decision on what papers are made available.  
- Outlines – Holiday Pay – additional payments - explanation given in branch newsletter re Lock and British Gas case – law change if you work on commission, work overtime, receive a bonus, shift premium or any other payment that is not paid for holiday periods. Branch can send out Holiday Pay Case Forms when requested – backdating within 3 months. No cost to members when going through UNISON.  
- Transgender Day of Remembrance – 20<sup>th</sup> November – first year the flag has been flown outside the Civic Centre, to memorialise the people who have been killed this year.  
- Equal Pay – Nearly completed, finalising offers from NCC in the New Year.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 3pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.**