

**Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
5 January 2015**

PRESENT: J Bird – Chair, J McKeough, D Tree, T Cook, R Nelson, J Shortt, L Patterson, E Whitby, N Bone, S Bond, L Ashbridge, L Jackson, S Hicks, M Wilkinson, J Imhoof, D Mead, M Symington, J Nicholson, C Hodgson, A Lamb, J Yugire(JY), LA Kennedy, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi, L Hardie, T Carr, W Aitman(WA), E Wilson

In Attendance: D Atkinson, S Praszczalek

APOLOGIES: J L-Hall, S Rounthwaite, J Horne, C Armstrong, P Cobb, A Carson, P Barwick, A Hall, J Horne, A Martin, I Royal, N Oliver, D Gormley, M Harrison, M Dobson, S Hazel, D Muse, E Thorp, R Sheikh, J Carden

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

JB to chair the meeting – apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- Branch Committee 1 December – **AGREED**

- Matters Arising – Branch Review – to incorporate release information, will bring back to February BC.

- Branch Education December – Noted

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

- CVS and Schools membership have increased during the past year – branch held its own over 2014 despite redundancies within NCC.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Any queries to be directed to Branch Treasurer(AH). PG & AH meeting this week to discuss the branch budget for 2015.

- Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

ACTSA - £50; War on Want - £50; MAP - £50; plus UNISON Brighton & Hove re Industrial Action - £250 – **all AGREED**

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

No report. Concern about the state of Metro machines (abuse from public) during the Xmas holidays – hygiene issue to be raised with management.

6. COUNCIL BUDGET 2015/18

PG gave a powerpoint presentation – 'Budget 2015/16 – Transformative or Salami Slicing?'

Topics discussed included Budget Themes; Individual Directorate Details; Staffing Reductions; Additional Areas; UNISON Response and Future Planning.

Concerns included – NCC figures do not match up with their calculations; going 'Digital' – without any choice; skilled people leaving; internal promotions; pension age going up for women; integration with Health and Care Services; clarify in Outlines about Care Co-operatives; no consultation about Staff Canteen closing; staff car park charges – meeting tomorrow; YHN HR returning to NCC 1st April.

Future Planning: How do we transform? There is a lot of work to be done and to focus on General Election. Lobby Council on Budget Day – 4th March. Family Service Review – Reconvene meetings, see who reps are, continue with Sure Start protests?

General Election: Role of Shop Stewards important to talk to colleagues and share information. Branch General Election Planning Meeting arranged for 28 January 10am – 1pm, Civic Centre.

Special LG Service Group Conference: Tuesday 24 March, London – to discuss 2014-16 NJC pay proposals; decision to cancel strike action on 14 October, future pay consultation protocols in respect of LG pay claims, best means to secure a decent pay increase for LG members and consider all motions from branches and regions concerning all above. Contact branch office with expressions of interest to attend, motions to be submitted to February's Branch Committee.

Powerpoint presentation to be circulated to all shop stewards – PG

7. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

Report submitted by WA.

Bridges to Learning – report submitted by JY.

8. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

To be discussed at February's Branch Committee.

9. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

All Directorate Reports were tabled.

10. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS

Reports tabled.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Reminder Branch AGM – Monday 16th March. Deadline for Branch Officer forms to be completed and submitted – 23rd January. Shop Steward forms to be submitted as soon as possible.
- (b) Northern Public Service Alliance Meeting – Emergency Public Services Summit Saturday 17th January, Thistle Hotel, Newcastle – 10am – 4pm – lead up to General Election.
- (c) NEC election period starts today – more info at February's Branch Committee.
- (d) Deadline for Motions to Special LGSG Conference – 12noon, Friday 6 February.
- (e) Email out timescales for LG and National Delegate Conference.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd February 2015, 3.00pm, Newcastle Civic Centre.