

**Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
2 March 2015**

PRESENT: D Tree, P Barwick, N Oliver, R Nelson, M Wilkinson, A Carson, J Bird(Chair), J Imhoof, D Mead, LA Kennedy, A Hamilton, T Rayne, L Hardie, N Ramanandi(NR), J Nicholson, C Smith, W Ndlovu, T Carr, J Liepins-Hall, L Ashbridge, C McArdle, S Hicks, E Wilson, J Horne, V Suddes, T Cook, W Aitman(WA), C McGuinness(CMcG), P Gilroy(PG), J Yugire(JY)

In Attendance: D Atkinson

APOLOGIES: L Jackson, I Royal, J O'Neil, L Taylor, T Leddicoat, J Dunlop, C Armstrong, M Symington, J Hoare, A Green, M Clark, L Crosby, S Bond

A brief outline was given by Louise Reeve on volunteers required for Workers Beer Company at Glastonbury and Latitude Festivals. Posters to be issued – members of UNISON only.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- Branch Committee 2 February –**AGREED**
- Matters Arising – None
- Health & Safety February – no matters arising
- Branch Education February - no matters arising

It was noted that the motion submitted by Nancy Bone had been withdrawn.

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

NR –activity with Regional staff. Recruitment carried out at Newcastle College and CQC. Update at next month's Branch Committee.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

No financial report as Auditors due next day. Full financial report will be presented at AGM.

- Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence
Newcastle Unity Festival -£150 - **AGREED**

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

PG –Meeting to discuss statutory right to release will feedback when concluded.

Stress survey to go out after AGM. Shop Steward Survey – 47 responses so far, link and hard copy through Branch.

6. COUNCIL BUDGET UPDATE

Campaigns – Limited but noted success – Family Service Review, additional funds made available. Protest lobby 4th March 'noisy protest' ahead of full council.

- Staff Car Parking – PG, Increasing charges & introduction of charge for Blue Badge Holders in Civic and NCC Car parks.
Park and Stride –Manors Carpark - £250; Blue Badge – Civic £250; N4 – N5 reduced to £450 in first year
UNISON has rejected – Petition and letter to Elected Members. Discussion took place.
Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 4.00pm – 5.30pm.
- Staff Canteen – NR – Event on Friday went well, good attendance. 4 Councillors attended and members of public. Requested financial detail. 850 signatures on petition.
5th March further meeting and 12th March further 'Use Your Canteen Day' Discussion took place.

7. Branch Review

Continued from last Branch Committee.

Proposal 8 – **AGREED**; Proposal 9 – **AGREED**; Proposal 10 – **AGREED**

- Branch Rules and Standing Orders – amendments - **AGREED**

Discussion regarding elections and Fair and Proportional Representation.

Virtual Branch Meetings – detail to be included in rules- change of wording proposed to virtual branch decision making.

8. BRANCH ASSESSMENT

David Atkinson (RO) – Went through priority actions, PG to send to Shop Stewards for feedback.

9. SPECIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

PG – Delegates confirmed. 1 motion out of order, 2 on Agenda. No running order yet.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE / NATIONAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Glasgow – June. Still time to put name forward. Motions submitted for both. Circulated on email.

11. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING

WA – Equalities session 17th March @ 14.00pm, Civic.

Training on Domestic Violence – info. - Note to be sent out.

Skills & Making Most of Internet – note to be sent out.

JY- B2L – English and Maths info this month, Civic at 15.00pm.

12. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

Nothing to report.

13. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Tabled Reports – additions

CMcA - Meetings with members at Byker Lodge and Connie Lewcock have been arranged for tomorrow. This is in advance of management coming back out to centres to discuss their intention regarding job roles and grade of N6 and N8 staff.

TC – Admin Review – next week to confirm and to share at next month Branch Comm.

NR – Highways Review – Paused due to Peter Gray's absence.

- North Country Leisure – Update given

- Adult Learning - Ballot re changes to T&C's closed today.

LA- Disqualification by Association – will bring to next Branch Committee.

14. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS

CMcG – Urged to sign petition (Blue Badge)

NR – Women's Conference – full delegation LJ to write report

Full delegation to Black members conference – full report to be done.

AH – Disabled Reg. in April put names forward asap.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AGM Report – emailing Tuesday 3rd March and 200 hard copies available at the GAM, also available on branch website.

16. DATE OF NEXT BRANCH COMMITTEE

Monday 13th April, 3pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.