

**Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
13 April 2015**

PRESENT: D Mead, J Imhoof, A Stewart, A Clark, A Hamilton, N Oliver, L Jackson, E Whitby, L Ashbridge, J Yugire, W Aitman, D Tree, V Suddes, M Dobson, J Liepins-Hall, C McArdle, LA Kennedy, J Bird, P Gilroy, L Hardie, N Ramanandi, J Nicholson, E Wilson, C Smith, N Ramanandi
In Attendance: D Atkinson

APOLOGIES: J McShane, S Hicks, R Nelson, V Anson, P Barwick, L Patterson, S Hicks, M Clark, T Cook, L Taylor, C McGuinness, U Kaferawanthu, K Bensley

1. WELCOME , APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- Branch Committee 2 February – **EW and AS stated their apologies hadn't been noted; otherwise AGREED.**

- Matters Arising – None

- Health & Safety March - No matters arising

- Branch Education March – No matters arising

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

- NR reported on recruitment activity at Newcastle College. The next activity at the college will focus on Learning and Development with learning stalls tailored to worker groups.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

PG presented a spreadsheet that should be easier to understand, detailing spend. Spreadsheet figures will be confirmed by Branch Treasurer.

- **Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence
AGREED**

West End Food Bank request - PG outlined a request, recommended £600.00 donation from Branch Support Fund (formerly Branch Welfare Fund); item discussed by committee – **AGREED**

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

PG has spoken with reps; wants to reinvigorate health and safety by being more visible and carrying out more inspections. He reminded members that Health & Safety reps have a statutory right to time off. PG still doesn't have the plans for the renovations being carried out on the ninth floor that will spread to the rest of the civic, important for stewards to raise Civic refurbishment at staff meetings / with members in the workplace. Agile working was explained and the impact on staff discussed. MD discussed issues in his area. NR responded that action points agreed needed to be actioned and a clear structure was needed. Others also shared their concerns and queries. PG will reiterate these concerns and state the need for staff to be briefed on the council's plans regarding refurbishment.

6. COUNCIL BUDGET UPDATE

- **Car Parking Proposals** – First stage of dispute has been heard and rejected. An appeal has been lodged and we are currently waiting the date. PG encouraged people affected to contact managers/union.
- **Canteen** – NR spoke of the success of canteen events that had been held. Met with deputy leader Joyce McCarty and was told decision was not going to be reversed. Email was sent out detailing her response. Meeting of Canteen Committee on 14

April to discuss. NR asked members to respond to email and the Branch would formulate a response.

7. **AGM UPDATE**

Item not discussed due to time constraints

8. **BRANCH RULES**

PG outlined current branch rule along with a regional response. There was considerable lively debate on this issue. Rule as it currently stands was **AGREED**. Some wished to adapt the rule rather than scrap it altogether. Chair suggested they have a discussion and bring alternative suggestions to next AGM.

9. **SPECIAL LOCAL GOVT CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Reports tabled. Item not discussed due to time constraints

10. **BRANCH ADMIN REVIEW UPDATE**

PG asked committee to support UNISON admin staff member's VR application. There were significant queries by the committee who asked more information be presented. The Committee could not vote on issue due to being inquorate. Chair stated this would be moved to next month's agenda.

Item 10 was last item discussed on the agenda due to time constraints.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11 May 2015, 3.00pm, Newcastle Civic Centre.