

Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
11 May 2015

PRESENT: L Hardie, J Imhoof, D Mead, J Horne, L Ashbridge(LA), S Hicks, P Keenan, M Wilkinson, S Rounthwaite, A Clark, A Stewart, M Dobson, K Benseley, A Carson, J Shortt(JS), L Patterson, I Royal, N Bone(NB), M Clark, E Whitby(EW), V Suddes, J Yugire, W Aitman, T Carr, C McArdle, J Bird (Chair), N Ramanandi(NR), P Gilroy(PG), E Wilson, J Kennett

APOLOGIES: P Barwick, T Cook, A Hamilton, J Nicholson, R Sheikh, R Fenton, R Nelson, D Kane, P Maddison, N Oliver, J Dunlop, J Carden, L Jackson, C McGuinness, S Bond, E Thorp, J Liepins-Hall, M Symington, A Hall(AH), D Muse(DM)

1. WELCOME , APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- Branch Committee 13 April - **AGREED**

- Matters Arising

Item 6 - Canteen - no reversal of decision, 21 May last day of trading. The staff do not want this recognised. No-one redeployed at this point. UNISON has arranged some staff training. Car Parking – The final stage of the collective dispute rejected with implementation of proposals from 1 June. Blue Badge users encouraged to apply for 'reasonable adjustment'. The Branch will still pursue looking at car use for council business reasons.

- Health & Safety – no meeting

- Branch Education – circulate at next meeting.

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

- NR reported on recruitment at Newcastle College – limited success and further meetings to follow. Update in September.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

- PG reported Branch Auditor has retained information for work carried out on the end of year accounts, the treasurer AH is waiting to put together his report once the documents are returned.

- CVS secondment – arranged interviews. DM, WA and JY will look at learning opportunities within this sector – secured funding from National Office.

• Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

Barnett UNISON - £250 - **AGREED**

Syria Refugee Camp- £250 – **AGREED**

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

Nothing to report.

6. BRANCH ADMIN REVIEW

PG – Report included and shared with Admin staff –agreed with their TU.

Points from report covered – **Voluntary Severance request AGREED**

7. GENERAL ELECTION – Agreed to request Region arrange an event to discuss responding to the Tory General Election victory. If no Regional response, then Branch to consider supporting an event.

8. CONFERENCE UPDATE

NR –Local Government & National in June, some new delegates attending. Meetings with delegated ahead of conference. Report back July/ September.

9. SPECIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

NR- Conference agreed to submit an additional pay claim for 2015.

Heather Wakefield (UNISON LG Secretary) wrote to employers, their response was that they would not consider any additional offer.

UNISON's NJC – to meet this week to discuss.

10. WORKFORCE, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

WA - Domestic Violence 30 April – well attended.

ERA Re-accreditation - 2 classes so far, next one in October.

Your Skills Your Future and Making the most of the Internet.

Nominated LA for TUC Learning Rep Award.

6 Book Challenge – Kindle Prize Draw.

Adult Learners Week in June.

ULR leaflet produced in Polish.

B2L –JY – Mental Health Awareness 13 May at Civic Centre, Occupational Health to attend.

20 May –Intro to Counselling.

Stress Management – schools staff, cleaning and catering attended.

11. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

Meetings scheduled this week. Regional Committee – results of election and response.

Assistant General Secretary attending. Also Public Service Reform meeting – will report back on both.

LA – to report back next month on school seminar.

12. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

- Wellbeing Care & Learning - Adults – CMc – Care staff review, downgrading of posts. Discussion on branch approach and strategy and T& Cs. Discussion regarding enhanced redundancy scheme and possible outcomes. Business Management proposals still being completed.

- WCL - Children's – nothing further from tabled report

- Resources and Chief Execs –PG informed taking these back from TC.

- Communities and I and D – NR - ongoing H&S issues .

- Customer, Culture and Skills – staff movement and patterns of work. Issues around Child Care Rotas every 3 months. Need to collate views. Transport – some movement from planning to transport.

- Community & Voluntary – EW - Early Years & Nursery provision. Met with DM and LH to discuss ideas around this sector – ongoing.

13. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS

All reports tabled.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JS – Shared National Pensioners Convention leaflet 'For What it's Worth' – pension advice.

NB –Asked for it to be noted that the Women's Report is very good.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st June 2015, 3pm, Newcastle Civic Centre