

**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**1 June 2015**

**PRESENT:** L Ashbridge, M Wilkinson, M Dobson, S Hicks, L McGurk(LMcG), P Barwick, E Wilson, E Thorp, E Whitby(EW), A Carson, C McGuinness, L Hardie, L Jackson, T Cook(TC), C McArdle, A Stewart, A Clark, J Shortt, J Horne, D Mead, N Ramanandi(NR), Josie Bird – Chair, P Gilroy(PG), J Nicholson, V Suddes

**In Attendance:** K Loughlin

**APOLOGIES:** L Parker, W Aitman, P Staines, S Rounthwaite, N Oliver, P Cobb, L Crosby, J Carden, A Hamilton, T Carr, D Muse, J Yugire, L Patterson, J Liepins-Hall, J Kennett,

**1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies noted.

**2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

- Branch Committee 11 May - **AGREED**

- Matters Arising – TC asked, regarding the Canteen closure do we have assurance that other services will not be treated this way in terms of consultation. NR confirmed this had been reiterated at subsequent meetings.

- Health & Safety – no meeting

- Branch Education – No matters arising

**3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP**

Noted

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Noted. PG confirmed the appointment of CVS post which will focus on case work. The branch has also been successful in receiving extra funds as part of an organising initiative (£1500/month). The voluntary severance request from one of the Branch admin team is now confirmed and the individual informed. The leaving date will be 30/06/2015.

**Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence**

Medical Aid for Palestinians - £50 - **AGREED**

Newcastle Ravens RFC - £80 – **AGREED**

People's Assembly Protest in London - £150 – **AGREED**

Correspondence – Labour Link are seeking a nomination for North Region seat. Linda Hobson has written to the branch requesting support. Agreed to find out close of nomination period and decide on endorsement under any other business.

**5. HEALTH & SAFETY**

Nothing to report.

**6. SHOP STEWARD SURVEY**

PG presented a summary of the findings and took points of clarity. Round table discussions were then held. Groups fed back the following remarks:

- Industrial relations framework was welcomed as an important piece of work
- We also need to remind people how effective the union is – potentially with a poster campaign. Morale is low and Unison is not always seen in a positive light.
- The CVS post will also allow for increased focus on CVS were a lot of new staff are being recruited – especially young people.

- Need to find out why some stewards don't come to branch committee. Is it too long? Would topic based meetings encourage attendance? Is it too focused on the council and not enough on CVS, schools and YHN?
- New staff transferring from other branches not automatically transferred.
- Could all papers for branch committee be consolidated in one PDF document for easier print - **AGREED**

7. **CONFERENCE UPDATE**

PG - reported that the order of business had been received.

8. **AGILE WORKING**

NR –The proposal for the 9<sup>th</sup> floor has been shared with staff, with a UNISON meeting to be held on 08/06/2015. A number of issues have been raised which are being collated and fed back to management.

9. **PAY 2016 & ADDITIONAL PAY CLAIM 2015**

LH – Additional pay claim arising out of the Special Local Government Conference decision has now been incorporated into the 2016 pay claim. The 2016 pay claim has been agreed by the joint trade unions and will be submitted soon.

10. **WORKFORCE, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Noted

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

NR – Regional Political Organising Strategy meeting to be held at the regional office on 09/06/2015. Public Services reform group also starting and branches will be asked for nominations.

12. **DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Noted

13. **BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Noted, no additional items to report

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Labour Link nominations – deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> June for nominations. Linda Hobson to be nominated by the branch – **AGREED**
- Pensions – PG shared details of staff-side representation on pension board.
- Emergency Motion - EW spoke to motion. LMcG suggested a slight word amendment. Motion agreed in principle. Motion subsequently submitted to the Local Government Conference.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 3pm, Newcastle Civic Centre