

Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
7th September 2015

PRESENT: J Shortt, T Cook, A Hall, R Fenton, J Nicholson, L Kennedy(LK), P Barwick(PB), E Wilson, N Bone(NB), M Wilkinson, M Harrison, L Hardie, N Ramanandi(NR), D Muse(DM), J Bird – Chair(JB), S Hicks, J Yugire(JY), J Imhoof, D Mead, T Rayne, J Horne, N Oliver

In Attendance: K Loughlin (KL)

APOLOGIES: J Liepins-Hall, P Cobb, S Bond, J Guest, I Spencer, P Gregory, C McGuinness, J Dunlop, M Clark, K Bensley, M Dobson, A Hamilton, A Stewart, L Patterson, M Symington, E Whitby

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

JB opened the meeting, she noted that Conor McArdle had been seconded to UNISON and the Branch Committee agreed to formally thank him for his work whilst on release.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Minutes of previous Branch Committee agreed as true record, no matters arising.

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

- Report Tabled

NR gave a recruitment update; Student Social Worker recruitment was taking place in September.

KL (in Lori Ashbridge's absence) gave an update on the Stars in our Schools initiative that will be rolled out again in November Branch Committee agreed to help fund the activity.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Tabled

Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

A request from Ed Whitby regarding Labour Friends of Palestine - they are organising a delegation to Palestine, EW would like to be a delegate. Branch Committee endorsed request.

LK and NB suggested donating to those supporting refugees in Calais - £250 **AGREED.**

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

PB gave an update highlighted that J Carden had attended the Hazards Conference – a report will follow.

6. Workforce Development and Learning

WA and JY gave an update

7. Directorate Reports

NR gave an update on the Leisure procurement, informed the committee questions had been submitted to the project team and UNISON are awaiting a response

8. Branch Officer Reports

NR gave an update on Women's Policy weekend

NR outlined topics that the Black Members group would like to submit as motions to National Black Members Conference – topics endorsed.

9. National Meetings

Covered under Other Business on agenda.

Part 2 Specific Business

1. General Secretary Elections

PG nominated John Burgess; JB nominated Dave Prentis - both spoke for 3 minutes. Contributions followed from the floor. A vote took place.

John Burgess -13 in support

Dave Prentis - 8 in support

No abstentions – **John Burgess nominated**

2. General Update

- Redundancy/Protection

PG gave an overview of the Special Branch Committee which had taken place to discuss the updated proposed redundancy and protection scheme.

-Trade UNISON Bill

Docas & Facility Time

JB gave an overview from the National perspective outlining that the meetings that already taken place. NR gave a regional overview and PG discussed the impact the bill could have within branches. It was highlighted that it was vital that branches were engaging with the employers regarding docas, and that engagement with members was key. The Rally on 4th October and the Lobby on 2nd November were highlighted again, and request made for stewards and members to attend.

- CVS

DM provided an update - Ian Royal has started working in the Branch Office on a 12 months CVS secondment. He was already having a positive impact in picking up case work. Additionally, DM has also started spending time on the Community and Voluntary Sector Learning Project, where we are aiming to reach members and prospective members through learning. This hopefully will have a positive effect on recruitment figures.

Part 3 – Additional Business

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PG – asked shop stewards to encourage members to complete staff survey –a short discussion took place

JS – is speaking at the House of Commons regarding the changes to women’s pensions and the negative impact this will have.