

Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
9th October 2015

PRESENT: L Hardie, A Clark, J Nicholson, A Ibbetson, D Tree, J Imhoof, D Mead, E Wilson, N Bone, M Clark, M Wilkinson, E Whitby, A Carson, I Royal, T Carr, D Muse, W Aitman, L Ashbridge, J Bird (Chair), P Gilroy(PG), J O'Neil, N Ramanandi(NR), J Horne

APOLOGIES: T Cook, J Kennet, S Rounthwaite, P Staines, K Loughlin, L Jackson, A Hamilton, C McGuinness, P Cobb, S Hicks, J L-Hall, L McGurk, M Symington, P Barwick, L Patterson, P Gregory, N Oliver, E Thorp

1. Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Introductions

JB opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Minutes of previous Branch Committee agreed as true record.

-Matters Arising

An update was given on the Trade Union Bill.

EW – queried the agreement to donate to Calais charity. PG stated that we were too late for the particular trip but that a similar charity would receive agreed donation.

It was noted the Branch Education minutes were missing from the paperwork. WA made copies and distributed to members later.

3. Branch Membership

Now below 6000; due mainly to redundancies of Council staff. It was noted that we need to start using the threats of the Trade Union Bill to maximise membership. All parts of UNISON are looking into putting a strategy together. Discussion on recruitment ideas ensued.

4. Financial Report

- Tabled. PG gave a brief summary of honoraria. It will be the same as last year subject to the branch budget. He reminded us that there would also be a new branch structure as agreed at the AGM. Branch Committee supported the recommendation.

Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

All requests were agreed by the committee

5. Health & Safety

PG raised an issue regarding accidents at work versus industrial injuries. Will have a conversation with H&S reps and the Council to clarify. Will share results of these conversations at a later date.

6. Workforce Development and Learning

WA noted change of date for ERA Reaccreditation training.

Newcastle City has been nominated for the North East Equalities Award for their work on the Community Voluntary project.

Newcastle City has been given the Bronze Award for the 6-Book Challenge.

Thank you to Anne Clark for her work in the popular Creative Writing class.

The following were given their certificates for reaccreditation training:

- James Imhoof
- Josie Bird
- Ian Royal

7. Directorate Reports

NR gave an update on the City Hall and former City Pool site - Fusion Lifestyle Ltd have been identified as the preferred supplier to take over the development and management of the site. It is intended that the City Hall will be under the management of the Newcastle Theatre Royal Trust and that the staff would be subject to TUPE. Further meetings with the members in this area will take place.

8. Branch Officer Reports

Reports were emailed to committee members before meeting. No further updates given.

9. National Meetings

Covered under Other Business on agenda.

Part 2 - Specific Business - NR became chair at this point

1. T&Cs Update

Redundancy & Protection – PG gave update. Constitutional Committee accepted proposals. Changes are to be in place from 1 November 2015. From the end of June 2016 redundancy will have no enhancement. YHN and Schools will probably follow council's proposals.

Single Status – Still haven't talked to Paul. There are concerns regarding premium time. This along with agile working could open the opportunity for seven day working. We need a campaign with a 'vote no' agenda. PG spoke on National Living Wage and the possible impact this will have on the existing Single Status pay spine and differentials.

2. Care Services Review

- Connie Lewcock, Byker – Members have had an indicative ballot in favour of strike action. PG gave update on situation.
- Travel time – PG gave update on European judgement. Impacts on Care at Home staff. A dispute has been registered. Council is working to identify worker groups at this time. Committee discussion followed.

3. General Update

- PG received a draft of the Industrial Relations framework which he will share.
- The staff survey is now closed. Council state they will share results with UNISON before staff.
- NR gave update on Agile Working and the impact UNISON has had. She stated that UNISON have stressed the need for a lessons learned exercise before further works are carried out within the Tower Block. She thanked the local shop stewards for the work they have been doing with members regarding Agile Working.

4. Political Engagement Discussion

There was a group discussion on getting people involved in political engagement. PG will send an email out to ask for interest. A meeting will be put in place towards the end of November.

Part 3 – Additional Business

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None