

Newcastle City Branch - BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

2ND November 2015

PRESENT: D Muse (DM), I Royal, W Aitman, P Barwick, N Bone, L McGurk, E Wilson, E Whitby, M Wilkinson, L Ashbridge, V Suddes, D Tree, U Kaferawanthu, T Cook, A Hall (AH), N Ramanandi (NR), M Clark, J Nicholson, J Bird (Chair), E Jameson, A Hamilton (AH), T Carr, C McGuinness, P Gilroy (PG)

In Attendance: K Loughlin

APOLOGIES: J Horne, S Hicks, C Armstrong, J Yugire, O Richards, A Ibbetson, D Brown, A Clark, J Dunlop, G Purves, S Bond, L Patterson, N Oliver, J Liepins-Hall, A Chilton, A Carson, E Thorp, J Kennett, L Crosby

1. Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Introductions

Chair opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and apologies were noted. JB asked that NR pick up the item from Part 2 Conference Delegations at the beginning of the meeting due to NR leaving to attend a meeting.

Conference Delegates NR gave delegate recommendations for **Women Members** – L Jackson, N Hakizimana, and L Storey. **Black Members** – U Kaferawanthu, LA Fawole and N Hakizimana; DM recommended 3 members from **CVS** – E Thorp, F Swindell, and L Harman – all were endorsed by Branch Committee.

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

AH – raised question on financial report re: Honoraria, informed that November's committee had endorsed the honoraria proposals for 2015, and agreed to a full review to be carried out with regard to the new branch structure post 2016 AGM.

H&S –No meeting held

Branch Education –minutes for reference available.

3. Branch Membership

Discussion regarding leavers - PG noted figures and stated that these have been reviewed. Branch contact all leavers and it was confirmed that there is a process in place for offering unemployed membership and / or retired membership.

4. Health & Safety

Meeting due to take place - report will be brought to next Branch Committee

5. Financial Report

AH gave update – possible small underspend.

Affiliations, Donations & Correspondence

Re-affiliation agreed and all donations agreed. A further donation to Newcastle Women's Aid Christmas Appeal agreed at £500 this was agreed to be made from the Branch Welfare Fund.

AH to provide information regarding funding of students to attend university.

NB to provide information regarding a donation request for next branch committee.

PG stated declaration of interest regarding a request tabled for himself Gail Purves to visit to Auschwitz with UNISON North West study visit– this was agreed.

6. Workforce Development and Learning

WA- next re-accreditation training 4th December.

DM-sign language course Wednesday 4th November.

7. Directorate Reports

All reports tabled

8. Branch Officer Reports

Disabled Members –AH no report as Conference last weekend. Branch & Regional motions passed. Raised £1500 for nominated charity.

Mental Health first aid (social or medical model) brought up at conference. WA has discussed with Tom Ross from TUC.

Black Members-UK verbal report from last meeting discussed Show racism the red card and Human Rights. Looked at issues which could be potential motions for conference.

9. National and Regional Committees and Conferences

Regional Conference in Durham this week 6th &7th November.

Part 2 – Specific Business

1. General Update

Travel Time – Working party to be set up. Home Care staff identified as peripatetic workers and covered by the ruling.

Holiday Pay – PG met with Authority, Case forms were issued to members and claims lodged with the Council. Waiting for official response from Authority regarding which members would receive back monies. Children's Residential Care identified. One year backdating likely. Update when finalised to be published in Outlines.

Budget –Waiting for information to come through. No detail but cuts across WCL will be significant. Regular meetings with Chief Executive taking place.

Special Branch Committee to be arranged will ask Director of Resources to attend. Would also want to address 'Newco' private company owned by the Authority. Would ask John Lee to attend to speak about Commercial proposals and Tony Kirkham to address budget / devolution areas within.

Devolution –Combined Authority have signed an agreement, will have to agree to a mayor. Skills, regeneration and transport are 3 key areas. Consultation events across region taking place.

2. Draft ER Framework

ER Framework – to ensure this helps us as Shop Stewards and Branch Officers.

Time was given for all to read and a discussion was had regarding points within. Comments were raised from AH, NB, EW, EWh and WA. Comments were recorded and will be referred to in future meetings with HR.

3. Election of Shop Stewards

Discussion was had regarding the current process and whether there should be an addition to this. PG, CMc, WA, LMc, and AH commented. This will be followed up in next month's meeting.

4. Branch Committee Format

To go to next month's meeting.

Part 3 – Additional Business

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Committee members invited to gather on Ceremonial Way after close of business to demonstrate against the proposed Trade Union Bill.