

UNISON Newcastle City Branch

Branch Committee Minutes – 5th January 2016

PRESENT: N Ramanandi, J Bird(Chair), P Gilroy(PG), L Hardie, D Armstrong, J Horne, S Hicks(SH), M Wilkinson, P Kennan, N Bone(NB), M Clark, J Shortt(JS), A Ibbetson, L Ashbridge, J Nicholson, S Hopper, I Royal, C Smith, R Nelson, J Yugire, W Aitman, E Whitby(EW), D Brown, E Wilson, T Cook, M Dobson(MD), L McGurk, LA Kennedy

In Attendance: K Loughlin

APOLOGIES: A Martin, J O'Neil, U Kaferawanthu, C McGuinness, P Sutton, J L-Hall, S Armstrong, E Miller, A Carson, M Symington, S Bond, A Clark, A Hamilton, L Patterson, E Thorp, A Bowron

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes for Confirmation

- Branch Committee December – **AGREED**, no matters arising
- Health and Safety –tabled
- Branch Education December - Noted

3. Branch Membership

Noted

4. Financial Report

No queries on financial report

- Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence –Recommendations - **AGREED**.
PG spoke in support of a request to sponsor student bursaries in Newcastle, South Africa – **AGREED** to sponsor up to 3 bursaries

5. Health and Safety

NB raised the query of stress survey, PG advised trying to resolve issues with Survey monkey but still progressing the survey.

6. Workforce Development and learning

WA Course guide has been reissued

7. Directorate reports

PG gave an update on the dispute within Care Services, (outcome was that the panel had not supported the trade union position) and that letters were being sent to staff re implementation. A short discussion took place regarding impact across other divisions, PG advised that implementation issues had been raised with management and individual service meetings are to take place. E Wilson and PG to meet to discuss

EW raised query re CVS report and Action for Children regarding pay and the joint commission between NCC, Barnardos and Action for Children – was there any scope to influence Action for Children? PG advised DM had raised the issue of pay rates in NCC compared to Action for Children. Agreed Branch should have an approach when faced with dealing with issues that cut across both NCC and CVS organisations. EW suggested taking motions through Labour Link into constituencies.

NB Shop Stewards Meeting held. Raised issues re Housing Revenue account and bidding that is taking place within services for access to this. MD raised concerns over cuts to Wardens service due to reduction in HRA money.

KL updated on formal industrial ballot action taking place within Newcastle College re pay offer ballot opens 15th January.

8. Branch Officer Reports - Noted

9. National and Regional Committees and Conferences

NR gave an update re Regional Committee - items covered Trade Union Bill, Devolution, NECA, Pay and Cuts.

PG gave an update re NEC – Dave Prentis re-elected as General Secretary.

Part 2 – Specific Business 1.00pm-2.30pm

1. General Update

Trade Union Bill

Discussion took place regarding the bill and implications, PG highlighted the work being undertaken, there have been some amendments to the bill. 8th February – 14th February TUC week of action, anyone interested in being involved to contact the branch. There will be National, Regional and Branch activity. EW raised issue of facility time, highlighted need to engage with Labour groups to strengthen commitment. PG raised that NCC had had a meeting with all the recognised trade unions regarding facility time, all have been asked to provide membership figures. There will be a need to have a political discussion re facility time.

PG - Working time update following European ruling, a number of worker groups identified, a further meeting is to take place. Both NDC and LDC take place in June, request for ideas for motions.

SH - raised issue of travelling time and staff within Connexions - LH and SH to meet.

2. Budget 2016

All leads gave an update PG highlighted lack of detail behind proposals, LMCG raised issue of vacant posts PG advised all shop stewards to notify leads if posts being advertised in their areas.

3. Pay 2016

KL gave an update offer - 1% above spinal column 18, below that it is bottom loaded – 2 year deal, advised final offer. UNISON NJC meet 7th January. Discussion took place regarding pay.

4. Election of Shop Stewards

JB opened discussion on forthcoming Shop Steward Elections. There was much discussion and comments from the committee. After AGM membership lists for work groups can be sent to stewards. It was agreed that letters would be sent out to members informing them of who their steward is. It was also agreed to add something to the form for clarification of workplace and worker group.

5. Branch Committee Format

People agreed the new format. The committee commented on the change of date and time and the pros and cons of it. Branch will continue to test differences but for the most part meetings will continue to be the first Monday of the month from 3:00pm -6:00pm.

Part 3 - AOB

A demonstration on 9 January at Monument to protect bursary for student nurses was announced.

Jan Shortt (retired member) gave a comprehensive verbal report on the lobby at parliament, Ros Altmann, Pensions Minister and the Attendance Allowance. Jan has submitted a written version of this report which is available from the branch office.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 1st February 2016, 3pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre