

UNISON Newcastle City Branch

Branch Committee Minutes – 11 April 2016

PRESENT: A Clarke, L Ashbridge, G Smith, D Muse(DM), J O'Neil, K Thornton, K Crinnion, P Gregory, N Bone(NB), I Spencer, T Cook, D Tree, S Richardson, I Royal, U Kaferawanthu, J Yugire(JY), V Suddes, A Hamilton(AH), J Bird (JB-Chair), N Ramanandi(NR), P Gilroy(PG), L Hardie(LH), T Carr, J Nicholson, W Aitman(WA), E Whitby(EW)

In Attendance: D Jeffries

APOLOGIES: K Harle, D Lambie, C Burke, A Carson, P Sutton, J Liepins-Hall, S Cooke, A Chilton, S Hicks, G Purves, L Kennedy, L Parker, A Chilton, A Stewart, A Ibbetson, C McGuinness, E Wilson, N Oliver, P Barwick, M Hollings, K Bensley, L Patterson

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

JB opened the meeting, there was a round of introductions as first BRANCH Committee following the AGM.

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee January – **AGREED**, subject to DM correction to Directorate reports re industrial action taking place in Action For Children not YHN as in the minutes.

Matters arising - none

Branch Education - noted

Health and Safety - no meeting

3. Branch Membership

Increase in membership was noted.

4. Financial Report

PG gave an update, advised a paper would be brought to May's Branch Committee in relation to paying release cost for Micky Dobson (due to the withdrawal of facility time) and to cover a piece of work the convenor in Ass Chief Execs & Resources wishes to carry out.

- Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence: **Agreed**

Request had been received from NB re supporting an Amateur radio event - **£100 agreed**

5. Health & Safety - no report

6. Workforce Development & Learning

WA gave update on the Learning festival which cover 42 days over May and June, encouraged Shop Stewards to provide any suggestion in terms of any events they would like to see held.

JY – Bridges to Learning project update

7. Directorate Reports

All Directorates were covered in written reports.

As an addendum to her report, LH gave an update on proposals within Family Insights.

8. Branch Officer Reports

No further updates to those contained in the written reports.

9. National and Regional Committees and Conferences

No updates.

Part 2.

1. General Update

PG gave an update on the revised Disciplinary Policy, NB highlighted the wide discrepancies that still exists in how the policy is applied. EW raised issue of how agency staff are represented. PG advised agency workers can join UNISON and if they requested representation it would be provided.

2. Pay 2016 Update

PG gave an update on Pay 2016. GMB accepted the 2 year pay deal, Unite rejected with recommendation for selective action, UNISON rejected with overall majority favouring sustained action. UNISON had further negotiations re a 1 year deal but this has been rejected by the employer. Industrial Action Committee meet 13th April to look at the recommendation from the NJC re ballot of members for industrial action. A discussion followed.

A discussion also took place regarding the Living Wage and the impact this has on single status agreements, and differentials that currently exist between different roles and the impact the Living Wage will have on these.

2. Conference 2016 – Amendments

JB opened the item asking if anyone wished to recommend any amendments. EW and AH proposed amendments to motions both at LG and NDC – will forward these to the Branch. AH highlighted a rule change and sought support from the branch – advised a further discussion would take place regarding the branch position on motions and rule changes.

3. Devolution

NR gave an update. Letter had been sent to leaders within the NECA area highlighting the concerns regarding the current devolution deal. NR advised that material would be provided that would aide members within the workplace regarding the current deal. A discussion took place that covered holding a meeting for Councillors in Newcastle, and writing to Councillors to seek their views, which would also highlight concerns regarding the current deal. UNISON's position on elected mayors was re-affirmed.

4. European Referendum

PG gave an overview of the branch response to the survey circulated. The majority of members favoured remaining in the EU. A regional response has also been provide to the National Office and meetings take place later in the week to discuss these responses.

Part 3.

1 Any Other Business

PG - stress survey shared asked for any suggestions to be forwarded to him. NB felt survey too long but understood to gain the information a number of questions would need to be asked. EW advised would be helpful to have posters and leaflets highlighting the survey.

EW- raised issue of recent correspondence re Interim Changes to Managers, a number of shop stewards also advised they had received queries in relation to this. PG stated UNISON had been advised of the changes prior to Constitutional Committee.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 9th May, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.