

UNISON Newcastle City Branch

Branch Committee Minutes – 9th May 2016

PRESENT: J Bird(JB), T Leddicoat, J Shortt, L Roberts, J Blackbird, W Aitman, N Bone(NB), E Wilson, E Whitby(EW), D Mead, J Imhoof, J Yugire(JY), L Wilson, V Suddes, M Wilkinson, C Jackson, A Carson, C McGuinness, J Horne, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi(NR), L Hardie, J Nicholson, T Rayne, N Oliver, A Hamilton

In Attendance: K Loughlin

APOLOGIES: T Cook, D Muse, U Kaferawanthu, P Barwick, S Bond, I Royal, M Clark, E Peck, V Anson, A Copeland, S Haque, L Moralee, L Jackson, A Clark, P Gregory, E Thorp, J Carden, L Patterson, J Liepins-Hall, J Kennett

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

JB opened the meeting, there was a round of introductions.

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee April – **AGREED**

Matters arising – European Election and campaigning, posts that are identified as unable to campaign – Branch Secretary to seek clarity

Branch Education –noted

Health & Safety – no meeting

3. Branch Membership

Noted leavers all contacted if resigning, most leavers accounted for by those leaving employment.

Noted increase in area of CVS

4. Financial Report

None tabled, PG gave verbal update.

Affiliations & Donations

Destiny Streetworx – (Homeless charity) £100 **AGREED**

T Connell – daughter attending world Teakwan-Do championships £100 **AGREED**

Thanks received from Cuba Solidarity

5. Health & Safety

No report

6. Workforce Learning & Development

WA gave update on Festival of Learning – leaflets provided. One place free on Mental Health First Aid course 11th and 12th May.

JY – Bridges to Learning information Briefing on Open University - 26th May

Basic Introduction to Family History planned and various other sessions.

7. Directorate Reports

All covered in written reports

8. Branch Officer Reports

No further updates

9. National and Regional Committees and Conferences

No updates.

Part 2 Specific Business

1. General Update

Honoraria Review – PG gave update. A report will be produced by previous Treasurer and will be presented at a future Branch Committee for discussion and ratification (if agreed).

Facility Time – Release for Convenors further discussions regarding additional facility time for Convenor of Communities. Update at later date

Conference 2016

Amendments –none received therefore Branch did not submit any.

Resources I& D etc. –DJCs will be calendared in.

Disciplinary Policy

Some changes regarding sanctions and job demotion PG advised that UNISON was asked for Views, but the Council does not formally negotiate on policy renewal. The craft unions to lodge dispute.

PG gave notice that there will be discussion in next BC regarding Auschwitz and possible visits in future

TU Bill

PG gave update on amendments to the proposed Bill due in no small part to UNISON's lobbying activities. - Discussions on this followed.

2. Pay 2016 Update

PG gave overview of final agreed pay rise. - Discussion on this followed.

3. European Referendum

PG gave update on survey – discussion followed

4. Disabled Members NEC Seats

Proposed rule amendment at ND conference – AH gave background to this and a vote took place on whether to support. **AGREED** unanimously.

Part 3

Any Other Business – Discussion on a number of topics :

- Stress Questionnaire PG to look through feedback and amend questionnaire.

- Libraries and CS – Changes to rota, hours NR meeting arranged will report back at next BC.

EW –Outstanding issue regarding part-time staff PG –expecting response.

PG – UNISON activity over last week – Refuse Collection – UNISON secured a written apology to members.

- CC& Skills – Update on progress

School-based Issue – selection process amendments secured following UNISON concern raised.

Devolution - NR gave update

NB – Universal Credit –gave details PG – considering a meetings regarding Benefit changes

PG – Local elections Labour -2 gains and Vera Baird re-elected as police and Crime Commissioner.

EW- Devolution & Labour Link may organise a meeting - will discuss with Branch

Discussion on possible Facebook page for Branch

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13th June 2016, 3pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.