

UNISON – Newcastle City Branch

BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES - Monday 4 July 2016

PRESENT: C McGuinness, V Suddes, W Aitman(WA), L Patterson, P Keenan, K Moralee, N Bone, P Gregory, C Jackson, K Bensley, A Hamilton(AH), J Imhoof(JI), D Mead, J Horne, E Wilson, L Roberts, J Bird(JB) Chair, P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi(NR), S Hazel, L Hardie(LH), E Whitby

APOLOGIES: J Liepins-Hall, P Cobb, T Cook, I Royal, K Loughlin, L Wilson, J Yugire, E Peck, N Oliver, P Barwick, A Carson, M Dobson

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

JB opened the meeting. As there were new stewards in attendance, everyone introduced themselves.

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee – **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – None

Branch Education – Noted & no matters arising

3. Branch Membership

PG advised that Terry Johnson GFF post would start working in the Branch from September, concentrating on the C&V sector regarding recruitment and organising. EW raised that there a number of non-members within his workplace, and that some organised recruitment activity in this area would hopefully result in those individuals joining.

4. Financial Report

JB covered the financial report

Affiliations & Donations:

- Re-affiliated to Palestine Solidarity campaign - £50 - **AGREED**
- Donation to ACTSA - £50 – **AGREED**
- Donation to an under 16 football team from Whitley Bay - £100 - **AGREED**

5. Health & Safety

No report

6. Workforce Learning & Development

WA Reading Ahead Challenge went very well. Sign language course was arranged by a YHN ULR – which was open to UNISON members and non-members.

PART TWO

7. LG & NDC Conference 2016 – Branch Delegation Report – Lynda Hardie

LH gave a comprehensive report on Local Government and National Delegate Conference, highlighting the branch delegates who spoke, gave an outline of fringe meetings that took place and reported that Jeremy Corbyn had addressed conference.

A discussion also took place regarding the outcome of the EU referendum and the Leadership contest currently taking place within the Labour Party.

NB, JI, AH, EW, JB and PG all made contributions.

8. Holocaust Study Tour – Report to Branch – Paul Gilroy

PG gave an overview of a study tour the branch took part in - Paul Gilroy and Gayle Purves - Shop Steward from NCL and Branch International Officer, went on the tour organised by North West Region of UNISON. Paul's report outlined the itinerary they followed which included visiting the Schlinder Museum in Krakow, and the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau. Where the Nazis systematically murdered over 1.1 million men, woman and children in the Second World War. Paul spoke of how emotional the visit was and that by visiting the camps in person you become a living witness. Paul advised that the branch would like to continue to take part in future delegations. NR, JI and AH also made contributions.

PART THREE – Officer Reports & Questions

9. Directorate Reports

Nothing further to add to the provided reports.

SH Ncle College Convenor gave an update on the cuts being proposed in Newcastle College, up to 130 redundancies with a 45 day consultation period, requested support at both Branch and Regional level. PG and NR advised this support would be given.

Any Other Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 5 September, 3.00pm, Committee Room, Civic Centre