

UNISON – Newcastle City Branch

BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES - Monday 5th September 2016

PRESENT: C McGuinness, A Stewart(AS), G Smith, C Jackson, H Sutherland, P Gregory, S Richardson, M Wilkinson, A Brudenell, D Tree, T Cook, JM Nicholson, P Barwick, E Wilson, L Wilson(LW), A Carson, J Liepins-Hall(JL-H), M Dobson, T Leddicoat, N Bone(NB), J Bird – Chair, D Muse, J Yugire(JY), N Oliver, N Ramanandi, L Hardie, P Gilroy(PG), J Kennett

IN ATTENDANCE: K Loughlin, C Williams

APOLOGIES: E Whitby, G Giovinchi, E Peck, M Symington, L Crosby, A Hamilton, W Aitman

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

Noted

4. Financial Report

Noted. PG stated that the draft budget for 2017 will be ready next month. PG reminded the committee that the branches budget year is from January until December. The branch is currently on budget.

There were no notices for Affiliations, Donations or Correspondence.

5. Health & Safety

No report. PG gave an update on Agile Working and movement of staff. He has raised concerns and is waiting for a response. UNISON office will probably move, but it's not yet known where, a meeting is to take place to discuss this.

AS Raised a security concern. ACAS and Insolvency are located on the 8th floor and do not always wear security badges and the responsibility of council staff to challenge those not wearing badges. PG stated he had brought up this concern in the past and stated security protocols were in place. He will raise the matter again of those members of staff not wearing security badges.

NB raised concerns regarding the moving of Children and Adults' Services moving. PG stated that some locations but not all are known at this time. He suggested people email their line managers with the query. It was also advised to inform PG when they are told of moving plans as UNISON aren't always informed.

6. Workforce Learning & Development

Report from WA noted. JY gave a brief update. Shared Lives Carers will be having a session dedicated to them, JY stated if anyone was interested in similar workplace training to contact her.

PART TWO

7. Regional Convenor Nomination

NR is running for the position of Regional Convenor; this is the highest lay position and does not receive extra release time. The Branch endorsed her nomination. There will be an election if necessary at the next Regional Committee.

8. There for You Presentation

LW gave a presentation on There for You. PG, AH and the welfare officers will be working on a criteria for the branch welfare fund. Hard copies of the presentation will be sent out to Stewards.

9. Introduction of Regionals Secretary

Clare Williams, newly appointed Regional Secretary came to Branch Committee to introduce herself and speak on her new role. She hopes to help create stronger relationships between national, region, branch and lay members and wants to hear our ideas. She further spoke of her background in UNISON and the importance of the union having a strong presence. She then answered some brief questions regarding devolution.

10. Employee Relations Framework

The latest draft was circulated. EW and NB also distributed a version with comments, amendments and questions. The Committee was given a few minutes to look over the document. Questions and discussion ensued. It was noted there is no current document to use for comparison. It was agreed that the item would be on next month's agenda.

11. Labour Leadership Election

There was a meeting of the Affiliated Political membership where Corbyn was endorsed by the Branch. Regionally and Nationally, Corbyn has also been endorsed, however it was noted that it was a close vote.

Additional Items not in AOB:

- PG stated there is a review of the Green Book Terms and Conditions. Terms of reference have been agreed.
- In reference to the selection matrix, letters of concern on file will not be considered for the scoring process.
- NR briefly discussed technical consultancy staff moving on the 7th floor and plans to do floor walking.
- PG informed the committee that the four delegates who wished to go to Disabled Members Conference would be able to attend.

PART THREE – Officer Reports & Questions

12. Directorate Reports

Nothing further to add to the provided reports.

13. Branch Officer Reports

Nothing further to add to the provided reports.

14. National and Regional Committees and Conference Reports

None

Any Other Business – None

Next Branch Committee – Monday 3rd October 2016, 3pm.