

UNISON-Newcastle City Branch

BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES – Monday 5th December 2016

PRESENT: L Wilson, E Peck, V Suddes(VS), D Tree, T Cook, A Hall, J Yugire(JY), W Aitman(WA), P Barwick(PB), P Gregory, N Bone, D Mead, J Imhoof, J Horne, E Wilson, M Wilkinson, M Dobson, L Hardie, N Ramanandi(NR), K Loughlin, P Gilroy(PG), A Hall(AH)

APOLOGIES: J Nicholson, C Jackson, O Richards, D Muse, A Carson, N Oliver, E Whitby, J Bird, C Mcguinnes

PART ONE – Regular Business

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

NR opened the meeting

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee –AGREED

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – None

Branch Education – tabled

3. Branch Membership

Increase in figures

4. Financial Report

AH gave summary

Affiliations, donations and correspondence:

Affiliations

- People's Assembly £25.00 re-affiliation

Donations

- Newcastle Women's Refuge £500 – AGREED (from welfare fund)
- Biryani & Bananas £150 –AGREED

Correspondence

UNISON Derby City –thanks received (£1000 donated previously)

Hazards Campaign 2017 –thanks received (£200 donated previously)

5. Health & Safety

PB - meeting next week and noted difficulty in getting H& S reps to attend, request that Authority look into donations for food banks outside of Civic.

6. Workforce Development & Learning

WA gave update

Bridges to Learning

PART TWO – Specific Business

7. Council Budget 2017 – 2020

After a strong campaign, and tremendous activity from members, stewards and branch officers, PG gave update on proposals being withdrawn in full by NCC and confirmation that they won't be reintroduced during the three years budget 2017 - 2020.

In relation to the “alternative Christmas Cards” already printed, it is still the intention to take these to various workplaces where staff would have been directly affected and take photographs of staff with the cards.

Comments –thanking all for contributions from JY, E Wilson, PB, and T Carr. It was requested that we invite Cllr Veronica Dunn to a Branch Committee to give her an opportunity to explain her position.

Branch remains focussed on supporting members and worker groups where there are budget job cuts proposed.

PART THREE- Officer Reports

Directorate Reports

Reports noted

NB –commented on a Sickness meeting attended by NB, EW and LH.

All future DJC’s to have the following items as standing agenda issues –

- Sickness
- Industrial relations
- Health & Safety

H&S rep will be invited to attend Shop Stewards Committee Meetings.

It was noted that Constitutional Committee was meeting that night and this meeting would form the basis of the Management Review.

Communities: UNISON have lodged a dispute regarding the union office being withdrawn as Authority want to use space for Learning Zone, no alternative being given.

8. Branch Officer Reports

Welfare – Winter Fuel Grant of £50 available, information to be sent to members.

National Women’s Conference - 3 members requesting to attend
Young Members – Regional event at Middlesbrough.

9. National and Regional Committees and Conference Reports -

- None

10. AOB

- Ken Bensley –Newington Road retiring well wishes from Branch.
- Eric Roberts President of Unison sadly died suddenly condolences sent from Branch.
- Request from NB that consideration given to inviting speakers to branch events; MEP to discuss BREXIT and Vera Baird on her work in relation to Domestic Violence within her role as Police & Crime Commissioner.

NR – spoke about leaflet regarding ‘If you are an EU national working here what support can be given’?

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th January 2017