

UNISON - Newcastle City Branch

BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES – Monday 9 January 2017

PRESENT: L Wilson(LW), L Patterson, M Wilkinson, J Carden, P Gregory, T Cook, D Tree, P Barwick(PB), J Yugire, N Bone(NB), W Aitman(WA), V Suddes, C McGuinness, T Carr, L Hardie, P Gilroy(PG), J Bird-Chair, N Ramanandi(NR), L Roberts, J McKeough, C Jackson, G Smith, J Imhoof, D Mead

In Attendance: K Loughlin

APOLOGIES: M Clark, J Horne, A Haq, J Nicholson, U Kaferawanthu, E Peck, H Macdonald, M Dobson, A Carson

PART ONE – Regular Business

- 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence** - Members were reminded that the Branch AGM will be Monday, 13 March. Nominations for Branch Officers are due in on Friday, 13 January. A reminder of the speaking rules (stating name and area) was given.
- 2. Minutes for Confirmation**
Branch Committee –AGREED
Matters Arising – None
Health & Safety – None; report tabled
Branch Education – None; report tabled
- 3. Branch Membership** - Tabled
- 4. Financial Report**
No report as end of year accounts are being done. The upcoming year will see an additional financial report presented to branch committee, monitoring actual spend against the branch budget headings.
Following a conference decision on the Branch Resources Review, branches with low reserves (under £16 per member) receive top up funding. Newcastle City Branch has been informed that we will receive £20,000 in this financial year.
Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence
Re-affiliation with Cuba Solidarity and ACTSA – Agreed
Re-affiliation with Newcastle Trades Council – Agreed to pay £100 after discussion
- 5. Health & Safety**
Next meeting on 30 January, 8:00am at UNISON Office; have changed time due to low attendance
- 6. Workforce Development & Learning**
There will be no Branch Education meeting in February due to the ULR Forum taking place. There will be some training as part of the day.
The Bridges to Learning project has secured funding for 2017

PART TWO – Specific Business

- 7. Council Budget 2017 – 2020**
PG reminded committee of the proposals. The jobs figure of 100 is coming down. Local Services will lose 26 jobs but there are more VR requests so there will not be any compulsory redundancies.
Public consultation ended in December and responses are being coordinated. The Branch will be informed of any changes to the council's budget as a result of the consultation.

Byker Lodge - Council proved it was more cost effective than having people stay in hospital, however as it is a non-statutory service the council needs to find the money to pay for the service. The branch understands there is a provisional agreement for it to stay open for two years but this is not guaranteed, were still waiting for formal confirmation.

8. Management Review

Shared Services - Jane Henderson has been appointed for 6 months to develop a business proposition for the shared service with Northumberland which will be published in the summer of 2017. PG has requested a meeting with her.

- New directorate structure:
 - People – formerly WCL.
 - Place – Investment & development, parts of Communities
 - Resources

There will also be two Divisions

- Assistant Chief Executives
- Operational Division – Acting Head appointed - Christine Herriot

People should know where they are unless their section is still under review. Adult Services will be located at Westgate College (most likely) and Children's Services will be at Allendale Road.

The Branch will review Shop Stewards and Convenors after the AGM, until then the existing arrangements for convenors will remain in place.

PART THREE- Officer Reports

9. Directorate Reports

Both PG and LW will send out reports this week.

NR spoke on MESMAC funding cuts which will result in post reduction. The service is to be relocated and must be out of current premises by 1 April. Outreach workers will be completely going.

NB gave a verbal report and Shop Stewards and DJC meetings. There are issues arising surrounding the car park at Westgate. There is no disabled access and there are lighting issues. Wanted this to be highlighted as a health and safety issue. PG is going to have a discussion with Ged Gray, our Health & Safety Officers and the Disabled Members Officers.

10. Branch Officer Reports

International update-email will be sent out regarding a trip to Auschwitz. This is open to any Shop Steward who wants to go. Holocaust Memorial Day is on 27 January, regional event on 25 January.

- National and Regional Committees and Conference Reports - None

11. AOB

NB asked about inviting speakers to come and speak about Brexit; we are looking at a couple of people.

PB brought up concerns regarding half day TUC training courses and how difficult it is to attend and go to work for a half day. WA explained the courses have changed, mostly due to funding constraints but also due to blended learning where some of the course is done online.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th February 2017