

UNISON - Newcastle City Branch

BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES – Monday 6 February 2017

PRESENT: D Tree, V Suddes, T Cook, T Carr, W Aitman (WA), J Nicholson, J Shortt, M Wilkinson, L Wilson, N Bone, E Wilson, P Gregory, E Whitby (EW), C Collinson, J Yugire, J Horne, N Oliver, M Dobson (MD), P Barwick (PB), J Imhoof, D Mead, C McGuinness(CMcG), J Bird(Chair), P Gilroy(PG), N Ramanandi(NR)
N Ramanandi

In Attendance: K Loughlin (KL), T Johnstone (TJ)

APOLOGIES: A Brudnell, A Hamilton, D Muse, E Peck, E Thorp, L Patterson

PART ONE – Regular Business

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

A reminder of the speaking rules (stating name and area representing) was given.

2. Minutes for Confirmation

Branch Committee –AGREED

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – Minutes of last meeting tabled

Branch Education – None due to upcoming ULR Forum

3. NEC Nominations

Chair explained the process. It was decided that ballot papers would be used this year to make the process less confusing. PG expressed his personal views and asked for support of his chosen candidates. MD queried making a nomination at this time. JB explained this would be the only opportunity. Committee voted to continue with the nomination election. JB then expressed Senior Branch Officers recommendations. A five minute break was given so committee could read paperwork presented by two late nominees. Voting took place. The results are as follows:

Regional Seats

Female: Josie Bird

Male: Edwin Jeffries

Reserve: Sue Forster

Service Group Seats

Community General: Kieran Grogan

Community Female: Janet Bryan

Local Government General: Paul Holmes

Local Government Female: Andrea Egan and Jane Doolan

Local Government Male: Paul Gilroy

Black Members Female: Liz Cameron and Manjula Kumari

Black Members Male: Hugo Pierre

Black Members Reserve: Abiola Kusoro

Disabled Members General: Angela Hamilton

Disabled Members Female: Kim Silver

Young Members General: Josie Runwick

There were also nominations for the Northern Region Lay Officers. There were uncontested and nominations were unanimously agreed by Branch Committee

Regional Convenor: Nicky Ramanandi

Deputy regional Convenor: Linda Hobson

Regional Treasurer: Arthur Dickinson

4. Branch Membership - Tabled

There has been a reduction of 38.

5. Financial Report

PG submitted the Branch Expenditure Report for January (the report will always be for the previous month).

Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

A request for re-affiliation was received from Liberty for £215. PG explained what the organisation does but stated the amount was high compared to other organisations. EW suggested a donation in lieu of re-affiliation. After discussion it was agreed to pay £100 donation.

6. Health & Safety

PB gave update. There was discussion involving issues around Welford and Westgate.

7. Workforce Development & Learning

WA spoke of the work Evan Peck is doing encouraging ULRs to attend Branch Committee. PG stated that Branch Committee is for all reps, including ULRs, Health & Safety, etc.

PART TWO – Specific Business

8. Council Budget 2017 – 2020

PG gave update on changes since original budget proposals. Byker Lodge has been saved for the next 2 years. PG then highlighted other changes and spoke of his concerns. There was discussion involving council tax, future pay rise, counsellors expenses and the Living Wage

Health & Social Care – looking to do some joint working re the ethical charter. PG gave an outline of what the plans are.

9. Management Review

PG gave an update; the branch will review the union's DJC/Convenor roles after the AGM.

Branch Assessment

KL gave a brief presentation on the branch assessment.
The committee accepted the branch assessment.

KL then gave an overview of the Sustainability Transformation Plans (STP's).

PART THREE- Officer Reports

10. Directorate Reports

TJ gave an update on his project in the Community & Voluntary Sector. He spoke of the Fair Working Life Charter and asked if people wanted to get involved in the campaign.
EW spoke of the success of the Social Care workshops and has suggested a discussion in a future Branch Committee meeting.

NR gave update on Black Members.

11. Branch Officer Reports

Tabled

12. National/Local Conference

Motion Deadline for Local Government Conference is 24 February. National's deadline is 28 February. Ideas for motions included, terms & conditions, EU/Trump, Housing and the Health Agenda with a focus on the mental health aspect. If you are interested in being a delegate, please submit expressions of interest to the UNISON office.

Delegate recommendations will be at the March Branch committee.

13. National Meetings

JB will be speaking of her Colombia trip at a future meeting.

Recruitment had a meeting with Danny Jeffries and Terry Johnstone regarding organising.

They will give stewards a list of membership in their respective areas. An update was given on the Holocaust Memorial Day event with a special mention of Jane Yugire's speech.

14. AOB

A speaker on Brexit was confirmed.

DT requested a discussion regarding training for library staff on Universal Credit as they are expected to give advice to the public.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6 March 2017