



**GMB Northants Community Branch**

[www.gmbnorthants.org](http://www.gmbnorthants.org)

### **Summary of the branch meeting by zoom video held on April 29th 2020**

Tim Roache has resigned as the GMB general secretary. This had come out of the blue but is due to ill health. The secretary had sent him an email wishing him a speedy recovery.

The TUC had held a virtual rally to mark Workers Memorial Day. This had gone well but could have done with some expert management.

It was felt the trial meeting on April 15th had gone well and we should continue. The regional secretary and two senior organisers had attended and were suitably impressed. It remains to be seen if will get rolled out in the rest of the region. Rachelle said she would be contacting the branch secretaries on her list to see if she could get them doing the same thing.

Although the minutes silence for key workers had been well observed it was felt that Workers Memorial Day had been hijacked by those who aren't the least bit interested in workers welfare. From the coverage in the media most members of the public would have no idea of the significance of the event and why it was being held on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Rachelle had attended a facebook live event with members from ASDA. It had been well attended and it was felt that ASDA had been slow off the mark in dealing with the pandemic but was picking up pace now.

The secretary had sent a letter to all new members. This is a lot easier now that Marzena Sec is back at work in regional office and is supplying the branch with monthly updates.

Elections for the shadow unitary authority have been cancelled. The government has appointed the leader of the tory group on Kettering Borough Council as leader. Totally undemocratic. The situation is confused and we have to concentrate on making sure that our members are getting a fair deal.