

GMB Northants Community Branch
Summary of Novembers 2013 Meeting

The matter with Kingswood Juniors FC has been resolved the kits now have the logo on them.

The Northampton meeting was poorly attended but the secretary felt that it would be worth trying again, perhaps next summer.

Coronation Park in Corby, which the branch supports, had won a £50,000 share of the peoples millions, a programme run by Anglia Television which donates money to local charities decided by popular vote. The organisers had expressed their thanks.

It was agreed to affiliate to Union Solidarity and to Amnesty International

It was agreed to donate £500 to the Philippines disaster fund. Money will go to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Harry Booth announced that he is resigning as branch president as he will be moving away from Corby. Harry has been an excellent servant of the union for many years and the secretary will certainly miss him. A motion of thanks was moved which was agreed unanimously. An election for branch president will be held at the next meeting

It was suggested that we look into the possibility of sending a bus to Tolpuddle next year. The secretary said that the trade councils used to send them but that had fallen by the wayside in recent years but he will look into it.

Tom Beattie, leader of Corby Borough Council, gave an excellent talk on the pressures felt in local government since the Tory led coalition came into power. Cuts have been up to 34% and would be going up to 45% by 2015, Maggie said that they have been 40% in Kettering. This would affect the most vulnerable in our society as well as millions of council workers who are already among the lowest paid. Tom was asked about the living wage which the GMB is mounting a campaign about. He said that the council have agreed to pay at least the living wage to all its employees. This will have a cost implication of about £50000 a year which the council should be able to manage but could be a problem for large councils. Maggie said she will be introducing a motion to Kettering Borough Council at their next meeting. The county council have already knocked it back.

Harry thanked Tom for his contribution and wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.