



**GMB Northants Community Branch**  
**Secretary, Alan Irwin, Geddington, Northants, NN14 1BG**  
[www.gmbnorthants.org](http://www.gmbnorthants.org)

**Summary Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**1. Minutes of branch meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

- a) Agreed as a true record.

**2. Matters Arising**

- a) No matters arising – covered in subsequent Officers reports.

**3. Correspondence.**

- a) Branch Secretary read out correspondence received since last meeting.
- b) Banner Theatre – further donation made.
- c) War on Want – constant flow of correspondence over the past few months. Jackie Simkins, responsible for trade unions is willing to talk to the branch at one of our informal meetings. Agreed to provide dates.
- d) Usual up-dates from Nicaraguan and we have continued that affiliation.
- e) Correspondence from Finbar Bowie, Event in Corby on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Looking for 7 people from the branch to attend and let the Secretary know.
- f) Correspondence from Region – Mins. of Region Committee. To be reported in Secretary's Report
- g) Correspondence from Wortley Hall, forthcoming election. Not contested by the branch.
- h) Live performances from Banner Theatre. Can be accessed on-line.
- i) WEA – trade union courses now available for 2022.
- j) Letters from all the food bank with an up-date on their work. Agreed to extend the standing orders to all of them. Proposed &, seconded
- k) Congress Delegates 2022, both nominations will be attending from the branch.
- l) SOS - NHS Alliance – organising a rally 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- m) Correspondence National Pensions Committee. Agreed to get on website and into next news letter.
- n) Letter from member about pay talks. Will liaise with Rachelle.
- o) Branch diaries – available. Contact Secretary.
- p) Letter from the GS – re. branch commission. Comprehensive discussion. Branch unhappy, given we use our funds appropriately and will impact on money we give to outside organisations and 'special payments'. Agreed to meet for further discussion prior to next audit going in.

#### **4. Regional Council Elections. Nominations.**

- a) Maggie happy to carry-on Public-Sector seat.  
Jackie happy to carry on Commercial Service Sector seat.  
Proposed & seconded

#### **6) GMB Congress 2022, Motions**

- a) No motions.

#### **7) Secretary's Report**

- a) Regional Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, mostly taken up with on-going disputes in the region.
- b) Delegates to Congress now approved, two from our branch as previously mentioned.
- c) Region looking for 3-member, general auditors for election 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022. No interest.
- d) Donation from region to an aspiring Olympian.
- e) Data in legal cases settled in the region, 17 settled, 6 rejected.
- f) Region membership going down
- g) Holocaust Memorial Day. Secretary to represent the branch as a keynote speaker. Need to apply on the Corby Council website if attending. Adrian asked for pictures for the website.
- h) Maggie informed members that Kettering Town Council were also putting on HMD the same day, 27<sup>th</sup> January. Maggie to represent as Leader of the Opposition.

#### **8) Financial Report**

- a) Balances reported

#### **7) Presidents Report**

- a) No report

#### **8) Digital Communications Officers Report**

- a) Website activity for last 30 days: we had 104(+7) website visits (sessions) by 87(+7) people (users) and they viewed 317(-39) pages.
- b) News Items Added to Website:
- c) · Branch Meeting Dates
- d) · Nov Summary Minutes
- e) · Holocaust Event - Corby
- f) · Jan Agenda & meeting details
- g) WhatsApp Group has 33 members (+1)
- h) The December email newsletter was sent out on 17th December to a total of 1,584 members and has been opened by 611 members, a 38.8% opening rate.
- i) The January email newsletter was sent out on 18th January to a total of 1,595 members and has been opened by 666 members, a 42% opening rate
- j) Twitter: 702 (+9) Followers. Last 28 days: Tweets viewed (impressions) 96(+242%) Profile visits 89(+394%)
- k) Facebook: 191(+15) Likes & 232(+15) Followers. Last 28 days: Posts seen by (reach) 18(-0%) people. Page views 2 (-33%). Post engagements 8 (+300%)

#### **9) Equality Officers Report**

- a) No report

## **10) Youth Officers Report**

- a) No report

## **11) Race Officers Report**

- a) No report

## **12) Regional Organisers Report**

Full and comprehensive report received from Rachelle

- a) Rachelle reported on Council meetings. Equal pay negotiations.
- b) Matalan. Pay negotiations.
- c) School meetings are continuing, and we are picking up members but hampered by the increasing number of staff coming down with Covid. Particularly bad in primary schools. One in six have covid in Northamptonshire.
- d) Accumia
- e) St Andrews
- f) Asda – launching a campaign around equal pay for women. Issues around ‘cleaning’ cross contamination. Essentially the company expect women to do this work.
- g) Anglian Water – pay rise being negotiated.
- h) Grand Union – lost a Rep who has been doing great work for the GMB. Agreed that the branch should send an email thanking him.
- i) Cadent Gas – balloting for industrial action.

## **13) Accompanying Reps Report**

- a) The Secretary reported that he was still representing members, mostly on disciplinary cases in the workplaces and the number of these have been going up in recent weeks.

## **14) Workplace Reports**

- a) No reports

## **15) Any Other Business**

- a) Appeal re. Afghanistan. Crisis in Yemen. UNHCR appeal. Discuss at next meeting re. making a donation.
- b) Informal meeting – agreed 17<sup>th</sup> February.
- c) Next meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

Yours fraternally  
Alan Irwin  
Branch Secretary