



**GMB Northants Community Branch**

**Secretary, Alan Irwin,**

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

**Summary Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Minutes of branch meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Agreed as a true record

**Matters Arising**

No matters arising – covered in subsequent Officers reports.

**Correspondence.**

- Labour Party Conference, 2023
- Mark Pengally – Solidarity Saturday, 14 October, 2023
- Kat Casewell, GMB diaries – only ordered 12 this year.
- Regional Committee mins. 2 sets of mins. Jackie to report later.
- Finbar Bowie, Solidarity Sat.
- Rachelle – Kettering General Hospital (website enquiry)
- Neil – ASDA recruitment.
- 38 Degrees – campaigning issues.
- Rachelle – Mental Health Training.
- Pat – Congress 2024
- 38 Degrees – campaigning issues.
- Martin Allen – job vacancies.
- Colleen Cassidy – Kettering PPLP. Rosie Wrighting – GMB shortlisted.
- War on Want – Isreal/Gaza (Palestine) war.
- Banner Theatre, new material.
- LP – mid-term elections. More potential elections
- Neil – ASDA recruitment
- Cuba Solidarity – continue affiliation.

- Labour Party
- Verena – wishing to continue as YO.
- Adrian – Zoom membership. Continue.
- Richard Taylor, GDPR for Accompanying Reps.
- Banner Theatre– new material 2024.
- WOW – ceasefire in Gaza.
- Cuba Solidarity – Attacks on embassies.
- Wortley Hall – election of new Secretary.
- Adele Atkiss, Reg. Council mins.
- Cheryle Evans – Asbestos report.
- Martin Allen–support for Palestinian trade union workers.
- Andy Sawford, (KCLP) – asking for support in Peterborough.
- LP GMB delegates – Kettering and Corby.
- Labour Research material.

### **Secretary's Report**

- Report on Solidarity Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Corby.
- KCLP – selection of candidate. Secretary was a member of the selection panel. Report to next meeting. Two candidates shortlisted – Rosie Wrighting (GMB) and Martin Shepard.
- Regional Council – Jackie to report.
- Support for Palestinian Trade Unions. Letter from Martin Allen. General debate from members.

### **Presidents Report**

Report from the Regional Council, 18<sup>th</sup> October, online.

- Finance report. David Castledine.
- Health & Safety – long term strategic aims for workers,
- Increase the number of H&S reps,
- Identify workplace leaders,
- Support RO and Reps to run industrial campaigns,
- Scholarships programmes to increase potential for lay reps to become full-time officers,
- Increase the number of women's reps,
- Increase the number of workplace organisers,
- Update on training reps – numbers!
- Legal – claims processed in the Region,
- Equalities Report from the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023, election results,
- Young Workers event 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023. "Significant success",
- Local campaigns,

- Organising presentation–Garment Workers project,
- Various reports , EC, LP, TUC.

Jackie was thanked for an excellent and comprehensive branch report.

### **Digital Communications Officers Report**

Website activity for last 30 days: we had 103 (-130) website visits (sessions) by 92 (-80) people (users)

WhatsApp Group has 32 members

The October email newsletter was sent out on 19th October to 1,615 members and has been opened by 704 members, a 43.9% opening rate

X / Twitter: 797 Followers. Last 28 days: Tweets viewed (impressions) 34

Facebook: 314 Followers. Last 28 days: Posts seen (reach) 43

Zoom Plan renewed for 12 months

### **Equality Officers Report**

Pat struggled to get into the meeting

### **Youth Officers Report**

No report.

### **Regional Organisers Report**

No report.

### **Accompanying Reps Report**

Secretary reported a very busy month representing members. Doing more physical representation rather than Zoom/Teams. Particular concerns about the increase in bullying.

### **Workplace Report**

Neil reported on being very busy on health and safety issues. Also, that he is seeing an increase in bullying in the workplace.

Continued campaigning and recruitment.

29<sup>th</sup> October, report to next meeting.

November 5<sup>th</sup> Day of Action. Report to next meeting.

Neil was thanked for a comprehensive report.

**Any Other Business**

- Rajko gave an update on his own situation. Branch wished Rajko the best of luck going forward.
- Bladder presentation. Agreed – 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

**Next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Yours fraternally  
Alan Irwin  
Branch Secretary

26<sup>th</sup> October 2023