



GMB Northants Community Branch
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Summary of the branch meeting held on 27th January 2021

There has been a shortfall in the number of diaries we have received. It should have been two hundred to be but only eighty two have arrived. Fortunately the secretary would have had problems distributing the diaries due to the current lockdown. All the workplace contacts, officers and reps should have received one through the post.

The interim meeting on January 6th, attended by Jean Addison, labour group leader on the shadow unitary authority for North Northants, had been excellent. We now have a better picture of what to expect after the election in May.

War on Want had sent an online petition in support of Indian farmers who are taking action against proposals by the Indian government to hand over their land to private corporations. Members are urged to sign it. It can be viewed online. It was agreed to make a donation to the charity.

British Gas workers are continuing to take industrial action to stop management proposals to make them accept longer hours for no more pay or face dismissal with no redundancy pay. It was agreed to make a donation to the strike fund.

The annual newsletter to all members has gone out by email, thanks to Adrian, and post, thanks to Kate in the Peterborough office. As a result we found out that two members have died and will now receive funeral benefit. One member had objected strongly to the apparent left wing bias of the newsletter.

The branch finances remain healthy.

The standing orders to foodbanks in the count had been updated and renewed. We now give £100 a quarter to nine foodbanks and Kettering Homestart.

The taxi sponsorship is due to be renewed. It was agreed that we should.

The branch welcomed the appointment of Ruth Brady as secretary for the Wales and Southwest region. The first female regional secretary in the GMB.

Website activity had been quiet. Updates done. The secretaries annual letter had gone out to 1559 members with 43.3% opening. The monthly newsletter had 27.55% opening. Twitter was looking good. (the secretary doesn't understand twitter). Facebook was steady (ditto).

Talks with the North Northants unitary authority have been going well. The same can't be said for West Northants where the employers side is being dictated to by tory councillors. These are the same councillors who drove the county council into the ground so it's not looking good.

It was agreed that we would have an interim branch meeting on Wednesday, February 10th. We will invite a speaker from Hope not Hate to attend.