



**GMB Northants Community Branch**  
**Secretary: Alan Irwin**  
[www.gmbnorthants.org](http://www.gmbnorthants.org)

**Summary Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**1. Minutes of branch meeting 26th May 2022**

- a) Agreed as a true record

**2. Matters Arising**

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

**3. Correspondence.**

- a) Several email correspondences from Nicaragua Solidarity, global up-dates  
b) Appeal letter from Region – International Brigade film. Agreed donation of £xxx  
c) Cuba Solidarity – Cycle for Charity. Secretary to do challenge, November in Cuba. Branch agreed £xxx towards fund. Secretary to keep branch updated.  
d) Letter from PW – RMT solidarity on picket lines.  
e) Letter from Homestart, acknowledging pledge payment in November.  
f) Letter from Unity Trust – raise in interest 1.25 to 1.50%.  
g) Letter from the GS Gary Smith – subs to be frozen again.  
h) Cuba Solidarity – re-new affiliation. Done!  
i) Letter from Region – up-dates on Reps that the branch currently has.  
j) Letter from member – leaving the branch for reasons that he hadn't received financial support. Secretary has written back to the member – re. hardship support.  
k) Letter from GG – passed on correspondence.  
l) Nicaragua 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
m) GG – Corby Trades Council – update.  
n) Banner Theatre – update on activities.  
o) Wallshall Housing Group – via region, strike action pending.  
p) Nicaragua – Women Facing Hybrid Warfare.  
q) East Midlands National Pensions – Derby Silk Mill Festival invite. Secretary to attend.  
r) Nicaragua – World Forum – Gender Gap Inequality.  
s) Requests to join WhatsApp group from new members.  
t) Ukraine appeal.  
u) War on Want – up-date on activity.

## 5) Secretary's Report

- a) Update on meeting with GG, branch auditor. Review of budgets. The branch agreed that with the surplus money that comes into the account each quarter, that is money we should use to fund charities as identified by the branch. Next branch meeting to consider further donations.
- b) Death of Cllr Mick Scrimshaw was recorded for his contribution and dedication to the trade union and Labour movement.
- c) RB – idea for next year's 25 years Workers Memorial Day – contact Paula Boulton to consider a play to commemorate the 25 years of this event. Branch very much in favour of an event that represents the whole of Northamptonshire. Secretary to contact Paula and report to next meeting.
- d) PW suggested we contact Region about any production.

## 6) Finance Report

- a) Unity Trust: £xxxx
- b) Credit Union: £xxxx
- c) AG raised that surplus money from branch commission would be less after what is paid out to foodbanks. Confirmed.
- d) GG gave an up-date on the 'previous' standing order to the Corby taxi.

## 8) Presidents Report

- a) President reported on a recent TUC webinar - Protecting Pregnant Workers. Reported an excellent course and resources for the future.

## 9) Digital Communications Officers Report

- a) **Website** activity for last 30 days: we had 135 (-28) website visits (sessions) by 119 (-9) people (users) and they viewed 464 (-84) pages.
- b) News Items Added to Website:

[SUMMARY OF BRANCH MEETING 300622](#)  
[WALSALL HOUSING GROUP](#)  
[JULY 2022 BRANCH MEETING](#)  
[BANNER THEATRE SONG IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE RMT STRIKES](#)  
[CORBY TRADES COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 2022](#)  
[SAVE TICKET OFFICES CAMPAIGN](#)

- c) **WhatsApp** Group has 31 members (+0)
- d) The July **email newsletter** was sent out on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July to 1,566 members and has been opened by 632 members, a 40.5% opening rate
- e) **Twitter**: 714 (+1) Followers. Last 28 days: Tweets viewed (impressions) 111 (+32.1%) Profile visits 319(-36.6%)
- f) **Facebook**: 216 (+0) Likes & 265 (+2) Followers. Last 28 days: Posts seen by (reach) 33 (+18%) people. Page views 6 (-40%). Post engagements 3 (-25%)

**10) Equality Officers Report**

- a) Nothing to report.

**11) Youth Officers Report**

- a) Youth Officer spoke about same sex marriages being illegal in Ukraine and the complications and hardship this causes to same sex relationship and the current campaign of their government against this. Verena to share on WhatsApp.

**12) Race Officers Report**

- a) No report.

**13) Regional Organisers Report**

- a) No report. Apologies recorded.

**14) Accompanying Reps Report**

- a) Once again, the Secretary reported several cases with Unitary Authority – mostly West Northants. Mostly grievance cases.

**15) Workplace Report**

- a) Secretary reported, loss of a few workplace reps due to them leaving their respective employers.

**16) Any Other Business**

- a) Card of condolence from the branch for Mick Scrimshaw.
- b) Concern raised about the sacking of a Shadow Minister for being on the RMT picket line. The action has been criticised by GMB GS. General condemnation from the branch.
- c) PW – raised that she has send correspondence to the branch in support of the RMT- This was raised in correspondence.
- d) PW – Labour Party fund raising 18<sup>th</sup> November in Northampton North. Rachel Reeve will be attending.
- e) PW – notified branch about applications to become a Magistrate. “We need more young people on the ‘Bench”. “Let’s get more diversity on the Bench”.
- f) GG reiterated he is now the Secretary of the Corby Trade Union Council. Branch looking forward to future reports.
- g) Congratulation to GG on his Golden Wedding Anniversary.

**17) Date of next meeting**

- a) 29<sup>TH</sup> September 2022.

Yours fraternally  
Alan Irwin  
Branch Secretary