



GMB Northants Community Branch
Secretary, Alan Irwin
www.gmbnorthants.org

Summary Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 30th January 2025

AGENDA

1. Minutes of branch meeting held on the 31st October 2024

- a) Agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Secretary to report on matters during the meeting.

3. Correspondence.

- a) Wortley Hall – Management Board report.
b) Labour Party – several lots of correspondence from Kettering CLP – nothing from Corby CLP and personal mail.
c) Beanfield Community Centre – Future Wellbeing Course.
d) Pellecraft – Invoice for merchandise.
e) Members enquiries for advice and guidance.
f) Rachelle – Development Plan – Rachelle to report in meeting.
g) School visit – Secretary to report.
h) Marzena – Membership update.
i) Adele Atkiss – job vacancies.
j) East Midlands – Retired Members, reaffiliate.
k) Unity Trust – bank statements.
l) 38 Degrees – regular updates on national and international issues.
m) Wortley Hall – action- not renewing membership.
n) Adelle Atkiss – Regional Council mins.
o) Regional Equality Meeting – 21st February – Pat to report.
p) Pat - WASPI
q) Regional Committee.
r) LRD – renewal done.
s) Retired members – Zoom 20th February 2025 – Secretary to report.
t) GMB – regional video. 'We Are GMB'.
u) Pat – Equality at Work – pregnancy loss report.
v) East Midlands – LP Gala Dinner.
w) Branch Review questionnaire.
x) 38 Degrees – Trump and Musk
y) Adele Atkiss – Regional EC mins.
z) Richard Taylor – Casework Management Systems – Accompanying Reps.
aa) Employment Law Course.

5) Secretary's Report

- a) Members advice and guidance, report of members enquiries.
- b) Retired members letter has gone out and we have a Zoom meeting scheduled for the 20th February 2025.
- c) Letter also going out to young members and a Zoom meeting will be organised.
- d) New Year message for 2025 went out in January.
- e) Members who are working in the community – we need to get those stories onto our website.
- f) Wellbeing course at the Beanfield Community Centre, 24th February 2025.

6) Branch Development Plan 2025

Rachelle gave a comprehensive report on the Branch Development Plan for the coming year 2025. Jackie and myself met with Rachelle to discuss the issues covered which included:

7) Finance Report

- a) Unity Trust: £xxxxxx
- b) Credit Union: £xxxxxx
- c) Auditors – Q3 signed off.

8) Presidents Report:

- a) Jackie to stand as local Labour candidate in Irthlingborough in the forthcoming NNC elections in May 2025.
- b) Jackie reported on her community work in the local community. More specifically, the local food bank. Request for future financial support agreed. Propose by Gordon, that we support them in the same way we support our other food banks.
- c) Jackie further reported that she will be volunteering at the food bank. Jackie and Secretary to visit the food bank in the coming weeks.
- d) Branch elections 2025 – nominations to be received in the coming months. Interested persons to contact the Secretary. Further announcements to be made at the next monthly branch meeting.

9) Digital Communication Office

- a) Website activity (GA4) for last 30 days: we had 270 (+62) website visits (sessions) by 187 (+25) people (users)
- b) News Items Added to Website:
 - 1) Full Education Course Programme 2025 2025
 - 2) GMB Northants Branch Meeting Dates
 - 3) GMB COURSES - SPACES AVAILABLE
 - 4) ASDA Kettering Christmas Recruitment Day 2024
 - 5) Branch Secretary's 2025 New Year Address to Members January 2025
 - 6) GMB Northants Branch Meeting Northants Community
 - 7) Branch Retired Members Meeting 20th Feb 2025
- c) WhatsApp Group has 45 (+3) members
- d) The January Email Newsletter was sent out on Friday 17th January 2025 to 1,651 members (November members list) and has been opened by 744 members, a 45.2% opening rate
- e) The Retired Members email was sent out Friday 24th January 2025 to 99 Retired members (of 314 retired members in branch) and has been opened by 51 members, a 51.5% opening rate
- f) X / Twitter: 792 (-16) Followers.
- g) Facebook: 446 (+23) Followers. Last 28 days: Posts Seen (reach) 40 (-64.3%)

10) Equality Officers Report

- a) Written report received from Pat, sent to members who attend the meetings. Pat thanked for her report, particularly regarding the WASPI campaign.

11) Youth Officers Report

- a) No report. The Secretary reported that he had spoken to Verena about sending out letters to our young members and organising a Zoom meeting, similar to that of retired members.

12) Regional Organisers Report

- a) Schools report – booked up until April.
- b) ASDA stores –
- c) Regional Organisers Day, March 20th 2025. Further updates to follow on the workplace visits.

13) Accompanying Reps Report (ARs)

- a) Alan reported being busy, receiving representation requests from members directly and from regional office.

14) Workplace Report

- a) Neil reported on Kettering ASDA. Collaborating closely with new representative, Abbie (who joined us for her first meeting).

15) Any Other Business

- a) Ross asked about any future WASPI campaigns, demonstrations taking place in the region or nationally. The Secretary reported on his recent meeting with Pat and he expects the campaigns will become more intense going forward. As we hear more back from Pat, we will report back to the branch, as will Pat, who was thank for her updates.

16) Date and Time of Next Meeting

- a) 27th February 2025– Zoom.

Yours fraternally
Alan Irwin
Branch Secretary
30th January, 2025