GMB Northants Community *Summary* Branch Minutes 30th April 2026

Secretary, Alan Irwin,
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www.gmbnorthants.org

1. Apologies

It was noted that political and equality reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 26 March 2026

The minutes of the previous branch meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

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3. Matters Arising

The Secretary advised that matters arising, including Workers' Memorial Day, would be covered within the Secretary's Report.

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4. Correspondence

Alan Irwin provided a summary of recent correspondence, including:

- Requests for support from Labour Party campaigns in Milton Keynes.
- TUC seminars and training relating to the Employment Rights Act.
- Information regarding national auditor appointments.
- Increased engagement through the branch WhatsApp group.
- Correspondence from regional and local Labour Party representatives.
- Midlands region vacancies and training opportunities.
- Derby Silk Mill event scheduled for 20 June.
- Pride events taking place in Northampton, Peterborough and Corby.
- Correspondence from Lee Barron MP regarding Workers' Memorial Day.

- Audit completion and thanks to branch auditors.
- Ongoing TUC webinars and educational opportunities.
- Branch member casework and increasing demand for representation.

Alan reported dealing with 28 individual members during the month, resulting in approximately 42 separate pieces of correspondence relating to cases, concerns and enquiries.

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5. Secretary's Report – Alan

Workers' Memorial Day

Alan thanked all members and supporters who attended the Workers' Memorial Day event.

It was noted that North Northamptonshire Council had refused permission for the branch to use the council building, requiring the event to be held outside.

Despite these difficulties, the event was considered a success.

Special thanks were given to:

- Ian for organising equipment and sound.
- Neil for producing and filming the event video.
- Lee Barron MP for speaking at the event.

Alan advised that the event included wreath laying, speeches and a focus on mental health awareness in the workplace.

The branch also intends to stage a Workers' Memorial Day play later in the year, including performances linked to the Women's TUC.

Development Plan and Honorariums

Alan raised concerns regarding correspondence from the region relating to the branch development plan and possible delays to honorarium payments.

Clarification had been requested from the regional office.

Website Image Licence Matter

Alan briefly referenced an image licence enquiry relating to branch website content. Further clarification would follow once Adrian Grover was available.

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6. Financial Report – Alan

The financial report was presented to the branch.

The branch finances remained stable and up to date.

The report was accepted.

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7. President's Report – Jackie

Jackie thanked branch officers and members for their continued support and contribution to branch activities.

Particular recognition was given to the success of Workers' Memorial Day and ongoing member engagement.

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8. Digital Communications Officer Report – Adrian

In Adrian's absence, it was noted that:

- Branch website activity continues to increase.
- Social media and online communications remain active.
- Video coverage of Workers' Memorial Day had received positive feedback.

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9. Equality Officer's Report – Pat

Pat's written report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The report included:

- Support for the ceramics industry.
- Equality and inclusion matters.
- Promotion of upcoming Pride events.

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10. Youth Officer's Report – Verena

Verena's report was expected to be circulated following the meeting.

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11. Accompanying Reps Report – Alan

Alan reported continuing high levels of member representation and accompanying casework.

The branch continues to experience increasing workloads linked to:

- Workplace disciplinaries
- Advice requests
- Member welfare concerns

Concerns were raised regarding limited regional full-time staffing support.

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12. Health & Safety Report – Neil

Neil's ongoing involvement in Workers' Memorial Day activities and health and safety awareness work was acknowledged.

Members discussed the continuing importance of workplace mental health and safety campaigns.

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13. Workplace and Other Reports

Members discussed:

- Continuing workplace pressures.
- Increased demand for union representation.
- Recruitment and organising opportunities.

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14. Political Reports – Jackie

Political reports circulated prior to the meeting were acknowledged.

Members discussed:

- Local election activity.
- Regional Labour Party campaigning.
- Trade union political engagement.

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15. Any Other Business

No additional business was formally raised.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next branch meeting is Thursday the 28th May 2026 at 7pm on Zoom.

Meeting Closed