



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

Summary Minutes of the Branch Meeting held on 30th November 2023

1. Minutes of branch meeting 26th October 2023

- a) Agreed as a true record

2. Matters Arising

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

3. Correspondence.

- a) Members emails, re. workplace issues.
b) Various emails from East Midlands Labour Party – campaigning events.
c) Midland Manufacturing EC election.
d) Cuba Solidarity – petitions and campaigns – several pieces of correspondence.
e) Wortley Hall shareholders meeting.
f) Marketing for GMB website NHS – no commitment from the branch.
g) KCLP – selection process for PPLP.
h) Correspondence from Neil – workplace issues.
i) Mental Health First Aid course.
j) Wellingborough election.
k) Nicaragua – campaigning and affiliation.
l) Rosie Wrighting – PPLP and Martin Shepherd PPLP
m) Martin Allen – vacancies in the region.
n) Sarah James – Equality data.
o) 19th November, International Men’s Day.
p) Corby Home Start – AGM.
q) Branch Development Plan 2024. – Kate Casewell.
r) Regional Committee minutes.
s) 38 Degrees – campaigning issues.
t) Pat Wilmott – bladder cancer.
u) Maria Almond – Women’s conference 2023.
v) International Transport Workers – campaigning issues.
w) Pat Wilmott – Menopause guidelines.

- x) Neil Gardiner – request to have a visitor’s ticket for 2024 congress.
- y) Nicaragua updates.
- z) Passing of Brenda Clarke – Nottingham rep.
- aa) Martin Allen -Palestinian Solidarity.
- bb) GDPR – Accompanying Reps.
- cc) Pat Willmott – Play to Congress 2024.
- dd) Melanie Costin – thank you letter to the branch for speaking on bladder cancer
- ee) Martin Allen -political fund.
- ff) Corby Burns Night – January 2024.
- gg) Member hardship request - £xxxx

5) Secretary’s Report

- a) Completion of GDPR course.
- b) Rosie Wrighting elected PPLP candidate for the next election.
- c) Proposal to bring the WMD play to Congress. Pat Willmott gave an update.
- d) Development Plan 2024. Discussion on whether the branch should have bi-monthly meeting instead of every month. Defeated! Branch meetings to remain as they are.
- e) Discussion on branch officials’ election (constitutionally) should be 2025, this to be clarified by region given that Gordon was asked to stay on an extra year due to Covid. As it stands the Development Plan suggest 2025.
- f) Bladder cancer , excellent speaker.

6) Financial Report

- a) Unity Trust: £xxxxxx
- b) Credit Union: £xxxxxx

7) Presidents Report

- a) No report.

8) Digital Communications Officers Report

- a) Website activity for last 30 days: we had 179 (+76) website visits (sessions) by 142 (+50) people (users)
- b) News Items Added to Website: ASDA KETTERING HALLOWEEN RECRUITMENT DAY
- c) FIGHT BLADDER CANCER TALK
- d) UPDATE ON FAIR COMPENSATION FOR WASPI WOMEN
- e) NEWSON HEALTH RESPONDS TO NICE MENOPAUSE GUIDELINE
- f) UPDATE SUMMARY OF BRANCH MEETING 261023 NOVEMBER
- g) 2023 BRANCH MEETING NEW SURVEY ON EQUALITY AT WORK FOR UNION REPS
- h) FIGHT BLADDER CANCER TALK VIDEO
- i) WhatsApp Group has 33 members

- j) The November email newsletter was sent out on Saturday 25th November 2023 to 1,606 members (November list) and has been opened by 689 members, a 43.1% opening rate
- k) Twitter: 801 Followers. Last 28 days: Tweets viewed (impressions) 291 (+257)
- l) Facebook: 314 Followers. Last 28 days: Posts seen (reach) 140 (+185.7%)

9) Equality Officers Report

- a) Women's Summit 2nd December 2023. No correspondence from the Secretary was received.
- b) Regional Equality Forum – following week. Pat to report at next meeting.
- c) National Equalities Forum has been disbanded.
- d) Attended the retired members association. Report update on WASPI.
- e) RMA report.

10) Youth Officers Report

- a) Would like to put out a survey to find out what young people are looking for. Secretary to contact region to produce a list of young people in the branch and report back to next meeting. Verena to think about survey content.

11) Regional Organisers Report

- a) Report on North Northants Council. Announcement of new CEO. Report on pay and benefits.
- b) Schools report. Pay and benefits.
- c) ASDA equal pay day, 6th November 2023. Update on legal proceedings.
- d) Extremely busy with member representation before Xmas.
- e) Branch Development Plan in progress.
- f) Update on Rajko's work position at Accuma. Huge thanks to Rajko for his loyalty and commitment to the branch over the years.
- g) Labour Party update in the region.
- h) Beanfield Community Centre – new recognition agreement to be signed in the coming weeks.

12) Accompanying Reps Report

- a) Secretary reported a very busy month representing members.

13) Workplace Report

- a) Neil gave a comprehensive report on issues at the ASDA Kettering store.
- b) Completed the Mental Health course.
- c) Halloween event report.

14) Any Other Business

- a) Rajko, thanked the branch 'for the special journey he's been on with the branch'.
- b) Pat Willmott - Menopause report and update.
- c) Magistrate up-date on recruitment. Can now apply online.

Yours fraternally
Alan Irwin