

## Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Chair Jake Mcleod suspended standing orders and our speaker today was Fatima Uygun from "Stand Up to Racism Scotland". She told us of her involvement in the campaign to save Govanhill Baths, which was the longest occupation of a civil building in history. In Govanhill there are 55 different ethnic and religious groups and 44 different languages. She referred to the conference being held on Saturday, speakers Sandra White, Richard Leonard and Katrina McKay who led the demo in Perth against the SDL. March 17<sup>th</sup> will be an International Day of action with demos in New York and other US cities. She referred to the growth of the Right in Europe – Le Pen in France and openly fascist members of government in Hungary. Also, if Trump does visit Britain, then we need huge demonstrations against him. Fatima was thanked for her contribution and the branch donated £50 to her organisation.

Chair welcomed new members G. Casey, B. Birds and B. Casey to branch meeting.

1. Apologies: A. Ayr, F. Banner Rail, C. Boyd, A. Cameron, A. Colonomi, G. Convery, F. William, I. Graham, A. Henderson, J. Hillcoat, J. McCabe, M. McGhee, B. McKenna, J. Murray, J. Patrick, D. Sharpe, M. Vass, J. Inverarity, G. Yuille, S. Morris, C. Screen and J. Friel.
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct.
3. Matters arising:
  - a) Delegates to NPC meeting in Blackpool – M. Rice, J. Mcleod, I. Findley. S. Rice will attend as a visitor
  - b) Agreed Summer outing would be a trip on the Waverley to Dunoon on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August
4. Correspondence – Letter of thanks from Daniel Crawley and Information Leaflet on the Campaign to save the "Inchgreen Dry Dock". B. Birds gave a full report and said that a letter will be sent to all branches from P. Rafferty looking for financial support.
5. Reports:
  - a) Branch Committee – M. Gardner reported that Office would be contacting all members for our Triennial Meeting. Agreed affiliation fees for Trades Council and we will be receiving a May Day Appeal.
  - b) Equalities Officer – A. Shelton reported that the play "We are the Lions Mr Manager" about the Grunwick Strike by Asian Women workers will be shown at John Smith House at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. She also referred to the Scottish Government's proposal on affordable housing for older people. Age Scotland are pursuing a "Veterans' Project.
  - c) Action Sub-Committee – Seem to have lost links with the Community Branch and its work in the Hospitality Industry. Also invited Roz Foyer to speak at next meeting. Members were asked to complete the "Awards for All" questionnaire.
  - d) Scottish Pensioners Forum – written report (circulated to members) from M. Gardner. She added that the SPF annual Conference will be held in Glasgow on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

- e) Trades Council – F. Murphy reported that this year’s May Day Rally will be held in the Royal Concert Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> May, and next year at the Tramway. Details of theme will be decided at next meeting.
6. Auditors’ Report – Frank McLaren reported that he and Bernie Beagan had inspected the treasurer’s books and found everything in order.
7. Branch Rule changes proposals- Mick Rice proposed that the following should be added to the list of branch officers – “Assistant Secretary, Communications and IT Officer, Education Officer.” Agreed. Also, Mick moved that the branch Committee should now read “up to 10 members” agreed. A tidy up amendment was also agreed – in Section 5.4 insert words “Ordinary Meetings”.
8. Motion – The following motion was agreed moved by Maureen Gardner and seconded by Billy Foster – “This branch urges our union Unite to campaign for the removal of VAT from Gas and Electricity charges. Heating is a service essential to life And with our withdrawal from the European Union, there is no necessity to pay this tax. We ask that this issue is raised with the Labour Party and other appropriate bodies with a view to it being incorporated in the Party Manifesto for the General Election”.
9. Pensioner Issues – Secretary had produced a Draft Scroll which could be presented to members receiving the 50-year Membership Badge. John Veil and Bobby Brennan were asked to produce an appropriate design and Bernie Beagan will draft suitable wording.
10. Chair Jake McLeod presented John Veil with his 50-year badge.
11. Any other business
- a) Dave Sherry reported on the Fujitsu strike and the victimisation of Ian Allinson. Agreed support and a donation of £50.
- b) It was reported that the Tribunal on the strike at Grangemouth was currently deliberating.
- c) Dave informed us of March on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February from Glasgow Green at 11.00am to George Square for 12 noon in support of the Equal Pay claim of Council Women workers.

Meeting closed at 2.15pm with Vote of Thanks to chair.