

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 2nd August 2018

Vice Chair welcomed 34 members to the meeting. Vice Chair informed the meeting that the invited speaker, John Keenan was arriving later than scheduled. When he arrives, standing orders would be suspended accordingly.

1. **Apologies:** Jake McLeod, Charles Taylor, Gerry Wilson, Danny Bradley, James Banner-Rall, Robert Buirds, Allan Cameron, Margaret Cochrane, Joseph Connelly, Harry Cowan, Victor Defazio, William Farrell, John Ferguson, Josephine Hillcoat, Joseph Keenan, John Loudon, David Martin, Gordon McCance, Debbie McIntyre, Dennis McLellan, John McNally, D. Morland, A. Mosher, Francis Murphy, Alfred Pyke, Mark Reilly, Frank Robertson, Charles Scott, Daniel Sharpe, Ken Smith, James Stewart, David Burns, John Docherty, Helen Hutcheson, John Lawson, Russell McLintock, James O'Rourke, Graeme Phanco, Jane Smith, Rosalind Wilson, J. Friel.

1.1 New members and/or members attending a branch meeting for the first time were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous Branch Meeting held on 7th June 2018 were agreed as correct.

3. Matters Arising

- a) The Secretary confirmed final arrangements for the summer outing. Those attending reminded that the boat leaves from Glasgow Science Centre for Dunoon at 10.00 am tomorrow (3rd August).
- b) Branch committee had recommended that Ian Findlay and Bobby Brennan should be reinstated as representatives to the Area Activist Committee. Ian Findlay and Bobby Brennan stated that they wished now to stand down. Following discussion, it was agreed that, in the interests of democracy and transparency, a fresh election should be held for the 2 positions the Branch are entitled to upon the Activist Committee. The Secretary agreed to set out the Branch position in correspondence with the Regional Secretary.
- c) A copy of the proposed branch recruitment leaflet was distributed for information and comment. It was agreed to send the draft to the Regional Retired Members Co-ordinating Committee requesting agreement and support.

4. Correspondence

- a) Invitation from Forth Valley Branch for representatives to attend meeting scheduled for Monday 17th September. Sammy Morris, Irene Graham, John Rodger and Maureen Gardiner expressed interest in attending.

- b) **Notification from Age Scotland of meeting to be held on 20th September at 10.30am in the Renfield Centre, Glasgow.**

5. Invited Speaker

Standing orders were suspended upon the arrival of the invited speaker.

John Keenan, former AUEW Shop Steward at Rolls Royce East Kilbride delivered an interesting, informative and inspirational talk on ‘Blacking Pinochet’s Engines’.

John described how trade unionists at the East Kilbride plant organised and acted to stop production and delivery of engines ordered by the Chilean military. This was a highly principled response to the fascist coup and brutal overthrow of the democratically elected government of Chile.

Branch agreed that this was an example of Trade Unionism at its best. John informed the meeting that funds were being raised for publishing a book and, to enable distribution nationwide for the previously produced film about this historical action.

Branch agreed to consider a donation at its next meeting.

On conclusion, Vice Chair gave thanks to John Keenan on behalf of the Branch. A round of applause was given.

6. Branch Labour Party Delegates Protocol

The Secretary presented a proposed protocol, as agreed by Branch Committee, for the election of branch delegates to Constituency Labour parties. Copies of the proposed protocol were attached to the agenda papers and distributed to members. Members were asked to approve and adopt the protocol. Discussions took place, and 2 members submitted amendments as follows:

- 1. That the entire matter should be referred to the Regional Secretary before any formal adoption by the Branch.**
- 2. That the qualification requiring delegates to be paying Retired Members Plus and not free card holders be removed.**

The amendments received seconders and the Vice Chair called for votes accordingly.

Both amendments were rejected, and the protocol was approved by an overwhelming majority of members present.

The Secretary agreed to write to all branch delegates, informing them of the newly adopted protocol.

7. Reports from Meetings / Conferences Attended.

- a) **The Assistant Secretary reported on matters discussed at the Branch Committee meeting as follows:**

Branch Labour Party Delegates Protocol.

Branch representatives to the Area Activist Committee.

Anti-fascist demonstration report.

Proposed new branch banner: further research on design and costs.

Arrangements for upcoming U.N. Older Persons day.

Reports of current industrial disputes.

Proposed visit to Forth Valley Branch.

Arrangements for members Christmas Lunch and Song Club Christmas Party. Committee to obtain costs from Rhoderick Dhu (last year's venue) and report back. Proposed dates were Thursday 6th December for the Christmas Lunch and Thursday 13th December for the Song Club Party. Branch agreed to the Treasurer's recommendation to donate £150.00 to the Song Club Party, same as last year.

- b) **The Vice Chair gave a report on the recent demonstration attended by a significant number of trade union members in opposition to a far-right, racist group meeting in George Square, Glasgow. The demonstration was judged to be a success with protesting members vastly outnumbering the far-right group. Vice Chair stressed the importance of continuing opposition to such fascist, racist and neo-Nazi groups.**
- c) **Maureen Gardner gave a report on the July meeting of the Scottish Pensioners Forum Executive (copy attached to agenda papers).**
- d) **David Paterson reported on the June meeting of the Action Sub-Committee (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers). Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13th September at 12.30pm. Members are welcome to attend.**
- e) **The Secretary reported on the possibility of a Song Club link with the Gibraltar Retired Members Branch. A draft letter outlining the possibilities (copy attached to agenda papers) was discussed. It was agreed to continue discussions with a view to formalising matters.**

8. U.N. Day for Older Persons

Maureen Gardner reported on the proposed arrangements for the Scottish Pensioners Forum lobby of Holyrood (copy attached to agenda papers). Date of Thursday 27th September noted. Matters will be discussed further at the next Branch Meeting.

9. Pensioners Issues

The issue of v.a.t. being applied to energy bills was discussed. Concerns were raised about alleged reports of pre-payment meters being forced upon some

low-income households. Branch agreed to raise these concerns formally with Unite.

10. Current Industrial Disputes

E.I.S has lodged a pay claim (10% rise across the board) which is likely to be rejected by the Scottish Government.

College lecturers dispute remains unresolved and may require further action if satisfactory progress is not made.

Equal pay dispute with Glasgow City Council is still ongoing.

11. Any Other Business.

Irene Graham informed members of a forthcoming Retired Members Regional Co-Ordinating Committee Rules Conference. Members are asked to review the Branch Rules (available on the branch website) and to suggest any amendments, additions and /or omissions for consideration.

It was noted that Ian Findlay would be standing down as Education Officer with immediate effect. An election would be held for the post at the next Branch Meeting. Candidates will be able to self-nominate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.30 pm. with a vote of thanks to the Vice Chair.