

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 4th October 2018

Chair welcomed 40 members to the meeting. Chair informed the meeting that the invited speaker, Keith Stoddart, would be arriving late. When Keith arrives, standing orders would be suspended accordingly.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Anne Beckett, Allan Cameron, Mags Clark, Ken Doran, John Ferguson, John Gray, Peter Heaney, Iain Hubbard, John Johnston, Andy Jones, Ludovic Lang, Dennis McLellan, Russell McLintock, John McNally, Patrick Murray, Jim O'Rourke, William Oswald, Margaret Reilly, Mark Reilly, Anita Shelton, Donald Sime, Maureen Vass, Alex Watters, Jennifer Webb, David Paterson, Jim Bell, Christian Smith, Charles Taylor, Dennis O'Donnell, Jim Friel.
2. **NEW MEMBERS** and/or members attending a branch meeting for the first time were welcomed to the meeting.
3. **MINUTES** of the previous Branch Meeting held on 4th October 2018 were agreed as correct with the following amendment: Item 12- Standard off- peak rail fare is £13.00 (not £15.00).
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) Members were informed that payments for the Xmas Lunch should be made to the Treasurer at the end of the meeting. The final date for payment would be 1st of November at the next Branch Meeting.
 - b) Members were reminded of the arrangements for UN Older Persons Day on 6th October (details attached to agenda papers).
 - c) Dave Sherry confirmed he would be attending the National unity demonstration against fascism and racism in London on Saturday 17th November.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a) The Secretary read out a summary of the Work/Voice /Pay monthly report from Sharon Graham, Unite Executive Officer. The September RPI inflation figure was recorded as 3.5%.
 - b) Ian Findlay stated that the Ayr Retired Members Branch would be holding an open day on Friday 30th November.
6. **INVITED SPEAKER**

Standing orders were suspended on the arrival of the invited speaker, Keith Stoddart of the Community Branch. Keith delivered a very informative talk on the aims, purposes and activities of the Community Branch. Current activities included: working with and representing young people involved in the 'gig economy', campaigning against zero hours contracts, standing up for the rights of people with disabilities, and campaigning on equality issues generally.

On conclusion, Chair thanked Keith on behalf of the Branch. A round of applause was given.
7. **NOMINATION and Election of an ordinary member of the Branch Committee**

Sammy Morris nominated himself and was seconded by Dave Sherry. There being no further nominations Sammy Morris was elected to the Committee unopposed.
8. **REPORTS from Meetings / Conferences attended**
 - a) The Assistant Secretary reported on matters discussed at the Branch Committee Meeting as follows:
 1. Arrangements for UN Older Persons Day

2. Awards for All Application for grant funding to support a further education project. The project would study the history, impact and legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This is provisionally planned to include: a visit to the Liverpool Museum of Slavery, liaison with Black History Month organisers, publishing a report on study findings and the production of a video.
 3. Arrangements for visit to Dundee Retired Members Branch on 21st November.
 4. 50 years' service badges for qualifying members (new candidates Alfie Pyke, Gerry Convery and Douglas Hamilton identified at meeting)
 5. Possible speakers for future meetings. Branch agreed to invite a speaker from the EIS to the November meeting and a representative from the FBU to speak about the FBU centenary at the January 2019 meeting.
- b) The Assistant Secretary reported on the Action Sub Committee Meeting held on 13th September (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers).
 - c) Bobby Brennan reported on the visit to the Forth Valley Branch on 17th September. Members attending had enjoyed the visit.
 - d) Dave Sherry reported on the September meeting of the Trades Council. Matters arising were as follows: Current disputes (EIS Teachers, GCC Equal Pay, University College Lecturers) Arrangements for May Day 2019. Funding for this event is critical. All Union Branches to be asked to contribute.
 - e) Maureen Gardner and Bob McKenna reported on the Lobby of the Scottish Parliament held on 27th September. The lobby was well attended by Branch members and Maureen Gardner's speech was very well received.
 - f) The Equalities Officer reported on Black History Month 2018, informing members of events taking place in Glasgow and Edinburgh during October and early November. Copies of the programme of events were available for members interested in attending.
9. **CONSTITUENCY Labour Parties – Reports and Nominations**
 Bill Newman, RMBG delegate to Clydebank and Milngavie CLP, tabled his report dated 15th September (copies attached to agenda papers). Chair thanked Bill on behalf of the Branch.
10. **PENSIONERS ISSUES**
 Branch was reminded of a threat to end entitlement of free TV licences for over 75s. This should be taken up with all relevant parties as a matter of concern.
11. **DISPUTES**
 Members were updated on current disputes as follows:
 EIS dispute – EIS members to be balloted for industrial action on 30th October. Rally and march in support planned for 27th October.
 GCC Equal Pay – Two-day strike planned for 23rd and 24th October. Rally in support planned for 23rd October in George Square.
 College Lecturers – Still unresolved.
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 Chair informed members that the Scottish Parliament is currently undertaking a formal review of relevant events that occurred during the 1984 miners' strike in Scotland. The review would investigate and report on circumstances of sacked, victimised and blacklisted trade unionists involved in the strike.
 Chair also reminded members that September 2019 will mark the 60th anniversary of the Auchengeich Colliery disaster. Members would be kept informed of commemorative events.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.05 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st November at 12.30pm.