

Chair welcomed 43 members to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow the invited speaker, Amy Briggs of Extinction Rebellion. Amy went on to describe the aims and objectives of her organisation. Extinction Rebellion is an international apolitical organisation seeking to persuade governments worldwide to take urgent action on climate change. They have 3 demands in the UK which are:

1. Tell the Truth - Government must recognise and declare a climate emergency
2. Act Now - Government must act immediately to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025
3. Beyond Politics - Government should be led by the decisions of Citizens' Assemblies, bringing people together to learn, discuss and make recommendations for action.

Extinction Rebellion's position is clear that we are facing a planetary emergency, a 'life or death' situation, and immediate action is required to prevent a global disaster. They seek to persuade by non-partisan, collective, non-violent action and seek trade union support in their endeavours. They are presently calling for general strike in September this year.

Chair thanked Amy on behalf of the members. A round of applause was given and then standing orders were reinstated.

1. Apologies: Isabel Alexander, Barbara Battison, Bobby Buirds, Allan Cameron, Linda Clarke, Margaret Cochrane, Gerry Convery, John Craig, Peter Dickson, James Docherty, Duncan Douglas, William Farrell, John Ferguson MBE, Jim Friel, Frank Harrigan, Peter Heaney, John Johnston, Hugh McLuskey, Terence McGahan, Dennis McLellan, Russel McLintock, Jessie Morrison, Eileen Murphy, James Patrick, Jim Payne, Antoine Prele, Dan Sharpe, Donald Sime, John Thomson, Maureen Vass, Jim Bell
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 2nd May 2019 were agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising

Reference Item 4 a) The Secretary confirmed that the planned summer outing 'Doon the Watter' had to be cancelled due to the Waverley being laid up for repairs. Members who had already paid for the trip would be reimbursed ASAP. An alternative outing is planned for a bus and ferry trip to Dunoon with lunch at the restaurant as previously arranged. Costs were provisionally estimated to be £5 for members and £15 for non-members but would be subject to confirmation following receipt of quotations from bus and ferry companies. 30 members indicated their interest by a show of hands. The Secretary stated that prices would be confirmed ASAP and members wishing to participate would require to confirm and pay at the next Branch Meeting.

Reference Item 6 d): Dave Sherry reported that the Medical Aid for Palestine charity walk raised £3,000.

Reference Item 9 David Paterson reported that the Equalities training course was now postponed until September this year.

5. Reports from Meetings and Conferences attended.

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

1. Branch summer outing alternative arrangements
2. Proposal for Branch Facebook group. 14 members indicated their interest by a show of hands. The proposal would be discussed and/or agreed at the next Branch meeting.

b) David Paterson reported on the Action Sub-Committee meeting held on 9th May 2019 (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers).

c) Irene Graham reported on the National Retired Members Committee meeting held on 8th May 2019 (copy of report attached to agenda papers).

d) Maureen Gardner reported on the Regional Retired Members Committee meeting held on 29th May 2019 (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers).

e) Maureen Gardner reported on the annual conference of the Scottish Pensioners Forum held in Dundee on 4th June 2019. Maureen chaired the conference. Speakers included: Christina McKelvie MSP, Minister for Old People and Equalities; John McAllion, Dundee Pensioners Forum; Ian Tasker, Scottish Hazards; and Lyn Marie O'Hara, Glasgow Equal Pay Strike Committee.

f) Dave Sherry reported on the Anti-Trump demonstration held in Glasgow on 4th June 2019. It was well attended generally including 3 branch members.

g) Dave Sherry reported on the Glasgow Trades Council meeting held on 5th June 2019. Matters discussed included: Plea that the Strathclyde Pension Fund withdraw investments from fossil fuel industries; Campaign against low pay employers; Plea for increased donations and affiliations towards May Day event 2020.

6. Education Officer's Report

David Paterson proposed that an appropriate speaker be invited to the September branch meeting to talk on legal issues affecting retired members.

7. Motion on Union Song Club (copy attached to agenda papers)

"The Glasgow Retired Members Branch agrees to the Union Song Club establishing itself as an independent and separate organization from the branch and further agrees to make a donation towards the newly and separately constituted Song Club once it has agreed and adopted its constitution. The branch congratulates Mick Rice for his initiative and hard work in establishing and promoting the Song Club."

Proposed by Irene Graham, seconded by Bobby Brennan and carried unanimously.

8. Pensioners Issues.

Irene Graham reported that the Waspi case against pension inequality would be submitted for a judicial review in court on 7th June 2019. The 'mixed age' clause resulting in withdrawal of pension credit from affected pensioner couples would be raised at the next meeting of the Scottish Pensioners Forum.

Standing orders were suspended to allow Roz Foyer, Senior Organiser Unite Scotland, to talk about branch recruitment. Roz began by outlining Unite's 'strategy for growth', stating that this was not limited to recruitment alone, ultimately it was about 'winning for workers' and that more growth would lead to more success. Fifteen thousand new members have to be recruited every year in order to maintain current membership levels by replacing leaving members. Unite has a dedicated team employed to progress chase member subscriptions and promote new recruitment. Unite will assist the Retired Members Branch

wherever possible by providing promotional material and by offering incentives for new member recruitment. A £10.00 M&S voucher is currently available to members who recruit new members once the new member has paid six months of subscriptions. Branch Secretary Mick Rice reported that 1400 RMBG members were now subscribing to Retired Members Plus (up from 800 members previously).

Chair thanked Roz on behalf of the members. A round of applause was given and standing orders were reinstated.

9. Disputes

Current disputes were noted at Glasgow and Aberdeen airports involving Unite members.

10. Nominations to Constituency Labour Parties.

Noted that nominee Linda Clarke was not present at the meeting.

11. Any other business.

- a) Branch agreed to donate £50.00 to Extinction Rebellion.
- b) Ian Findlay proposed that a speaker from Beatson Hospital be invited to the October Branch meeting. Committee agreed to consider this.
- c) Chair stated that he had received an invitation to attend the Retired Members Branch in Liverpool. Members agreed that he should attend.
- d) There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.20 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st August 2019 at 12.30pm.
