

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch 5th September 2019

Chair, Jake McLeod, suspended standing orders in order to hear our speaker, Helen Jackson from an offshoot of Xtinction Rebellion. They were encouraging schoolchildren to strike on 20th September. Assemble 11.00am Kelvingrove Park, march off at 11.30 to George Square where events will be held until 5.00pm. There will be a week of action, new Glasgow Trade Union Group being set up and alternative employment will be discussed on 24th September. Chair thanked Helen for her contribution. Jake then welcomed one new member to meeting; 39 members in attendance.

1. Apologies – A. Hughes, J. Bell, J. Friel, C. Taylor, G. Wilson, C. Screen, J. Allen, D. Burns, A. Cameron, R. Carmichael, K. Doran, M. Douglas, W. Farrell, A. Gleadhill, Grainger, J. Gray, P. Heaney, J. Hughes, A. Hutcheson, H. Hutcheson, J. Johnston, M. Kinloch, M. Martin, J. McGregor, H. McCluskey, T. McGahan, D. McIntyre, R. McKenna, J. McLean, D. McLellan, R. McLintock, M. McRobie, B. Newman, W. Oswald, J. Patrick, A. Prele, M. Reilly, B. Robb, G. Scott, J. Sheehan, I. Soutar, A. Thom, L. Thomson, T. Tochel, B. Ullah, W. Watson, B. White
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct after two amendments – Bobby Brennan’s name should be in list of apologies and in 6d) add “mental health” after “fuel poverty” moved by R. Littler, seconded J. McCabe
3. Matters arising –
 - a) Ian Finlay reported that an official invitation should be sent by the secretary to the Beatson Institute to request a speaker
 - b) David Paterson reported that “Equalities Course” would be held at JSH on 5th November at 1.00pm and circulated sheet for those who wished to attend to add their names.
4. Correspondence –
 - a) Letter of thanks from Scottish Left Review
 - b) Letter from Regional Secretary explaining that “lay companions” who have gone through certificated course would not be paid expenses from union but should be re-imbursed from own branch. Agreed to write letter of protest on this. It was also stated that actual training was slow in being set up.
5. Reports from meetings/conferences
 - a) Branch Committee- Secretary Mick Rice reported on his proposed recruitment campaign and the Xmas Card he had designed with free membership for one year. The Area Activists Committee had rejected request for donation of £500. It was suggested that a better slogan would be “A Union for Life, not just for Christmas”. He also had a draft design for business cards which would cost £80 to print. First Saturday in October we would be celebrating United Nations day of Older Persons. He is liaising with Brian Simpson who had identified several “bad bosses” relating to the Scottish Events Campus. Brian will attend our October meeting. There had been a good discussion on the new draft constitution, and this will be continued at next meeting of club when the singer will be Rab Noakes. Xmas lunch will be in Rhoderick Dhu on 1st Thursday in December (5th) and tickets will be on sale at October and November branch

meetings. It was suggested that we should seek a different venue for the future since there is no disabled access to this restaurant. It was pointed out that all the “events” places mentioned were local authority owned, and the problems should be raised with political parties.

- b) Action Sub-Committee – Minutes circulated and proposing speaker on “Power of Attorney/Wills.
 - c) Dave Sherry reported on the Area Activists meeting. Meets quarterly, followed by the AA Committee meeting. Used to have set dates, but only 3 days’ notice given. Closure of the Cale was raised. Need more branch members to attend. Agreed that treasurer, m. Gardner should write seeking donation to Xmas Lunch.
 - d) Trades Council – Dave again reported saying that our motion on climate change was not necessary since they had special meeting with speakers from Xtinction Rebellion. We were encouraged to send messages of support as well as attending the demo either at beginning or end, even if we can’t make the whole demo. Immigrants not allowed to work or claim benefits, and many being evicted. A “Living Rent” social event is being organised and agreed to donate £100. Although it was thought that May Day 2019 would be last, situation has improved since more union branches have affiliated.
 - e) Scottish Regional Retired Members Committee – Minutes of meeting circulated but Maureen highlighted that 3 of our branch members – herself, Irene Graham and David Edwards would be attending the Retired Members National Conference in November. Our branch motion on TV licences suitably amended would also be one of the motions to conference along with one on “Climate Change Emergency”. Susanna Rice had been selected to attend the Education Course in Eastbourne with Sammy Morris being first substitute, followed by John Rogers. Blackpool will no longer host the NPC annual meeting. Neil Duncan Jordan has left to work for Unison. Southport is being considered as an alternative venue.
 - f) Scottish Pensioners’ Forum – written report submitted. Maureen highlighted that next year’s conference would be held in Dundee and in 2021, venue would be Perth. She detailed how the House of Lords Intergenerational Committee wanted to remove all concessions currently won by pensioners – including free TV Licences for the over 75’s and the Winter Fuel Allowance. At a previous meeting with the then Social Security Minister Jeane Freeman, the SPF had been informed that in Scotland the Winter Fuel Allowance would be increased in line with inflation. Administrator Eileen Cawley to write to new Cabinet Minister Shirley Anne Somerville on this issue seeking a guarantee that this will be implemented. In celebration of United Nations Day of Older Persons on 1st October, the SPF had organised a Lobby of the Scottish Parliament. Several members indicated that they would attend this demo. Meet at Queen St station for the 9.30 train to Edinburgh.
6. Education Officers Report - David Paterson reported that October meeting speaker will discuss legal services. Want to discuss smart phones and scamming; still

awaiting date for course on training for those who wish to visit schools to talk about trade unions.

7. Pensioners' Issues – problem raised of people going back to work, being taxed at 40% and when they get rebates.
8. Disputes – Members of Unite and GMB will be in dispute on 19th/20th September in Daggio. Send message of support from Branch.
9. Nominations for CLP's – none
10. Any other business –
 - a) Irene reported that there was a film showing at GFT on 18th September on "Childhood Sexual Abuse" followed by debate and discussion.
 - b) There would be a conference on "Stop North Sea Oil and Gas Extraction on Tuesday 24th September from 7.00pm until 9.00pm in the Kinning Park Complex. Speakers include "Friends of the Earth".
 - c) Next Action Sub-Committee meeting is 12th September
 - d) 15th September is the date for remembering the Auchengeith Colliery disaster. The memorial committee has organised March starting 12.30 from Community Centre at Moodiesburn. Chair, Irene, Sammy and Dave will attend.
 - e) Jacquie Clydesdale informed us of the celebration of the Spanish Civil War on Saturday 7th September at 11.30am at the Clydeside followed by an event in the Unison Offices.
 - f) Ian Finlay suggested that the branch should apply to go on "Bargain Hunt"

Meeting closed at 2.15pm with a vote of thanks to the chair.