

Bracknell & District Branch of Unison
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 5th March 2014
Council Chamber, Easthampstead House
12.15pm – 1.30pm

Present:

David Allais (DA)	Branch Chair
Lorna Cameron (LC)	Branch Secretary
Simon Sellick (SS)	Branch Treasurer
Steve Brazier	Regional Manager
Jan Lailey	Steward
Keely Elkins	Branch Administrator
Jenny Taylor-Woodley	Case Worker
John Waterton	Retired Members Officer

Members: 25 members attended

1) Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed Members to the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Branch. The Chair also introduced the branch officers and guest speaker.

Guest Speaker, Steve Brazier, Regional Manager

SB talked about the Worth It Campaign and that the NJC would not be offering more than a 1% pay increase before the national minimum wage has been looked at. He explained that this is not just affecting Local Authorities and currently members who work in further education are striking due to their offer, also 1%. The NHS has not currently said what the offer will be for their staff. SB also discussed that employees would be balloted about industrial action. Members need to fight back and their voices need to be as loud as they can make them.

SB also explained how the rise of UKIP would affect everyone and that after looking into their policies they would try to introduce cuts of up to £77 billion in public services. UKIP also plan to take away employee rights.

2) AGM 2013 Minutes

The minutes were accepted as a true copy of events. Branch was quorate.

3) Annual Reports by Branch Officers

Branch Chair (David Allais)

The Chair reported that he had had a very interesting first year as Chair and that it included many highlights, one of which was attending conference in Liverpool. It was an amazing experience to meet representatives from all across the country and see the democratic process that is at the heart of our union, at work.

DA also reported that during this year we have had two long standing members of UNISON retire and a number step down from they're posts. Also during this time we have supported members through the disciplinary and grievance procedures, unfair treatment at work and the redundancy process. We also negotiate with management and attend meetings to ensure that Bracknell Forest introduces and implements fair policies and procedures and represent you at UNISON meetings at both the regional and national level. At this point we would like to thank Fred Jones and Henry Bone for the time they gave freely to support our members.

DA urged the members to consider stepping up and becoming more active within their branch, without active members there can be no branch. There are a number of vacant seats and all training is free and you are allowed time off to attend union training and meeting. These are volunteer posts but are still very rewarding.

DA went on to thank the branch support staff Keely Elkins, Branch Administrator, Ben Smith, Campaigns Assistant and Jenny Taylor-Woodley, the Case Worker, for all the help and support offered over the year.

Branch Treasurer (Simon Sellick)

Branch Accounts 2013

The Branch Treasurer presented the audited accounts for 2013. Simon explained how the Branch gets its income and discussed the income and expenditure for year ending 31st December 2013. SS also reported that 86% of the branch expenditure is salaries.

Branch Secretary (Lorna Cameron)

The Secretary reported that the branch has had a letter about the Job Evaluations. This has been a very long process and UNISON and the GMB had worked tirelessly but the exercise will be deferred until at least 2015. UNISON will keep at it and will not let it lie. However the Bracknell Forest Supplement will be implemented for all lower paid staff from April. The branch will be sending out a letter to staff.

The branch has also been informed that there may be a admin charge for subs collected via salary and as a tiny branch we would not be able to sustain this fee and we would soon be in financial difficulty. Therefore we are asking all members to transfer their payments over to DD. JL pointed out that anyone wishing to do this would have to contact pay role in writing to stop the payments being collected.

Recommendations for Honorarium

The recommendations for the Honorarium were agreed unanimously.

AGM Raffle

The AGM Raffle prize of £20.00 was won by Sue Dawn Amer.

4) Election of Officers

All officers were voted in.

5) Issues from the Floor

FJ reminded the members of the recent changes to the TUPE regulations. SB spoke about the changes to the legislation and that there has been a variety of changes. Simon Merryweather asked about the changes to the landscape team and if UNISON would be recognised by the new employer. This will be looked into by the branch.

6) Any Other Business

DA pointed out that a nomination form had been attached to the back of the agenda and again urged the members to go and talk to colleagues and think about becoming more active.

LC said that stewarding is fun and rewarding, you are not only able to help and support colleagues but you keep management honest.

HB added that anyone wishing to take up the Health & Safety role will be supported by himself and FJ.