



**Eastern Region Regional Council  
Thursday 30th August, 2007 at Needham Market**

**MINUTES**

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Steve Hart	Regional Secretary
	Adrian Axtell	Regional Secretary
	Tony Ellingford	Regional Officer
	Paul Brewster	Motor Components Sector
	Christine Berry	Equalities -- Women
	Derek Clarke	FPA & CMA Sector
	Richard Clifton	Motor Vehicles Sector
	Leonard Denbigh	Energy Sector
	Alan Drury	Retired Member Sector
	Lorene Fabian	Equalities -- Women
	Cid Gibbs	Branch
	Chris Gold	Local Authorities Sector
	Kevin Graham	General Industries Sector
	Michael Kneller	Electrical Engineering, Elect & IT Sector
	Geoff Leyshon	Equalities -- LGBT
	Les McDonald	Branch
	Eamon O'Brien	Servicing Sector
	Des O'Connell	Equalities -- Disabilities
	Mark Peters	Aerospace Sector
	Allan Rutherford	Food, Drink & Tobacco Sector
	John Sterne	Transport Sector
	Kevin Tricker	Voluntary & Not-for-Profit Sector
	Paul Underwood	Construction Sector
	Eileen Woods	Finance Sector
	Gordon Whitman	NEC
	Penny Fisher	Senior Regional Administrator (Minutes)

**1 Introductions and Apologies**

Adrian Axtell welcomed delegates to the meeting and introduced Steve Hart, the new Unite Regional Secretary for the London and Eastern region.

Apologies were received from Trevor Whitehead and in the absence of a Chair Les McDonald proposed Mark Peters as acting Chair. This was seconded by Paul Brewster and unanimously agreed.

**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, were read and unanimously agreed.

On a point of accuracy, it was noted that Derek Clarke's name should be spelt with an 'e'.

It was noted that Leonard Denbigh had not received a calling notice and it was agreed that Penny Fisher would look into this.

### 3 **Matters Arising**

#### A **CPHVA Conference**

Adrian Axtell advised that 4 delegates had requested to attend at a cost of £567 and 6 places were still available (2 per centre).

#### B **Migrant Workers**

Lorene Fabian thanked the Council for their support of Migrant Workers Day.

It was noted that £300 was unspent. Delegates agreed that this be kept available for a further event this year, with the understanding that Lorene would keep the Council informed of how the money is spent.

#### C **Newmarket Battle of the Bands**

Due to concerns as to whether this is the best target audience for the allocation of funds, it was felt that this event should not be supported this year. This was proposed by Geoff Leyshon, seconded by Michael Kneller and agreed.

#### D **HandS UK Website**

A letter of thanks received from Dennis Mac was circulated.

#### E **Castlepoint – Defend Council Housing Campaign**

Les McDonald reported that he had investigated matters further and that in fact the information had now been sent to all tenants. There was no further action required at this time.

#### F **Course for prospective Reps**

Delegates were advised that we are waiting for more information.

#### G **BEN Speaker**

Adrian Axtell advised that because of time constraints the speaker from BEN had been asked to give a talk at the next meeting in October. This was agreed.

#### H **ACUA**

Adrian Axtell advised that the ballot would be held in September.

### 4 **Correspondence**

#### A **NPC**

Notice of the NPC national lobby of parliament on the 24<sup>th</sup> October was circulated.

#### B **Cuba Solidarity Campaign**

Correspondence had been received seeking renewal of affiliation at a cost of £40. On the recommendation of the Management Committee, this was proposed by Les McDonald, seconded by Richard Clifton and unanimously agreed.

#### C **MacMillan Cancer Support**

A request had been received for the Regional Council to support the work of MacMillan Cancer Support with a donation of £1000.

After some discussion it was agreed that a speaker be invited to give the Council more information about the activities of MacMillan Support.

#### D **Alternative Oyster Feast**

A request had been received from Dave Harris for a donation to the Alternative Oyster Feast. On the recommendation of the Management Committee, Geoff Leyshon proposed that the sum of £100. This was seconded by Les McDonald and unanimously agreed.

**E Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust**

A letter had been received advising that the portfolio would be going to print in August. A copy would be supplied to Regional Council.

**F West Suffolk NHS Trust**

A request had been received for an advert to be placed in the West Suffolk NHS Trust staff handbook.

After discussion, Derek Clark proposed that we place a full page advert in a prominent position. This was seconded by Eamon O'Brien and unanimously agreed.

**G Litho Chapel**

Martyn Reuby had appealed for funding and intending to give a report at this meeting. However due to unforeseen circumstances Martyn could not attend and it was agreed that this matter be postponed to the next meeting.

5 **Reports**

**A Finance**

Delegates were provided with an up-to-date expenditure report.

Geoff Leyshon asked about the donation to the Institute of Occupational Medicine and Paul Underwood confirmed that the cheque had been presented a few weeks ago. He advised that Val Haslam had attended the event and would insert a report and photographs on the Unite website in the near future.

**B Education**

Adrian Axtell advised that the Personal Injury courses held in Luton and Needham Market, and the New Reps course held in Cambridge, had all been successful with some 50 reps in attendance. He suggested that two further 1-day courses, the first on Work/Life Balance and the second on the Trade Union and Economics, be held at Luton on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October. This was proposed by Eileen Woods, seconded by Richard Clifton and unanimously agreed.

Samantha Leigh, Learning Organiser, had requested funding to run a half-day seminar for Workplace reps at an anticipated cost of £800. This was proposed by Richard Clifton, seconded by Michael Kneller and unanimously agreed.

Mark Walker had requested funding to organise a 1-day course. This was proposed by Les McDonald, seconded by Paul Brewster and unanimously agreed. It was also noted that Mark wished to give a talk to the Council about Organising activities and that this should be referred to Steve Hart.

**C Equalities**

Lorene Fabian asked if it was necessary, as suggested by Ian Maidlow, to delay the Training Day, which had been organised by the Regional Women's Committee for the 11<sup>th</sup> October, in order to invite Steve Hart. Adrian Axtell agreed that Steve Hart needed to be involved.

There was general discussion regarding the Young Reps Project which was being organised by Siobhan Endean for the 16-18 November at the Bonnington Hotel in London. It was noted that not all delegates had received literature about this project.

Lorene Fabian circulated the Minutes from the National Women's Committee for noting.

**D Health and Safety Conference**

Adrian Axtell advised that 63 reps had already booked places for the Health and Safety Conference, scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> October, and this was expected to be full by the end of the week. He advised that due to prior engagement Steve Hart would not be able to attend but that a Regional Officer would attend in his place.

**E Hazards Conference**

Mark Peters reported on the success of the Hazards Conference which he and Eamon O'Brien had attended. Eamon O'Brien reported that there had been anger among delegates at the Conference regarding the cuts in HSE staff and the level of finance provided by the Government.

Derek Clarke circulated copies of the FPA report.

**F Political**

Adrian Axtell advised delegates that following Alf Brewer's retirement, Bill Pigram had taken over duties of Regional Political Officer.

He reminded delegates of the Rally at the Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the importance of a good turnout. Delegates were advised that Bill Pigram and Sue Crocker were organising the Rally in the Eastern region and that names need to be supplied to them.

**G Regional Officer's Reports**

The Industrial Update Report from the Eastern Region was circulated.

**H Sector Committee**

The Minutes of the Motor Vehicles Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 were circulated and noted.

**I Regional Council Management Committee**

The notes of the Regional Council Management Committee meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007 were circulated for noting.

**6 Merger Update**

Steve Hart, the new Unite Regional Secretary for London and Eastern Region introduced himself and gave a brief synopsis of his career.

He spoke of the importance of the Rally at the Labour Party Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and also reminded delegates of the Manufacturing lobby on 17<sup>th</sup> October at Westminster.

A number of questions were put to Steve Hart by delegates concerning the future of the Union.

In reply to Mark Peters' question as to whether Steve Hart had been advised of dates of future Regional Council meetings, he replied that he had and that he hoped to attend these meeting. Mark also asked if a member of the Amicus Regional Council could attend the T&G Regional Council as an observer, and vice versa, and this was agreed.

**7 Any Other Business**

A Cid Gibbs requested that support for the Palestinian Solidary Campaign be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

B Adrian Axtell noted that Lorene Fabian was due to receive the TUC Gold Badge Award at Congress. He expressed his pride in her achievement and said that he intended to be at the presentation. It was agreed that Penny Fisher should ensure that a report was placed on the Unite website and in the E-bulletin after the event. Regional Council delegates also congratulated Lorene on her achievement.

C Cid Gibbs noted that this was Adrian Axtell's last meeting as Regional Secretary of the Eastern region and expressed his thanks for all he had done since his appointment. This was followed by general thanks from all delegates.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.45pm

