



**Eastern Region  
Regional Council  
Thursday 23 February 2006  
at the Needham Market Office**

**Minutes**

**Those in attendance**

Adrian Axtell	Regional Secretary
Mark Peters	Aerospace
Trevor Whitehead	Branch
Alan Drury	Retired
Allan Rutherford	FDT
Chris Gould	Local Authorities
Cyd Gibbs	Branch
Phil Gilbert	Branch
Paul Brewster	Motor Components
Dick Barker	NEC (GPM)
Geoff Leyshon	FPA
Lisa Maddy	Women
Paul Stokes	Education
Eamon O'Brien	Servicing
Kevin Graham	General Industries
John Scarola	Disability
Pam Stacey	Health
John Sterne	Transport
Gordon Whitman	NEC

Val Haslam            Minutes

**Introduction and apologies**

Phil Smith, Lorene Fabian, Barry Steward, Martin Rubey, Bill Murphy, Dave Chapman

The Regional Secretary reported he had received a letter of resignation from Shirley Jones GPM Sector delegate and had written to the GPM Branch Secretary seeking a replacement.

The Regional Secretary reported that in the absence of Bill Murphy the Regional Council needed to elect a chair for this meeting. Geoff Leyshon was proposed by Mark Peters, seconded by Trevor Whitehead and elected unopposed.

### **Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

These were read and agreed.

### **Matters Arising**

#### ***Mayor of Norwich***

Cyd Gibbs reported that this meeting had now been set up for 6 March 2006 at City Hall, Norwich.

#### ***East Anglian Air Ambulance***

It was requested that the Regional Secretary pursue the possibility of a future Regional Council meeting at RAF, Honington.

#### ***East of England Development Agency***

It was reported that a successful meeting had been held with Karen Livingstone of the EEDA and that she had offered to attend a future Regional Council meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to invite Karen to a future Regional Council meeting.

#### ***Website***

Richard Clarke advised those present that during the lunch break he would show them the Amicus Eastern Region website albeit in its infant days.

#### ***West Suffolk Hospitals Trust***

The Regional Secretary reported on the failure of the above Trust to place our advertisement as requested. After some discussion it was agreed that the funding allotted to this initiative be withdrawn.

#### ***Astrium Employee Sponsored Cycle Ride***

A letter was circulated from the company thanking The Regional Council for their generosity. Mark Peters would also be representing Amicus when the company present the cheque to Cancer Research

#### ***Hazards Campaign***

A letter of thanks had been received from the Hazards Campaign for the donation of £500 at Conference.

### *Poppy Appeal*

A letter was circulated from the Royston Branch of the Royal British Legion along with personal thanks by Alan Drury. He highlighted local press reports and intimated that details of the donation would also be going into the International British Legion newsletter.

### *National Pensioners Committee*

It was noted that the money allocated by the Regional Council to the Retired Members Forum for 2005 had been spent. It was therefore proposed by Chris Gold, seconded by Trevor Whitehead, and unanimously agreed that a further £600 should be made available to the Forum. Alan Drury gave thanks to the Regional Council for this donation.

### *Battle of the Bands*

It was noted that this would event would not on this occasion be organised in the Eastern Region. The Regional Secretary was asked to write to those organising this event to seek possible support in future years.

### *Finance*

The Regional Secretary and NEC member updated colleagues on the current financial position.

### *Future Attendees*

It was agreed that both Siobhan Endean, National Officer for Equalities and Mike McCartney Head of Education should be invited to a future Regional Council meeting. The Regional Secretary would have responsibility to organise this.

### **Political Report**

Alf Brewer, Regional Political Officer gave an overview of some of the recent campaigns that had taken place, not least the Defend Council Housing Lobby as well as the lobbying of Richard Howitt MEP on the European Services Directive. Discussion was also held on the up and coming Elections in Epping. The Regional Secretary sought members of the Regional Council and Activists and to assist on 25 March, 2006.

Finally it was agreed that the Regional Secretary follow up details of the Industrial meeting with the Parliamentary group of MPs at Westminster.

### **Amicus Services**

David Kitchener of Frizzells and David Beechiner of UIA gave a report to the Regional Council on the services and benefits available to members from both of their organisations.

### **Correspondence**

#### *Cuban Magazine*

This was circulated to delegates along with details of the up and coming conference. It was agreed that Pam Stacey should attend the Conference on behalf of the Regional Council. This was moved by Cyd Gibbs, seconded by Chris Gold and unanimously agreed.

#### *Working Class Movement Library*

A letter of thanks for the Regional Council's donation had been received along with a DVD showing the work this important charity undertakes.

#### *Cuba Solidarity Campaign*

A request for funding of the Solidarity Conference had been received. This was declined by the Regional Council on the basis that they already subscribe to the organisation and indeed had sent a delegate to the Conference.

#### *Africa Matters development day*

Correspondence had been received and after some discussion Geoff Leyshon was nominated by Cyd Gibbs, seconded by Mark Peters and unanimously agreed to be the Regional Council's delegate.

#### *Colchester and Tendring Womens' Refuge*

A request for financial support had been received from the above organisation with regard to the design, composition and printing of their annual reports. After much discussion and debate it was agreed that we would be able to assist this organisation with the printing of the reports, which would hopefully reduce costs by up to 50%. This was moved by Cyd Gibbs, seconded by Paul Brewster and unanimously agreed.

#### *2006 Pride Events*

As a result of their being no pride events in the Eastern Region it was unanimously agreed that we assist London in any initiatives that they undertake.

### **Reports**

#### *Regional Secretary*

#### *A Sector Conferences*

The Regional Secretary reported that a number of the Industrial Sector Conferences had been held and had been reasonably well attended. Also, that the Branch and Political Conferences had recently taken place.

#### B Lobbies

It was reported that the Defend Council House Lobby recently held in London had been well attended from the Eastern Region with approximately 60 people attending. The Regional Council had previously agreed to fund this and the costs as such for this event were £1,082.50.

#### C Merger discussions

It was agreed to leave this item until further in the agenda.

#### D. Branch mergers

It was reported that the three Harlow branches of Amicus had shown a willingness to merge and having written to all members of the branches no objections had been received. Kevin Graham proposed and Trevor Whitehead seconded that the request should be agreed and this should be placed in front of the National Executive Council.

It was further reported that the ex Unifi, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich Branches were in actual fact no operating. It was agreed that the Regional Secretary would write to members of both branches seeking views on merging them into the local Amicus Branches. Eamon O'Brien proposed, Chris Gold seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

#### *Proposed Regional Council Management Committee/ Regional Council Meeting dates*

The Regional Council Management Committee put to the meeting proposed meeting dates for 2006. These were unanimously agreed.

#### *Area Conferences*

The Regional Council was made aware of the inaugural area conferences that are required take place as a result of the Policy Conference 2005. The areas and dates are as follows:-

Norfolk and Suffolk	7 March 2006 at Needham Market
Beds and Cambs	16 March 2006 at Luton
Essex and Herts	23 March 2006 at Harlow

#### *Regional Council Management Committee Report*

The minutes of the Management Committee of 14 February 2006 were laid before the Regional Council and duly noted.

### *Health and Safety*

The Regional Council's attention was drawn to the Conference on the Future and Safety Regulations and Enforcements to be held in March at Congress House. It was agreed that three delegates attend namely: -

John Scarola, Mark Peters and Kevin Graham.

This was proposed by Trevor Whitehead, seconded by Paul Brewster and unanimously agreed.

A copy of the latest Hazards magazine was circulated.

### **Education**

It was noted that no course dates had yet been set as the result of the Sector Conferences and Committees that have taken place from January – March 2006. The Regional Secretary was charged with organising dates for the coming months.

### **Recruitment**

a) Correspondence had been received from Tony Ellingford, Regional Officer regarding a recruitment exercise at Hinchingbroke Hospital and seeking support to the tune of £600. It was proposed to support this initiative by Paul Brewster, seconded by Mark Peters and unanimously agreed.

#### *b) Scope*

The Regional Secretary made colleagues aware of a recent recruitment exercise within the Scope organisation. He sought further support and activity from members of the Regional Council and activists particularly in regard to telephone canvassing. It was hoped that colleagues would come forward and support this initiative and once sufficient numbers had been agreed a training day would be set up with the National Officer.

c) It was proposed by Cyd Gibbs and seconded by John Scarola to purchase a number of recruitment materials from Head Office to the tune of £2,000. Adrian undertook to also investigate obtaining posters for notice-boards.

#### *d) Finance*

An up-to-date Financial Report of Regional Council expenditure was circulated and discussion was held on the current budgets for 2006.

e) *Equalities*

A report was given on the requirement to hold the Womens' Conference and Equality Forums for 2006 in the coming months. It was proposed by John Scarola and seconded by Lisa Maddy and unanimously agreed that the equalities forum be held on one day namely Friday 5 May 2006.

f) *Officers' Reports*

The Officers' Reports were circulated to all members of the Regional Council.

g) *Retired Members*

Alan Drury, retired members' delegate updated those present of events within the section.

## **Elections**

### *TUC Congress*

There was a requirement for the Regional Council to elect two delegates to attend the 2006 TUC Congress. Chris Gold was nominated by Mark Peters and seconded by Cyd Gibbs and John Scarola was nominated by Paul Brewster and seconded by Trevor Whitehead. There were no further nominations, therefore they were elected unopposed.

A discussion was held on the likelihood of substitutes being put in place should the above delegates not be able to attend. To cover this eventuality Kevin Graham was proposed by Mark Peters and seconded by Trevor Whitehead. John Sterne was proposed by Cyd Gibbs and seconded by Chris Gold. There being no further nominations for substitutes it was agreed that these two would be the Eastern Region substitutes if constitutionally accepted.

### *SERTUC delegates*

In the light of the Sertuc AGM on 22 April 2006, Cyd Gibbs proposed and Paul Brewster seconded and the Regional Council unanimously agreed that the following people be our nominated delegates to the Sertuc Regional Council:-

Martin Gould, Dave Chapman, Lisa Maddy, Mark Peters, Lorene Fabian

It was proposed by Pam Stacey and seconded by Chris Gold that Lorene Fabian be nominated for The Womens' Rights Committee. It was proposed by Mark Peters and seconded by Trevor Whitehead, that David Pearce be nominated for Race Relations Committee and finally, it was proposed by Cyd Gibbs and seconded by Eamon O'Brien that Chris Gold be nominated for the

Public Services Committee. All of the above nominations were unanimously agreed.

### **Merger discussions**

The Regional Secretary provided those present with two documents with regard to the proposed merger with the Transport and General Workers Union and the GMB. He asked those colleagues present if they could circulate this as widely as possible amongst our reps and activists as well as sharing this information with colleagues of the other trade unions. It was agreed that this become a specific agenda item at the next Regional Council Meeting so that feedback can be gained from this exercise.

### **Any other business**

#### *Astruim*

Mark Peters reported on a fatality at Astruim in Stevenage