



**Eastern Region
Regional Council
Thursday 26 April 2007 at 10.30 am
at the Needham Market Office**

Minutes

In attendance

Adrian Axtell	Regional Secretary
Trevor Whitehead	Branch
Christine Berry	Womens
Paul Brewster	Motor Components
Derek Clarke	FPA
Richard Clifton	Motor Vehicles
Leonard Denbigh	Energy
Alan Drury	Retired
Tony Ellingford	Regional Officer – Luton
Nigel Gawthrop	GPM
Cid Gibbs	Branch
Phil Gilbert	Health
Mike Knellor	Electrical Engineering, Elect & IT
Geoff Leyshon	LGBT
Les McDonald	Branch
Eamon O'Brien	Servicing
Des O'Connell	Disabilities
Mark Peters	Aerospace
Alan Rutherford	Food, drink & Tobacco
Pam Stacey	Health
Paul Stokes	Education
Paul Underwood	Construction
Nick White	MOD/Government Departments
Eileen Woods	Finance
Val Haslam	Minutes
Brian Gallagher	Visitor (Communications)

Introduction and Apologies

Trevor Whitehead, Regional Council Chair welcomed delegates to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Kevin Graham, John Sterne, Lisa Maddy, Martin Rueby, Gordon Whitman, John Scarola, Les McDonald, Lorene Fabian and Chris Gold.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The Regional Council minutes of 22 February, 2007 were read; proposed by Richard Clifton, seconded by Cid Gibbs and unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising

East Anglian Air Ambulance

The visit had taken place on Wednesday 7 March 2007 at RAF Honington with Kevin Graham, Paul Brewster, Adrian Axtell and Val Haslam attending on behalf of the Regional Council. A letter of thanks for the donation had been received.

Institute of Employment Rights booklets

It was reported that these had arrived and would be distributed to those who had requested a copy.

Strawberry Fair – Saturday 2 June 2007

The Regional Secretary reported that there were now volunteers available and the banner for the stage had been ordered.

Retired Members' Forum

Alan Drury undertook to chase John Rodd and Derry Thorpe for confirmation of their expenses.

Agency and Migrant Workers Lobby

The Regional Secretary reported that there had been an extremely good turnout of around 1,000 members at the lobby.

Communications

The Regional Secretary reported that Brian Gallagher would be updating the Regional Council on pensions, communications and the E.Bulletin. Eileen Woods reported that she did not receive the E.Bulletin and Val Haslam would inform Communications.

Correspondence

TUC Awards

The Regional Council was advised that the 2007 TUC Awards were now open for nomination.

Working Class Movement Library

The Regional Secretary reported that the Working Class Movement Library was seeking support for a longer term commitment by way of a standing order form, but there was no mechanism in place for the Regional Council to do this. The Management Committee had recommended a £200 donation. This was proposed by Cid Gibbs, seconded by Eileen Woods and unanimously agreed.

Trade Union Friends of Searchlight

Correspondence had been received for re-affiliation at a cost of £50. The Management Committee supported the request and also recommended that a donation of £250 be made. It was agreed that this was a worthy cause, especially in the light of 75 BNP candidates standing in the Eastern Region in May's Election. Richard Clifton proposed, Derek Clarke seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

Ipswich May Day Festival

The Regional Secretary reported that he had received correspondence from Martin Hines representative at AXA Ipswich requesting £220 for this event. The Management Committee recommended to the Regional Council that this donation be made. This was proposed by Richard Clifton, seconded by Paul Brewster and unanimously agreed.

Palestine Solidarity Campaign

The Regional Secretary reported that a decision had been taken by the NEC to affiliate to this campaign. After some debate it was agreed not to support this request in line with the views of the Management Committee.

History of the Union Badges

The Regional Secretary reported that the North West Regional Council was seeking a donation for the cost of printing this booklet. The Management Committee recommended that a donation of £100 be made, which was proposed by Eileen Woods, seconded by Cid Gibbs and unanimously agreed.

It had been asked by the Management Committee what had become of the banners from Whitehall College, and Val Haslam reported that she was looking into this.

Hazards 2007 Conference: 27 – 29 July 2007

It was recommended by the Management Committee to send two delegates to the Hazards 2007 Conference.

Chris Berry and Eamon O'Brien said they would like to attend, with Mark Peters acting as substitute and this was agreed.

Sertuc International Conference: 2 June 2007

This was noted. No-one wished to attend.

Magazines and Newsletters

The undermentioned magazines were circulated for information:-

Searchlight Magazine
Shelf Life
Cuba Solidarity
Defend Housing Council
Tolpuddle
Occupational Cancer

Sunvic Controls, Uddingston – Official Dispute

The Regional Secretary reported that he had received a request from John Quigley, Regional Secretary, for Scotland for funding after the Management Committee had met. A donation of £1,500 was proposed by Mark Peters, seconded by Richard Clifton and unanimously agreed. Cid Gibbs asked for this request to be circulated to the branches.

CPHVA Annual Conference

Ruth Rothman from South Essex PCT had written to the Regional Council requesting support for members to attend the CPHVA Annual Conference. The cost was £162 plus travel, with the local Branch meeting accommodation costs. It was proposed by Cid Gibbs, seconded by Eamon O'Brien and unanimously agreed to support this request and to further support two delegates per PCT up to a maximum of ten tickets regionally.

Colchester and Tendring Womens Refuge – Annual General Review

The Regional Secretary reported that he had received an email from Christine Lee requesting funding for the printing of their Annual General Review. Having spoken with Head Office, it emerged that it was too difficult to hit the deadlines for this report. It was not possible therefore to support them with the printing, but the Regional Secretary asked the Council if they would like to financially support them with their own printing costs. It was unanimously agreed not to support this request.

Justice for Columbia

The Regional Secretary reported that there was no provision for a standing order. He would write back on behalf of the Regional Council and say we could not enter into this arrangement.

Hinchingbrooke Hospital

The Management Committee had prior to the meeting and because of time constraints made a decision to support the above campaign to the tune of £800. This was a joint Union initiative and a high profile rally had already been held to fight the cuts and closures. Further activities were planned. This needed to be ratified by the Regional Council and was therefore proposed by Geoff Leyshon, seconded by Mark Peters and unanimously agreed.

Balls of Poverty

The Regional Secretary reported that information had been circulated to all representatives.

Communications/Pension – Brian Gallagher

Brian Gallagher was welcomed to the Regional Council meeting, and gave a very interesting and comprehensive report on Communications and Pensions.

Reports

Finance

Delegates were presented with the financial report ending March 2007.

Health and Safety

The Regional Secretary reported back on the proposed one day Health and Safety Conference in Newmarket on 16 October 2007, at the British Racing School and a brochure was circulated to delegates. The cost would be £35 per delegate, with up to 80 delegates attending; costs would be approximately £5,000, plus travel.

The Regional Secretary reported that the Conference was for Health and Safety Reps, Senior Reps and Regional Council delegates and to let Val Haslam know as soon as possible of any attendees.

Richard Clifton proposed, Eamon O'Brien seconded and it was unanimously agreed that this Conference should take place.

IOM

Correspondence had been received from Paul Underwood in relation to the Institute of Occupational Medicine's research into a reliable industrial measurement of body temperature. This work was seen as vital to the health and safety of Amicus members. As a consequence it was proposed by Paul

Underwood, seconded by Geoff Leyshon and unanimously agreed that £2,000 be donated.

Education

Introduction to Computer Skills for Union Reps

The Regional Secretary reported that this course was being held on Wednesday 30 May and Friday 1 June 2007 at the Needham Market office and Friday 1 June and Friday 8 June at Dunstable. Those wishing to attend to inform Sam Leigh.

Company Accounts Overview Training

The Regional Secretary reported that ten people were attending on 9 May 2007 at Needham Market and five people were attending on 10 May 2007 at Luton. Stephen Wolski was running the training and Jean Swinn should be informed of those wishing to attend.

Gobilisation Course – Wednesday 16 May 2007

The Regional Secretary reported that there were ten people attending, but was hopeful of reaching thirty.

Personal Injury Course

The Regional Secretary reported that a solicitor from Rowley Ashworth was coming down to explain the Personal Injury process to representatives.

These courses were being held on 6 June 2007 at Needham Market and 2 July 2007 at Luton.

Minutes

The following minutes were circulated for noting:-

Construction Committee	21 February 2007
BEM Committee	5 April 2007
Disability Committee	5 April 2007
LGBT Committee	5 April 2007
Regional Womens Committee	19 April 2007

Regional Equality Committees – Standing Orders

The National Executive Council had ratified this and the Regional Council was required to do the same. These were proposed by Richard Clifton, seconded by Mark Peters and unanimously agreed.

Migrant Workers Day – Saturday 9 June 2007

It was reported that this event was taking place at Dunstable College and that George Taylor would be taking a prominent role. Financial support had been sought and a £500 donation was proposed by Richard Clifton, seconded by Eileen Woods and unanimously agreed. The Regional Secretary to ask Lorene Fabian to report back on how the money was spent and the success of the event.

Love Music Hate Racism

The Regional Secretary reported that Mark Walker had been involved in the two events which had been held in Colchester and Luton.

Anglian Water

The Regional Secretary reported that a recruitment drive was taking place, with other Unions offering incentives for recruitment. Tony Ellingford, Regional Officer, was involved in this initiative. It was proposed by Richard Clifton, seconded by Paul Brewster and unanimously agreed that a maximum of £250 be donated to this project.

Sanger Institute

The Regional Secretary reported that a recruitment event was being held. Pam Stacey proposed, Chris Berry seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a maximum of £200 if required, be donated towards this recruitment event.

Retired Members

Alan Drury, retired members' observer updated delegates on recent activities and also sought support for his nomination for the position of chair at the Sertuc Pensioners' Forum. This was agreed.

Officers Report

These reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Regional Secretary's Report

Merger Update

The Regional Secretary updated delegates on the current state of play in relation to the merger with the T&GWU. A Merger Working Group had been set up and would initially be looking at the central office, functions, e.g. communications, research, etc.

Gordon Whitman, National Executive Council Vice Chair and delegate from the Eastern Region had been elected to the Joint Executive.

Proposals were also made for the new Union's name to be "UNITE, the Union". This was to go to a future National Executive Council meeting later in May.

Agency and Temporary Workers

Amicus was undertaking a major research exercise to uncover the plight of Agency/Temporary Workers. Particularly where they are being treated less favourably, not least in relation to pay and conditions. Information had already been circulated to representatives to assist in this exercise. The Regional Council was also asked to play their role. Information needed to be provided by 18 May 2007 at the latest.

Video Conferencing

Adrian Axtell reported on the new Video Conferencing arrangements, at the Unions' offices, saying that he hoped to expand this.

Branches

Adrian Axtell proposed that a new Ford & Associates 1115M Branch be formed from the current Ford Dunton branch and the following branches would close and merge into this branch:-

South East Essex 0998m Branch
Basildon & Brentwood 1123M Branch
Ford (Essex) 1105M Branch
Essex Management Staff 1124M Branch
Essex Thameside 0581M Branch
Ford Tractor & Radiator 0984M Branch
South Essex 1112M Branch

The above mergers would be placed before the National Executive Council and Geoff Leyshon proposed, Derek Clarke seconded and it was unanimously agreed that these mergers be supported.

House of Commons

The Regional Secretary reported that letters of thanks had gone out to the MP's involved in the trip to Westminster and one response had been received from Angela Smith MP who had given her full support for the implementation of the Warwick Agreement.

Brussels

The Regional Secretary reported that there was a trip to Strasbourg on 19-21 June 2007, but this would present some difficulties being the week of the Policy Conference.

It was decided to wait for the next part-funded trip to Brussels, but that the Regional Secretary would in the meantime look at any other options available along with Geoff Leyshon.

Amicus Parliamentary Sub Groups

This information was distributed to the Regional Council.

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting.

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2007 were distributed and noted.

Senior Administrator

The Regional Secretary reported that Penny Fisher had been appointed as Senior Administrator for the Eastern Region.

Any other business

- ❖ Richard Clifton reported that Richard Howitt MEP had attended their branch meeting, which had been a success. It was noted that Richard Howitt would be happy to attend any branch meeting if asked.
- ❖ Eamon O'Brien asked if anything had come from the meeting with the Polish workers in Peterborough. The Regional Secretary responded by saying that it had been reasonably successful, although clearly, this was a difficult area.
- ❖ Alan Drury reported that there was to be an air ambulance in the Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire area which maybe of interest to the Council.
- ❖ Mark Peters informed the Council that Astrium was holding an Open Day on Saturday 7 July 2007. The Regional Secretary asked for details to be emailed to Val Haslam and she would distribute this to the Regional Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.30 pm

