



**Eastern Region
Regional Council
Thursday 29 June 2006 at 10.30 am
at the Needham Market Office**

Minutes

Those in attendance

Jennie Bremner	Asst General Secretary
Bill Pigram	Regional Officer
Mark Peters	Aerospace
Trevor Whitehead	Branch
Alan Drury	Retired
Chris Gold	Local Authorities
Cyd Gibbs	Branch
Les McDonald	Branch
Phil Gilbert	Health
Paul Underwood	Construction
Michael Kneller	Electrical Engineering, Elect & IT
Leonard Denbigh	Energy
Paul Brewster	Motor Components
Derek Clarke	FPA &CMA
Kevin Graham	General Industries
Geoff Leyshon	LGBT
Christine Berry	Womens
Eamon O'Brien	Servicing
John Scarola	BEM
Pam Stacey	Branch
Martin Rueby	GPM
Nigel Gawthorpe	GPM
Alan Rutherford	FDT
Simon Keane	Finance
Eileen Woods	Finance
Nick White	MOD
Richard Clifton	Motor Vehicles
Val Haslam	Minutes

East of England Development Agency

Trevor reported that Adrian had not heard back from Karen Livingstone and that Adrian would pursue this.

Westminster Visit

Trevor reported that the visit would take place on Tuesday 17 October 2006 and could accommodate 20 personnel. Trevor asked for names to be supplied to Adrian or Val before the next meeting of the Regional Council Management Committee. It was agreed that this request should be forwarded to the Regional Political Committee. Attendees to be members of the Labour Party.

Pensioners' Parliament

It was reported that Mr Davis had been unable to attend the Pensioners Parliament as his wife had been taken seriously ill

Acts of Delegation – South Africa

It was reported that a member from the GPMU was attending this event.

Area Conferences

Discussion took place re the early start of 6.30 pm for the Essex and Herts Conference and ensuring all reps information is correct.

It was noted that the timings had been agreed by the delegates.

Labour Research Department Website LRD

Head Office had been contacted re the need for a specific password. Information to be provided at the next meeting.

Correspondence

Pearl Combine Branch 0483

Correspondence had been received from Lynda Day, Amicus Seconded Rep regarding the change of name from Pearl Combine Branch 0483 to Diligenta Peterborough 0483. This was unanimously agreed.

Newmarket Battle of the Bands 2006

Correspondence had been received from Mark Evans Secretary of the Amicus Cambridge Central Branch 1859, asking for a donation.

It was proposed by Pam Stacy and seconded by Kevin Graham that £500 be donated to this event. This was unanimously agreed.

Len Denbigh asked if there was a business plan being put forward so the Committee had some idea of the outlay.

It was agreed that the question of advertising be brought back to the Management Committee Meeting. Also, Bill Pigram would speak with Adrian Axtell about obtaining further information from Mark Evans re the purchase of tickets and publicity for the sites. It was suggested that a press interview be given re the donation of the cheque.

Construction Safety Campaign

Bill read out a letter from Bill Harvey. Jennie spoke to this letter and it was agreed to refer it back to the Management Committee.

Len Denbigh suggested that the Regional Council expenditure report be looked at prior to agreeing to monies being spent

(CALL) Cambridgeshire Life Long Learning Union Partnership

Correspondence had been received requesting financial assistance for the above.

This is a joint union initiative in which Amicus is heavily involved not least through Des O'Connell, Linda Day and Jo Nuses

Martin Rueby proposed £500 and Richard Clifton seconded this proposal. It was unanimously agreed.

CPHVA Annual Conference

Correspondence had been received from Karen Reay, Lead Officer for Professional Policy and Practice, Amicus Health Sector, re the funding for delegates to attend the above conference.

Jennie explained the importance of these delegates attending this conference.

It was agreed that more information should be obtained and this request should be referred back to the Management Committee. It was further agreed that that the Regional Council would support any decision made by the Management Committee, as it would be too late to discuss this at the next Regional Council meeting.

The Council asked that Adrian contacts Karen Reay asking her to make known to the employers that it was deplorable that staff should have to take annual leave to attend this Conference.

Burston Strike School Rally

It was noted that a letter of thanks for the £300 cheque for this event been received.

Love Music Hate Racism

It was noted that a letter of thanks for the £250 cheque for this event had been received.

Motion

A motion had been received from Southend 35/GH on the Basildon 10/GH Branches re Asbestos and the House of Lord's ruling 3 May 2006. As this motion was not complete (ie. words missing) it was agreed that Adrian should refer this back to the Branches.

Reports

Regional Secretary/Merger update

In the absence of the Regional Secretary, Jennie Bremner updated the Regional Council as to the current position with the merger.

As was widely publicised, the GMB has voted not to merge at the current time. Discussions are ongoing with the TGWU in the hope that the merger can take place early next year.

A discussion was held on this matter and in particular, the political power that the new union will hold; as well as the fact that the union maintains its financial strength. She went on to update delegates on the proposed Peugeot campaign.

Officers' Report

These reports were noted.

Retired Members Report

Alan Drury gave an update on the Retired Members Forum and informed the Committee that the next Forum was to be held on Saturday 30 September 2006 at Needham Market. Alan also circulated a report on the NPC Blackpool Parliament on 16/18 May 2006.

Finance Report

This was distributed. It was agreed to ask Gordon Whitman to bring to the National Executive the need for a budget for the next two years.

Women's Committee

Eileen Woods gave a report on the Women's Committee meeting held on 22 June 2006. The Regional Council approved the meeting set for 22 September 2006.

Branch Mergers

Luton Craft Branch 3323M with Luton Motor Vehicles 0584 Branch

The proposal to merge the Luton Craft Branch 3323M and the Luton Motor Vehicles 0584 Branch was supported by the Regional Council and for this to be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Suffolk Bury St Edmunds EA18 Branch with Bury St Edmunds 1855 Branch

The proposal to merge the Suffolk Bury St Edmunds EA18 Branch and the Bury St Edmunds 1855 Branch was supported by the Regional Council. To be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Suffolk Ipswich Branch EA06 with the Ipswich and District Branch 1860

The proposal to merge the Suffolk Ipswich Branch EA06 Branch and the Ipswich and District Branch 1860 Branch was supported by the Regional Council. To be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Cambridgeshire EA08 Branch and the Bedfordshire EA10 Branch

The proposal to cease the running of the above branches and for members to be placed into branches near to where they live was supported by the Regional Council. To be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Mike McCartney – Head of Education

Mike McCartney was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Mike gave a very informative report on courses available and what courses were likely to be run during 2007 - 2008, which would include, branch secretary courses, environmental issues and understanding conference procedures.

Health and Safety

HSE Metalworking Fluids Events 2006/2007

This initiative was supported.

Education Report

Bill reported on the following courses: -

New Reps Course

25 May 2006 – 13 attended.

Dispute and Grievance Course

20 June 2006 Luton – 22 attended
21 June 2006 Needham Market - 25 attended

New dates:

6 July 2006 Needham Market
19 July 2006 Needham Market

Presentation Skills Course

27 June 2006 Needham Market 9 attended

New dates:

5 July 2006 - Luton
2 August 2006 - Needham Market

Equal Pay Training

20 July 2006 only 6 applied, more required.

Bullying and Harassment

21 September 2006 Needham Market.

Computer Courses for reps

The Regional Council supported the initiative of providing computer courses for reps. It was also asked if courses could be held for branch secretaries. It was agreed to refer this back to Adrian.

Apprentice recruitment drive

Bill read out an email from Richard Clarke re an Apprentice recruitment drive in the Eastern Region. It was agreed that this was a very good project and it was recommended it be referred back to the Management Committee.

Any other business

Concerns were raised as to the suitability of the meeting room for the numbers attending the Regional Council Meeting. It was suggested that we review this at the next meeting.