



**Eastern Region
Regional Council
Wednesday 3 May 2006 at 10.30 am
at the Needham Market Office**

Minutes

Those in attendance

Adrian Axtell	Regional Secretary
Mark Peters	Aerospace
Trevor Whitehead	Branch
Alan Drury	Retired
Chris Gold	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
John Scarola	Disability
Phil Smith	Fords
Pam Stacey	Health
Barry Stewart	Electrical Engineering, Electronics, IT
Gordon Whitman	NEC
Val Haslam	Minutes

Introduction and apologies

Apologies were received from Lorene Fabian, Martin Rubey, Dave Chapman, John Sterne, Alan Rutherford, Kevin Graham.

Paul Brewster proposed and Mark Peters seconded Trevor Whitehead as chair for the meeting, and it was unanimously agreed.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of John Hellyer, Regional Secretary, South East. Who had overseen the Eastern Region for some months during 2004.

The Regional Secretary reported that this was the last Regional Council Meeting before the new Committee is formed in June and he thanked members for their support. He also expressed his gratitude to those retiring members.

Adrian reported that there was not yet a substitute delegate from the GPM Sector to replace Shirley Jones. This matter would be resolved with the forming of the new Regional Council.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

These were read and agreed.

Matters Arising

Mayor of Norwich

Adrian reported that the meeting had taken place with the Mayor of Norwich and photographs and article would be placed on the website.

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Adrian reported that he had pursued the request of a visit to RAF Honington and the date he had been given was 29 June 2006. As this was the date of the first meeting of the new Regional Council and passport details, id, and various forms had to be completed before the visit, the Regional Council agreed that this visit should be re-arranged at a later date.

East of England Development Agency

Adrian reported that he had written to Karen Livingstone inviting her to attend a Regional Council meeting, but had to date not heard back from her. Adrian to pursue.

Future Attendees

Adrian reported that Mike McCartney, Head of Education had agreed to attend the Regional Council meeting on Thursday 29 June 2006 and Siobhan Endean, National Officer for Equalities would be attending the Regional Council on Thursday 19 October 2006.

Political

Adrian reported that there had been a very good turn out from Amicus at Debden.

Adrian reported that the visit to Westminster was in the organisational stages and dates and details would be reported at a future meeting.

African Matters Development Day

Geoff Leyshon circulated papers and reported on the African Matters Development Day he attended. It was hoped that African Matters would be put on as a training module.

Lobbies

Adrian reported that he had received a letter of thanks from both the Colchester Branch and Braintree Defend Council Housing saying that the Amicus profile had been increased in their areas because of the successful Lobby and the support of the Regional Council.

Correspondence

Role of Honour – Brian Stocking

Correspondence had been received from Colchester Central Branch re Brian Stocking's name being put on the Role of Honour. Cyd Gibbs, proposed, Barry Steward seconded and the Regional Council agreed to support this request.

Defend Council Housing Campaign

It was reported that at the Labour Party Conference in Clacton, Amicus was asked if they could give some financial support to place advertisements and flyers re the Waveney Campaign ballot which was then about to start in Lowestoft. Because of the time constraints, £300 had been allocated to this campaign, which had been very successful. Chris Gold proposed and Mark Peters seconded this request and it was unanimously agreed.

Evergreen Lunch Club

Correspondence had been received from the above asking for support for this Lunch Club. It was agreed that the correspondence should be noted.

Trade Union Friends of Searchlight

Phil Smith proposed, Cyd Gibbs seconded and it was agreed to affiliate to TUFFS at the cost of £50 for the region.

Pensioners' Parliament

A request had been received from the Pensioners' Forum for Mr Davis to attend the Pensioners' Parliament. This would incur costs. It was suggested that Mr Davis should receive the same expenses as for other members of the Union attending conferences.

It was proposed by Phil Smith, seconded by Cyd Gibbs and unanimously agreed to support the request for Mr Davis to attend the Pensioners' Parliament.

Cambridge Central Branch 1589

It was noted that the Cambridge Central Branch 1589 had moved its venue and that all members had been notified.

Magazines

The Air Ambulance magazine and the EEDA magazine was passed around the Council.

Cuba Solidarity Campaign AGM

This was being held on Saturday 10 June 2006. No delegates were elected.

Nick Burdon and Denis Blockley Memorial Trust Fund

Information was circulated and it was proposed by Phil Smith, seconded by Paul Brewster and agreed that £500 should come out of the Educational Budget in support of this Fund.

Burston Strike School Rally

It was noted that this event was taking place on 3 September 2006 and that Derek Simpson had been invited to speak. Geoff Leyshon proposed, Cyd Gibbs seconded and it was agreed that £300 should be donated to this event.

Acts of Delegation - South Africa

It was noted that this event was taking place from 2 October – 11 October 2006 in South Africa, costing £3,500 a delegate. It was unanimously agreed that this should be noted.

Working Class Movement Library

This journal was passed round to the Regional Council

Alan Drury – Retired Members' Forum

It was noted that a letter of thanks had been received from Alan on behalf of the Retired Pensioners' Forum for the financial support of the Regional Council

Astrium Sponsored Bike Ride

Photographs of the Sponsored Bike Ride were passed round to the Regional Council and these would be placed on the website.

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

A letter had been received from Lisa Sawyer of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital seeking financial support to produce a portfolio for all staff. Phil Gilbert proposed, Pam Stacey seconded and it was agreed that £600 should be donated to this appeal.

Reports

Regional Secretary

i) Area Conferences

The Regional Secretary reported that there had been a good turn out for these conferences as follows: -

Norfolk and Suffolk	- 25 attendees
Beds and Cambs	- 20 attendees
Essex and Herts	- 20 attendees

The next session of meetings are as follows: -

Norfolk and Suffolk	23 May 2006 at 7.30 pm at Diss
Beds and Cambs	25 May 2006 at 7.30 pm at Baldock
Essex and Herts	1 June 2006 at 6.30 pm at Harlow

Adrian asked members to write into him if they had any concerns over the venues and timings so they could be fed into the meetings.

ii) Local Government Pension Scheme – Joint Statement

The statement was circulated and it was noted that action had now been suspended.

iii) Website

Further items had been put on the website and more work was planned.

iv) Sector Conferences

It was reported that the conferences had been completed with the Retired Members Forum being held on Saturday 17 June 2006. Adrian had written to all branches inviting them to elect a delegate to attend.

v) **Branch Mergers**

Peterborough Craft Branch 3327 and Peterborough Central Branch 1881

The proposal to merge the Peterborough Craft Branch 3327 with the Peterborough Central Branch 1881 was supported by the Regional Council and for this to be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Norwich & District 0525 Branch and Norwich Central 1880 Branch

The proposal to merge the Norwich & District Branch 0525 Branch and the Norwich Central 1880 Branch was supported by the Regional Council. To be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Bury St Edmunds 9723M Branch and Bury St Edmunds 1855 Branch

The proposal to merger the Bury St Edmunds 9723M Branch and the Bury St Edmunds 1855 Branch was supported by the Regional Council. To be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Grays Branch 1865 and Basildon Central 1857 Branch

Adrian reported that the Grays branch had previously been looked after by a full time officer. A letter had gone out to members asking if anyone would like to run the branch, but without success. It was proposed to merge the Grays Branch 1865 with the Basildon Central 1857 Branch and the Regional Council supported this proposal. To be ratified by the National Executive Council.

Management Committee Minutes

The Minutes of 13 April 2006 were duly noted.

Labour Research Department Website LRD

It was agreed that no further publications were required. Adrian undertook to investigate whether reps could log onto the system and the need for a password.

Health and Safety

It was noted that Mark Peters and John Scarola had attended the Health and Safety Conference in London. Mark invited the Regional Council to borrow the handouts from the Conference which were very informative.

Hazards Conference

It was noted that this Conference was being held at the University of Manchester from 14 – 16 July 2006 and that up to 2 delegates from the Regional Council would be attending.

Adrian reported that he had that day received an email from Stephen Fisher asking for financial support for him to attend the Hazards Conference. This was noted.

Recruitment

Adrian reported that the monies allocated to the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Trust could go back into the recruitment fund. The Hospital had informed us that they currently had other pressing matters to deal with.

SCOPE

Phil Gilbert and Alan Drury showed interest in this initiative. Further details would follow.

Expenditure Report

The Expenditure Report was circulated to the Regional Council.

Equalities Forum

It was reported that 31 delegates had indicated they would be attending the Womens' Conference on 5 May, 2006.

Love Music Hate Racism

Phil Smith proposed, Mark Peters seconded and it was agreed that £250 should be donated to this event.

Officers' Report

The Officers' Report was circulated to the Regional Council.

Education

New Reps Course

It was reported that the New Reps Course would be held on 25 May, 2006 at the Needham Market office and that five responses in the affirmative had been received.

Womens' Training Day

Adrian reported that the above event had been postponed last year and that he would be taking this issue to the Womens' Conference on Friday 5 May.

Dispute and Grievance Course

Adrian reported that this had been arranged with the Solicitors, Rowley Ashworth and would take place in Luton on 20 June 2006 and in Needham Market on 21 June 2006.

Presentation Skills Course

It was noted that the above course was being held on 27 June 2006 in Needham Market and on 5 July 2006 in Luton.

Equal Pay Training

It was noted that a date would soon be set.

NHS Regional Training

Adrian reported that he had been in touch with Owen Granfield with regard to the training. It was agreed that Phil Gilbert should ask the Health Sector Committee to draw up a list of specifics of what was required.

Merger Update

Discussions took place as to the current state of the merger proposals with the Regional Council taking a view on the following: -

1. There was overwhelming support for the merger in principle.
2. Lay member democracy must be at the heart of any new organisation.
3. Individual industrial sector identity should not be lost.
4. A vibrant Retired Members Section should be a part of the new organisation and should attract proper funding in line with all other sectors.

The Regional Secretary was asked to convey the Regional Council's views to the General Secretary.

NEC Report

Gordon Whitman gave a report from the NEC.

Retired Members' Report

It was noted that the retired members' representatives from the branches had been invited to the meeting on Saturday 17 June 2006.

Any other business

It was agreed that John Hellyer's name should be put on the Role of Honour.

