



**Eastern Region
Regional Council
Thursday 8 December 2005
at the Needham Market Office**

Minutes

Those in attendance

Adrian Axtell	Regional Secretary
Bill Murphy	Chair
Mark Peters	Aerospace
Trevor Whitehead	Branch
Allan Rutherford	FDT
Lorene Fabian	Women
Chris Gold	Local Authorities
Bill Dyer	Govt Depts
Phil Gilbert	Branch
Paul Brewster	Motor Components
Dick Barker	NEC (GPM)
Geoff Leyshon	FPA
Paul Stokes	Education
Fred Grindrod	Youth
John Scarola	Disability
Phil Smith	Motor Vehicles
Pam Stacey	Health
John Sterne	Transport
Neal Evans	
Val Haslam	Minutes

Apologies

Gordon Whitman; Alan Drury; Cyd Gibbs; Eamon O'Brien; Lisa Maddy;
Kevin Graham; Barry Stewart; Dave Chapman

Adrian explained the staff situation at the Needham Office. Thanks was given to Neal Evans from the Regional Council for his work.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

These were agreed.

Matters Arising

Colchester & Tendring Women's Refuge

Amanda Campbell has visited the Refuge, soon to be in publications

Membership Database

It was reported that improvements were being made.

Mayor of Norwich

No response received on this matter. Region Secretary to follow up with Cyd Gibbs.

Recruitment

It was reported that the Fibrothetford ballot had been successful and recognition had been granted by the CAC. Adrian had met with the company on 5 December 2005 and agreed an agreement in principle.

It was noted that the meeting re the civil air transport sector went well.

East Anglian Air Ambulance

It was reported that a cheque for £2000 had been donated and Adrian and Neal had met with Simon Gray who was very keen to build on the relationship. Discussion took place with regard to a Regional Council meeting being held at RAF Honnington. It was noted that our press office was in touch with theirs in regard to publicity within the region.

Political

It was agreed to arrange a visit to Westminster for 20/30 delegates to discuss industrial matters with regional MP's. It was agreed that Alf Brewer should come to the next meeting of the Regional Council.

East of England Development Agency

Adrian reported that the meeting with Karen Livingstone is to be re-arranged.

Website

It was noted that Richard Clarke will be taking over the setting up of the website and that it was a priority to get this up and running.

West Suffolk Hospitals Trust

Adrian had not heard back from The West Suffolk Hospitals Trust and undertook to investigate.

Red Rose Football Club

Adrian reported that a letter from Dr Ian Gibson MP was received on 7 December with the details of what was required on the cheque.

Cambridge & District Branch

The names of those who attended had been received and it was reported that it was a Students' Union coach. The Regional Council to release £100 as agreed.

Legal Handbooks

These had been received.

Astrium Employee Sponsored Cycle Ride

Mark Peters reported that £10,000 had been raised and thank the Regional Council for their support.

Correspondence

Roll of Honour

Agreed to accept nomination of Eric Steele.

Hazards Campaign

Agreed to donate £500 to Conference. Regional Secretary to circulate details when received. Proposed by Mark Peters and seconded by Trevor Whitehead.

Poppy Appeal

Correspondence had been received from Alan Drury. A donation of £500 was agreed; proposed by Paul Brewster and seconded by Mark Peters.

National Pensioners' Committee

It was noted that a letter from Derry Thorpe had been received asking for a donation and affiliation fees. It was agreed to pass this to Alan Drury for his comments in his capacity as retired members' delegate to the Regional Council.

Children's Heart Foundation

Adrian reported on correspondence from Danny Castleton asking for consideration of this appeal. It was agreed that as it had gone to several branches, that this was the route that should be taken. Regional Council agreed not to support.

Battle of the Bands

Adrian reported that Jody Mills wanted to build up a team to assist in the running of this event. It was suggested that a presence at The "V" Festival and the Cambridge Folk Festival in the region should be considered.

It was noted that Fred Grindrod and Geoff Leyshon would be interested in forming an action group. To meet in the New Year.

Regional Council Management Committee Report

Health and Safety

It was reported that the Health and Safety courses had gone extremely well and that we would continue to have these courses in 2006.

Education

It was reported that the new reps course at Luton had gone well.

It was noted that the women's' course at the Dunstable College had been postponed. This will be run in the New Year.

Future Courses

Presentation skills courses: It was noted that Ian Marshall would be happy to undertake one day courses.

Equal pay campaign course: To be held at Needham Market and the Luton offices.

Discipline and Grievance course: To be undertaken and a solicitor would be provided.

Domestic Violence in the Workplace Course: It was noted that Paula Ward was happy to run this course.

There was a request to run two NHS Focus Courses – this was agreed.

It was noted that Adrian and Trevor planned to put these courses in place. Taking into consideration the Sector Conferences early in 2006.

Finance

A summary of all Regional Council expenditure was circulated. This report would be updated once all expenditure had been received and an end of year report circulated.

At the request of the Committee Adrian undertook to write to Michael Cardell to find out when the current budget expires.

Merger

It was reported that the merger talks with the TGWU and GMB were still ongoing on an amicable basis.

Sector Conferences

It was reported that the Finance Conference had taken place and Adrian gave out the dates of the conferences.

It was noted that the Branch Conference would be held on Saturday 28 January 2006 The Limes Hotel, Needham Market.

General Secretary's visit

Adrian reported that Derek Simpson had visited the region and talked to reps at the Delphi Sports and Social Club. It was suggested that future visits of the General Secretary could perhaps be held in the south and also the north of the region, so those living the farthest away could attend.

Diaries

Adrian reported that the diaries were going directly to the representatives as last year.

Officers Reports

A written report from the full time officers was circulated.

Phil Smith reported that the BNP had been defeated in both bi-elections in South Essex

Phil Smith reported on the position at Fords.

Any other business

Luton and Dunstable 0336 and Dunstable 127M

It was reported that no objections had been received to the merger. The Regional Council ratified the merger. Adrian to send to the National Executive Council.

Policy Implementation Report

This was noted

Lobby Defence Council Housing Campaign

It was reported that this lobby was being held on 8 February 2006 and details had been sent out to officers to inform their reps. The Council agreed to support the cost of the transport, which was at present unknown. Officers and colleagues to let Adrian know who wanted to attend.

NHS Lobby

It was reported that this lobby was to be held on 10 January 2005 and that Regional Council would support transport costs.

Future Meetings

Agree to invite Frizzells and Mike McCartney to future Regional Council meeting.

Siobhan Endean, National Officer for Equalities to address further Regional council to discuss equality issues