

EAST MIDLANDS REGION

LINCOLNSHIRE AREA ACTIVIST COMMITTEE MEETING

Bentley Hotel, Lincoln
Wednesday 24 March 2010



Attendees: A Axtell (RS), D Roome (RO), S Syson (RO), D DeLacy (EC), J Hughes (Chair), C Grimshaw, D Crisp, M Taylor, P McGill, D Nelson, N Johnson, M Devine, M Wood, S Evison, P Curtis and N Newark.

1 **Apologies**

Apologies received from A Shaw, S Hibbert and P Sykes

2 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2010 were **AGREED**.

3 **Matters Arising**

- Delegates **AGREED** to hold future meetings at the Bentley Hotel between 7pm-9pm on a weekday.
- Delegates contact details had been distributed to the Committee.
- Equality Committee Vacancy. Delegates were advised Jimmy Ndjai was willing to serve and this was referred to Andy Shaw.
- Gillian Merrion MP was invited to attend the meeting but was unable to due to other commitments.

4 **Regional Secretary Report**

RS gave a comprehensive verbal report covering the following issues:

- Voluntary Redundancy. RS advised that leaving dates has now been set for the members of staff leaving and they had been notified.
- Offices. RS reported timelines had now been set for relocation of offices.
- Education. RS advised of the seminars being organised in the region and also reported on the position of the Regional Education Officer who will be covering the West and East Midlands region.
- Policy & Rules Conferences. RS advised RISCs meetings are currently being held and delegates are being elected.
- Midlands Regional TUC. RS announced that Gerald Coyne had been elected Chair and himself Vice Chair.

5 **Executive Member Report**

Dave DeLacy gave a comprehensive verbal report covering the following issues:

- Financial matters concerning the union's membership figures.
- Officers and staff Pension Scheme.
- Lay Members Expenses.
- Branch Allowances.
- Merger. Dave reported that both sections were now constructively working together.

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6 Regional Industrial Report

Andy Shaw and Dave Roome provided written reports and supplemented them verbally. Steve Syson gave a verbal presentation and **AGREED** to provide written reports for future meetings.

Delegates **AGREED** to distribute the industrial reports with the agenda prior to meetings to enable members to read the report and raise any questions at the meeting.

7 Delegates Industrial Report

Siemens – C Grimshaw provided an update on the position of the 155 job losses that were feared but due to an influx of work it means in the short term the losses would be less, some volunteers were to be released but others had been rejected. The company had been told that the union would not accept contractors whilst jobs were still at risk.

ITP Engines – S Evison reported that following a wage freeze in 2009 the company had offered 1.25% for 2010, this has been rejected by the members and the Regional Officer asked to become involved.

Dynex Semi-Conductors – M Devine reported that the members had rejected an offer of 2%.

Finnveden – M Wood reported that most of the staff had now been made redundant but that 66 staff were still employed for a short while before closure.

United Lincolnshire Hospital Trusts – M Taylor reported that on a positive note two new wards had been opened but they were having problems recruiting sufficient staff. The Estates department had taken on 5 apprentices.

Bakkavor Pizza – N Johnson reported that work had picked up considerably and that the World Cup would further increase demand. The Organising Unit are involved in organising the night shift.

Bakkavor Branch – D Nelson reported that efforts to bring all Bakkavor site reps together is proceeding well with the Organising Unit involved.

Norprint – N Newark reported that the company had put forward a 13 point document covering a wage rise / harmonisation / promise (with reservations) of no redundancies in 2010. The chapel is considering the document.

Caledonian – J Hughes reported that work had picked up and some staff made redundant had now been re-employed. The company had offered 2 days extra holidays for 2010 wage rise and this had been accepted by the members.

8 Motion to Policy Conference

Pleural Plaques – Delegates **AGREED** to submit the following motion to the 2010 Policy Conference.

The Lincolnshire Area Activist Committee wishes to place on record its dismay and disgust at the Governments decision not to overturn the 2007 ruling of the Law Lords on Pleural Plaques

Many of our members have worked in industries where they have been exposed to

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asbestos. If any of our members are diagnosed with Pleural Plaques in the future they will not receive any compensation in contrast to our colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland where sympathetic and prompt action was taken to reverse the Law Lord's decision.

We note that the Government has put forward an ex gratia payments of £5,000 as a sop to those with claims outstanding when the Law Lords decision was announced. Lawyers estimate this may benefit 6000 claimants at a cost of about £30,000,000 which is scant compensation for the pain and stress suffered by victims

The inadequate compensation is in stark contrast with the benefits achieved by insurance companies who will see a reduction of around £1 4 million in asbestos liabilities. We also note that on the same date as the announcement, the Government agreed to pay £1.3 billion to bankers in bonuses in an 80% state owned bank.

Therefore those members in England and Wales who worked in industries (many state owned) and exposed to contamination by asbestos and diagnosed with Pleural Plaques will now not receive any compensation.

The Lincolnshire Area Activist Committee request that the NEC campaign vigorously for compensation and justice for those suffering from Pleural Plaques.

9 *General Election Campaign*

Adrian Axtell and Dave DeLacy explained how vital it was that Labour retained power. Unites campaigning methods were explained in detail and Committee members were encouraged to help in various ways in identified marginal seats one being Lincoln where Gillian Merrion is our MP.

10 *Any other Business*

None

11 *Dates of Next Meetings*

The committee **AGREED** to hold the meeting on the following dates.

- Wednesday 16 June 2010
- Wednesday 6 October 2010