

Minutes of the Meeting of Amicus Goodmans Fields Branch Held on Thursday 31st August, 2006, Conference Room 1, A/2 West

Meeting commenced 12:35.

Present

Six members plus Sue Lawrence, London Regional Officer.

Apologies for Absence

Received from seven members.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting 25th May

- (a) **Future Guest Speaker** The Secretary advised the meeting that he had not yet contacted Professor Phil Taylor, University of Strathclyde, who had spoken on outsourcing to the Finance Section Conference in June. Professor Taylor had said, immediately before going on a lengthy holiday, that he was happy to come and talk to Branch. The Chair confirmed that Branch would like to hear Professor Taylor: the Secretary would now e-mail Professor Taylor a formal invitation and try to sort out a date and a time agreeable to him.
- (b) **Facilities for Gogaburn Staff** The Chair Fulfilling an action from the previous meeting, gave a brief summary of the dental and medical facilities that are available at Gogaburn. Further information is available at the [Gogaburn intranet site](#).
- (c) **Aldgate Union** There was little new to report regarding the move. However, Group Property was running a series of roadshows that it was worth members attending. Questions were still being raised regarding the fact that there would be significantly fewer desk spaces than staff, 'Advanced Working' as Group Property now refer to 'hot desking' as, and whether or not it would work. Branch remained unconvinced that it will in the way Group Property envisage, but recognises that it is now a matter of seeing whether or not the pudding is proofed.

Newsletter

The Chair said that the person who had volunteered to take on the role of editor / co-ordinator was not free until September and it was his intention to invite her to the Committee Meeting on the 11th.

Pensions Changes

It appeared that the information promised by RBSElect for 1st September would be out on time. Branch was still concerned that younger members of staff would be tempted to opt out of the Bank's final salary scheme. A lengthy discussion took place on whether or not we should hold a special meeting focussing on the changes. The decision was that we should not, in particular because the Union could not take on the role of offering financial advice to individuals and this was likely to be what most members would be looking for if they

attended such a meeting. Final feedback on the issues the changes raised would be sought at the next branch meeting (28th September).

It was noted that the changes would be on the agenda for the National Company Committee meeting next week and it was understood that the NCC would then be putting out a final newsletter which we would ensure was distributed around Goodmans Fields.

Childcare / Equality

The Chair gave Branch a recap of what had been done since the childcare survey had been carried out round Easter last year. Stuart Davies, who is now responsible for equality issues in RBS, last met the Bank earlier in the month. They were looking at a possible corporate emergency childcare scheme and he suggested that Branch wait for feedback before fine tuning the original childcare survey and carrying out a further one.

Membership

Membership figures were now substantially higher following work done by the Membership Secretary in conjunction with Membership at Hays Court regarding the allocation of members to the correct branch. Numbers had also been increased through steady recruiting. It was hoped that the Membership Secretary would be able to attend the Committee Meeting on 11th September and provide a more detailed update.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday, 28th September.

Meeting closed 13:30