

COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION

LONDON REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the London Regional Committee Meeting held on Friday 4th August 2006, Britannia Street Conference Centre, Britannia Street, WC1

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1. Adoption of Standing Orders:

Agreed.

2. Attendance & Apologies:

Attendance:

John Denton (Secretary), Kate Booker (Assistant Secretary), Steve Bury (Chair), London City West, Rail Stations & Transport, London West End Amal, London RMT, Central London, London South West, Croydon & South London, LRWC, Paul Dovey (Union Learning Regional Project Worker), Simon Crisford (Union Learning Regional Project Worker), West London), West London Postal Branch, London NW C&C, London Postal Engineering, Mark Palfrey (Divisional Rep), East London Postal, North East London, London Parcels Amal, City & NE London Clerical, Fred Jepson (London Retired Members Committee), NHC Postal, Romford Amal, London 7, John Colbert (Guest Speaker).

Apologies:

John Hart (London West End Amal), Greg Charles (London South West), Steve Browett (Croydon & South London), Duncan Strivens (London South East), Steve Granville (London South East), Steve Howlett (London Postal Engineering), Steve Jones (London Postal Engineering & NEC), Ian Ward (NEC), Mick King (Central London), Pav Alam (London City West), Peter Groom (East London Postal), Paul Grace (NHC Postal), Colin Tull (NHC Postal), Andy Blake (London 7).

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings & Matters Arising.

Meeting held on 5th May 2006 – Minutes **AGREED**

Matters arising-NONE

4. Guest Speaker – John Colbert- Royal Mail Campaign, Justice for Agency Workers

John spoke to the meeting about the Royal Mail Campaign and Justice for Agency Workers and took questions from the floor.

5. Regional Report

5.1 Section 1 – to be noted

A Field Organiser Report was issued after the Regional Report was produced and was circulated to all delegates.

Gerry Ryan reported that 3 London Branches had submitted bids for matched funding and hopefully there will be an Academy Organiser in place by October.

Section 1 accepted.

5.2 Section 2 – to be noted

Section 2 accepted.

5.3 Section 3 – to be noted

1.1 Organising in Ethnic Minority Communities-the booklet was completed in draft in February. Has been sent back several times for re-writing and the latest draft has been received but not agreed. Is 65 pages long and contains analysis of union membership and employees in BT and Royal Mail. Should be out by October and Fevzi has offered to speak at our next meeting or send a representative.

2.3 Regional Youth Committee-Sections 7 and 8 queried and Standing Orders does say how to vote and how decisions will be made.

Meeting agreed for branches to send comments to John by Friday 11th August and they will then be sent to Head Office.

2.6 Youth Network-The joint letter sent from John and Simon Sapper got quite a few responses. John has emailed them and sent information out. John will liaise with Simon to take it further. Simon is trying to get the constitution agreed so he can launch the network next year.

3.5 London Weighting- Royal Mail and CWU been in negotiation since March and has been delayed due to National Campaign. New pay deal agreed but Royal Mail putting a different interpretation on London Weighting. CWU has given Royal Mail until 31 August 2006 to come back and clarify issues to reach agreement and if this is not OK then there will be a campaign for an industrial action ballot.

4.5 CWU Campaign Against Racism-want feedback on the material sent to branches and the response from the members. Some branches said that they had not received the material.

4.6 CND-the annual conference takes place 14-15 October 2006 in Bradford and we are entitled to send a delegate. No interest shown.

5.1 Finance-Laurie Smith requested that the committee consider a donation for the LGBT Conference Social-Donation of £50 agreed. The conference takes place on 28th October 2006 in Manchester and Laurie urged all branches to send a delegate and motions to the conference.

6.1 Equality Officers-Regional Equality Officers Committee-no officer at HQ has taken up as lead yet so no constitution and standing orders produced yet. Equal Opportunities Department suggested we set up a meeting to discuss how we take up further. Suggested that we have a meeting in September to tie in with Grunwick and ask Derek Walsh to speak on the dispute. John to organise.

Section 3 accepted.

6. Committee Issues.

6.1 Regional Women's Committee.

The minutes of the last Regional meeting held on 16th June 2006 and the WAC minutes of 20th July 2006 were circulated. The next Regional meeting will be held on 11th August 2006. The Women's Conference will be held on 20th January 2007 in Bristol and motions to be submitted by 28th November.

6.2 Regional Political Committee

Last meeting was held on Tuesday 1st August 2006. A special meeting with the Eastern Region has been arranged for 3 October 2006 at Community with guest speaker John McDonnell who will be a candidate challenging for the leadership of the Labour Party.

6.3 Regional Safety Forum

The next meeting will be held on 23 August 2006 at Community.

6.4 Retired Member's Regional Council

Fred Jepson, Secretary of the Regional Council gave a report. The minutes have been circulated. Dennis Hand has been elected as a Delegate to the General Conference by the Retired Members Conference.

There will be an NPC lobby of parliament on 25 October 2006.

News & Views is celebrating its 10th year and a special edition will be sent to all London members. The committee is requesting donations for stamps etc. All donations to be sent to Dennis Hand.

Suggested that we invite Jeannie Drake to give the TUC position on pensions and invite pensioners along. John to invite Jeannie to the next LRC. Also hold a special LRC to be arranged to discuss the Age Discrimination Regulations. John to liaise Nick Darbyshire on this.

6.5 Union Learning

Paul Dovey circulated his report. Paul has now been appointed as the CWU's Project Manager for the English ULF Project and has been replaced by Simon Crisford who is from the North East London Branch and was Learning Co-ordinator for the Midlands. Simon introduced himself to the meeting.

7. Motions & Amendments.

None.

8. Any other competent business.

Union Reaching Out Project-Branch bids to go to Head Office and can have a letter of support from Regional Secretaries. If branches require this, send copy of bid to John and he will send supporting letter.

9. Dates of future meetings.

27 October 2006 at Community

19 January 2007 at Community