

UNISON Norfolk County Branch

AGM Minutes 2020

5/3/2020 Great Yarmouth

11/3/2020 Cromer

12/3/2020 King's Lynn

18/3/2020 Dereham

19/3/2020 Norwich

Attendance – Altogether 8 members attended the Gt. Yarmouth meeting- all other meetings cancelled due to pandemic.

1. Chairpersons Comments –
2. Apologies for Absence were received from 3 members
3. AGM Minutes – the minutes were agreed as accurate.
4. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.
5. Report of the Branch Executive – this was received by the meeting.
6. Major Business Items – none
7. Guest Speakers – none
8. Financial Statements –
 - i) Revenue accounts & balance sheet for the year end 31/12/2019 were received.
 - ii) Honoraria – the recommended rates were Agreed.
9. Stewards Elections – the tabled steward sheets were received.
10. Motions
 - i) Gifts & Hospitality – it was explained this was a Rule change which would see a scheme introduced whereby any gifts of, or to the value of, £30 or more had to be declared within the Branch & Region. It was explained the main purpose was to ensure that there was transparency and accountability to the members in the way Branch activists worked. 8 v 0

ii) UNISON & Gambling – Eamonn Burgess had contacted the Branch to complain about the way UNISON were supporting lotteries within publications sent to members, including our own lottery to raise money for the “There for you” welfare charity. Evidence had shown that such gambling was often targeted at the lower paid and could lead to people becoming problem gamblers. Eamonn thought it inappropriate for UNISON to be doing such a thing when many of our members were low paid. The Branch advised him that the only way to change UNISON’s policy on this was to draft a motion for our AGM with a view to the Branch taking a similar motion to conference. At the Gt Yarmouth meeting Alison Earll said the issue of gambling had been discussed at the recent Women’s Conference and it was recognised that lotteries were targeted at low paid women leading to the risk of addiction. The Gt Yarmouth meeting voted 8 v 0 in support of the motion.

11. Appointment of Officers – Andy Wade was added to the circulated list of nominations as Health & Safety Officer. The full list was agreed.

12. Local Issues in the Coming Year – There was an update on the NJC pay claim and a call for members to talk about the employers offer and encourage colleagues to vote as and when a ballot occurred as previously the turn out for such consultative ballots had been low across the country which acted as a green light to the employers to get away with poor offers.

i) Gt Yarmouth – Tina Baker reported that in GYBC a number of restructures loomed with some containing the risk of job losses. The Council’s budget was looking okay at present with one off funding going on a number of projects designed to increase work in the area. Tina added there was a need to ensure managers adhered to the various policies that existed to ensure fair treatment of the workforce and urged members to let her know if they had any concerns that this was not happening.

13. Questions & Answers – at Gt Yarmouth we were asked about the level of young membership in UNISON. It was reported that this had been identified as a priority area by UNISON as many young workers leave school with no idea of what a trade union was. A number of initiatives were under way such as specific recruitment materials, advertising on social media, young member groups, free membership in our Branch for apprentices on the national minimum wage.