

**MINUTES OF GMB MERTON BRANCH MEETING ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2024, MEETING HELD IN GMB OFFICE, CIVIC CENTRE, MORDEN**

1. Present:

Kathy Abu-Bakir – Branch President – chair of the meeting  
Marzena Zborowska-Huggett – Branch Secretary – minute taker  
Kim Marshall – Education Convenor  
Joanne Marshal – Equality Officer  
Gwyn Isaac – Branch Retired Members Officer  
Robert MacLaren – GMB representative  
Krystyna Tomaszewska – member  
Terry Chambers – member

2. Meeting opens at 17:10, President welcomes and opening remarks, introductions.

3. Agenda items:

- I. Notification of reports and any other business
  - None reports or any other business was notified.
- II. Minutes from previous meeting – Branch President apologised for delay in distributing minutes and advises that those will be sent before next meeting.
- III. Branch Vacancies – Youth Officer
  - Terry Chambers was nominated by Kim Marshall, seconded by Marzena Zborowska-Huggett and elected by all members present at the meeting for the role of Branch Youth Officer.
- IV. Branch Secretary Report
  - A. Branch Secretary reports increase of case work in comparison to last school year from 94 in 2022/2023 to 147 in 2023/2024. Branch also observed drop in membership during the summer holiday – this is due to redundancies in schools before the end of school year and staff movement. However, drop in membership in the summer months is a regular occurrence.
  - B. Branch Secretary reports admin restructure in Council where over 250 administrators received letter stating that they are under the scope and have been invited to workshops and to complete a survey. With this restructure the council is looking for savings of around £500,000 – which hopefully can be achieved through vacancies and reduction of agency staff. There is the possibility of staff with transferable skills can be moved to different sectors. Launch of formal consultation is planned in October.
  - C. Branch Secretary invited Robert MacLaren to give a brief report about the restructure in the section he works, regarding the withdrawal of section 75 agreement in ASC Public Health & Integrated Care
- V. Financial Report
  - Branch Secretary reports about account balance which is £5,866.82  
Branch recently spent: £63.00 on trolley bags for officers and £89.99 on new screen for the office.  
Branch agreed to a further spend of up to £100 on stationary items and to pay for subscription to Microsoft Office which cost £79.99 per year.
- VI. Education Convenor Report

- Kim Marshall reports about the progress and next steps of London Weighting Campaign. Kim informed the meeting that 7 local authorities are paying inner London weighting for teachers, but outer London weighting for support staff in schools, with Merton being one of the councils. The next step of the campaign will be a collective grievance that needs to be signed by support staff. Branch Secretary is in the process of organising meeting with council leader. Education Convenor informs that bulletin issued by Regional Office with school support staff demands has been shared with school reps and the Region has shared with all members.

VII. Equality Officer Report

Jo Marshall informs that regards of her promoting GRASP program amongst the members in Perseid there is no interest.

Jo Marshall informs about issues in Perseid school and the fact that H&S walk that was schedule and planned weeks in advance was declined by school management day before. Gwyn Isac advises to report this matter at Corporate H&S quarterly meeting.

Jo Marshall reports that there are the cases of wages deduction amongst support staff and that agreed in April pay upgrade for TA1 has not been implemented yet.

VIII. Local Government Forum + Local Authority Committee delegate election:

Robert MacLaren was nominated by Marzena Zborowska-Huggett, seconded by Jo Marshall and elected by all members present at the branch meeting for the role of delegate to Local Authority Committee.

IX. TUC Conferences Nominations

1. TUC Woman Conference  
Branch nominated Kim Marshall
2. TUC Black Workers Conference  
No nomination received – outstanding matter for the next branch meeting
3. TUC Young Workers Conference  
Branch nominated Terry Chambers
4. TUC Disable Worker’s Conference  
Branch nominated Kim Marshall
5. TUC LGBT+ Workers Conference  
No nomination received – outstanding matter for the next branch meeting
6. Branch Secretary informs that despite the promotion, branch did not received any nominations for Regional Race Conference.

X. Branch President’s closing remarks – date of the next Branch Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2024. Place GMB Office, Merton Civic Centre

- Branch President closes the meeting at 18:05