

MINUTES OF GMB MERTON BRANCH MEETING ON 23RD OF OCTOBER 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

Kim Marshall – Education Convenor

Joanne Marshall – Equality Officer

Gwyn Isaac – Branch Retired Members Officer

Terry Chambers – Youth Officer

Olayinka Adeboye – GMB representative

Robert McLaren – GMB representative

Lianne Thompson – GMB representative

2. Meeting opens at 17:00, President welcomes and opening remarks, introductions.

3. Agenda Items:

I. Apologies:

- Two apologies received.

II. Notification of reports and any other business:

- Two items reported by Branch Secretary as below.

III. Minutes from previous meeting – read and accepted, matters arising:

A) TUC Black Workers Conference 11th – 13th April 2025 nomination:

Branch nominated Lianne Thompson

B) TUC LGBT+ Workers Conference 26th-27th June or 3rd-4th July

No nomination received – outstanding matter for the next branch meeting. Action to provide more information on this matter.

IV. Branch Secretary Report:

Branch Secretary updates on Admin Staff Restructure in Council.

Branch Secretary reports that currently HR is reviewing grading within Merton Council and once the report is ready consultation with staff site will start.

Branch Secretary reports that staff site was informed that Children Social Services department will be affected by a restructure. In this case, it is very unlikely, that restructure will result in redundancies. Formal consultation has not yet begun.

V. Branch Account:

Branch Secretary reports that balance for last quarter was £6533.93

Since last meeting branch spent:

£324 - new laptop

£41.99 - shelf

£17 – kettle

£111.15 stationary

Branch Secretary propose purchase of merchandise, which was agreed by Branch, Branch acknowledged that the cost will be more than £300. Action for branch to check the price of pens, lanyards, trolley coins and to ask regional committee for approval.

Branch Secretary propose £500 per Quarter honorarium for Education Convenor as a recognition for the extra mile she does for branch and members. Branch Retired Members Officer seconds the proposal. Proposal was accepted unanimously by all members present at the meeting.

VI. Education Convenor Report:

Education Convenor gives background information about London Weighting Campaign in Merton and current stage of it. Education Convenor reports that ROT team booked visits in majority of schools in Merton. During those visits support staff will have opportunity to get information about the campaign and sign collective grievance. Branch had discussion about the matter.

Education Convenor reports that NJC pay award was accepted and that council will try to implement it (including back pay) in November or December pay.

LT raised concerns about Universal Credit issue related to back pay. Equality Officer raised issue around pay in Perseid School that is still not sorted since last meeting – Education Convenor stated that she organised Merton Payroll Officer to visit school and to sort this issue.

Education Convenor reports that Ursuline and St John Fischer School are in process of TUPE transfer to Sancta Familia Trust. Education Convenor shared concerns about funding for schools after transfer.

- VII. Congress 2025 nominations + motions
Branch Secretary informed about GMB Congress 2025 in Brighton and asked for nominations. Branch decided to move this point of agenda to next Branch meeting. Branch Secretary also asked for motions to be put forward to Branch and informed that the deadline is in January.
- VIII. Motion – Donation to NPC
Proposal of donation of £100 to NPC presented by Gwyn Isaac.
Motion seconded by Marzena Zborowska Branch Secretary
After debate motion was accepted unanimously by all members present at the meeting.
- IX. Affiliation to Merton and Sutton Trade Union Council
Item presented by Branch Secretary; affiliation unanimously agreed by all members present at the meeting.
- X. Any other business as notified at the start of the meeting
A) Election of Elected Organisers – Branch President informs that no further action is required from Branch in this matter
B) CLP nomination – Branch agrees to carry on affiliation to CLP where Kathy Abu-Bakir delegate.
- XI. Date of the next meeting 11th December – time end venue to be decided in near future.