

Minutes of the Scottish Water Branch Meeting held on 24th February 2009 Bullion House, Dundee

Present:

Willie Fortune	Fergus Allan	Andy Nisbet	Jim Gault
Elaine Noble	Steve Gordon	Jim Anderson	Steve O'Malley
Miranda Jacques-Turner			

Elaine Noble in the Chair

Item	Notes	Action by
1.0	<u>Apologies for absence</u>	
1.1	Apologies were received from: Steve Scott, David Wilkinson, Jim Anderson (Shetland).	
2.0	<u>Minutes of previous meeting (December 2008)</u>	
2.1	Minutes Approved as correct record: Proposed - WF Seconded: JSA	
3.0	<u>Matters Arising</u>	
3.1	<p>PAY – Issue of Low STAR Scorers in 2008</p> <p>A issue relating to the recent receipt of information whereby those members of staff who scored a '4' would be required to score a '3' for their STAR in 2009 before they were able to receive the full 4.75% (ensuring that they received the full 7.75% over 27 Months) was queried.</p> <p>The Branch agreed to seek clarity on the validity of this from Douglas Black FTO and the JTUG.</p>	AN/DW
4.0	<u>JTUG</u>	
4.1	See item 14.3 under ACOB.	
5.0	<u>Branch Officers Nominations for 2009</u>	
5.1	<p>All positions proposed at Quartile AGM's now ratified and confirmed at this executive meeting.</p> <p>Branch Officers for 2009.</p> <p>Andy Nisbet - Branch Secretary, Steve Scott - Depute Secretary, David Wilkinson - Chairperson, Elaine Noble - Vice Chairperson, Fergus Allan – Treasurer, Miranda Jacques-Turner - Publicity Officer,</p>	

	<p>Jim Gault - Equal Opportunities Office, Steven Gordon – Education Officer, Paul Hyles – H&S Officer.</p>	
5.2	Shop Stewards - A. Nisbet to receive from outgoing Branch Secretary list of all Stewards Nominations received for 2009 (SG to be forwarded this info. by AN)	SS/AN
6.0	<u>National Delegate Conference (June 2009 /Brighton)</u>	
6.1	<p>Branch Delegate Nominations</p> <p>The Branch Secretary (AN) asked for any other nominations of Branch delegates to NEC. No additional nominations received, proposals from last Branch Executive then debated and the following accepted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Delegation Leader – Andy Nisbet (Branch Secretary) 2) Female Delegate - Miranda Jacques Turner 3) Sharer – Jim Anderson 4) Visitor – TBA. 	AN / JSA
6.2	<p>NDC Agenda</p> <p>It was agreed that the agenda and motions being placed before the NDC would be discussed at the next Branch Meeting with view to assisting the Branch Delegates with guidelines on the Branches position on these motions.</p>	All
6.3	Branch Support for proposed LGBT Motion for NDC - Agreed, MJ-T to action	MJ-T
7.0	<u>Water & Environment Conference. (Sunday June 14th / Brighton)</u>	
7.1	<p>The Branch's delegates to this year's Water & Environment Conference, was debated and the meeting informed that D. Wilkinson had withdrawn his name as a possible attendee</p> <p>The following nominations were therefore approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andy Nisbet 2. Jim Anderson. 	AN/JSA
8.0	<u>Scottish Council</u>	
8.1	<p>The Branch's Delegates to the Scottish Council for 2009 agreed as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andy Nisbet 2. Fergus Allan 3. Jim Gault 	
9.0	<u>Seminar on Disability Issues in the Workplace (5/03/09 – Glasgow)</u>	
9.1	<p>The Branch Agreed to the following members attendance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul Hyles 2. Jim Anderson 3. Neil Fotheringham (Safety Rep. Forth Valley) 	

10.0	<u>Young Members Seminar (27th to 29th March)</u>	
10.1	This was brought to the Branch's attention and candidates would be sought to attend this, however these clash with the next Branch Exec and Development Day.	
11.0	<u>Branch Officers Reports</u>	
11.1	Equalities Officer EN made her last report before handing over this role to Jim Gault, on cases being dealt with i e. Contact Centre, Overtime Payments etc.	
11.2	Education Officer SG detailed Training Courses for the coming year. It was agree that all courses and possible attendees will be forwarded to the Branch for confirmation.	SG
11.3	Publicity Officer MJ-T gave update on new website and web domain proposals etc. The Branch officers present were able to view the new draft Website layout from her laptop and the improvements over the previous version noted. It was agreed that the Website domain Name should be UnisonSW.org. MJ-T to confirm	MJ-T
11.4	H&S Officer AN advised that Paul Hyles had accepted this role and that in future he would providing this report. AN reported on a couple of serious accidents involving our members and how these matters where being addressed by the Branch.	AN/ PH
12.0	<u>Branch Treasurers Report</u>	
12.1	FA gave an update on the current financial position which remains healthy. He also proposed the following changes to the Branch Account Authorised Signatories Add : Andy Nisbet Elaine Noble David Wilkinson Delete: Jim Anderson Iain Diamond	
12.2	It was also agreed that the Branch Account's "contact address" to be the Treasurers home.	FA
12.3	The Treasurer also indicated that he wished the Branch to change the next meeting date from 24 th March to the 27 th March in order to combine this with the Development Day to be staged by the Branch at the Dakota Hotel South Queensferry on 28 th March. This proposal was agreed, and the Branch Treasurer was tasked with advising all Branch Shop Stewards of this change.	FA FA
12.4	Alloa Resource Office	

	<p>The Treasurer outlined the costs being incurred by Branch for this arrangement and it was agreed that the Branch Secretary and the Treasurer would investigate the possibility of the Branch changing from Alloa to Belford Road for this service.</p>	AN/FA
13.0	<u>Service Conditions Issues</u>	
13.1	<p>Under Service Conditions Jim Anderson reported the ongoing situation with Customer Connection re- structuring and the disabled members being told they were at risk. In addition he advised that the members involved had raised the total lack of communication from the Branch, other than the Source newsletter.</p> <p>JA advised that he was continuing to investigate this issue and that he had a meeting scheduled with Kirsteen MacLean on 26th Feb 2009 about this.</p> <p>It was confirmed that S. O'Malley could also attend at this meeting, but due to business circumstance he advised that he would be unable to attend.</p>	JSA
13.2	<p>SW Contracting</p> <p>WF informed the Branch that SW Contracting was going through yet another re-structure. He also confirmed that to date no formal contact had been made with the Branch or its officers on this matter. WF advised that he would keep the Branch updated on this.</p>	WF
13.3	<p>Standby Issue</p> <p>Branch Advised that the Whom Failing system at present be used at Fort William is to be replaced by the Standby Operator taking the first call.</p> <p>The Branch Chair was delegated to contact the GMB who also have members involved in this proposed contractual change.</p>	DW
13.4	<p>Workplace Sexual Harassment</p> <p>Following a case of sexual harassment within SW, which was highlighted to the meeting by JSA, it was agreed that the Branch need to widely publicise the help that it can offer to its members in cases of this type. It was also agreed that an article on this topic would be prepared for the next issue of the Source by EN</p>	EN
13.5	<p>Hire Vehicle Issue</p> <p>JSA advised that a member had been given a SW vehicle and had been caught exceeding the vehicle's speed limit. He had not been informed of this limit, before taking to the road, nor had the vehicle displayed this information. SW advised him later, that this information was contained in Section 13 of the Vehicles Handbook. JSA to pursue this case with the member concerned</p>	JSA
13.6	<p>Lab Review</p> <p>This issue was raised, and the Branch confirmed that it will not agree to any non union employee representation on this or any other working group. EN and DW to represent the Branch on this matter.</p>	EN/ DW
14.0	<u>AOCB</u>	
14.1	<p>International Seminar_(17th /19th April London)</p> <p>The Branch agreed that Miranda Jacques-Turner would represent the SW</p>	

	Branch at this event	
14.2	<p>Venues of Branch Executive Meetings for 2009</p> <p>MJ-T raised the matter of the Branch Exec. Meetings being held in Douglas House Edinburgh rather than in suitable SW locations around Scotland. After a short discussion it was accepted that the proposed list of venues would remain as is.</p>	
14.3	<p>JTUG Meeting (27th February, West Campbell St., Glasgow)</p> <p>The matter of the possible lack of Branch Representation at this important JTUG meeting was raised. The Branch agreed that JSA would act as a substitute delegate for the Branch at this meeting in order to support AN and FA.</p>	AN/FA/ JSA
14.4	<p>Members Issues Qualification Period</p> <p>A recent incident was noted where a new member resigned from the Branch because they were informed that the issue that they wished their shop steward to help with could not be supported, as it had been ongoing for months and UNISON had a strict qualifying period for assisting new members. The actual qualifying period was then discussed. A short debate took place over whether this period was 13 weeks or 6 weeks.</p> <p>The Branch Secretary is now to seek clarity of the time period for this</p>	AN
15.0	<u>Next Meeting</u>	
15.1	The next Branch Meeting will take place on Friday 27 th March at 12.30pm at the Dakota Hotel in South Queensferry.	