

**ABERDEENSHIRE UNISON
MINUTE OF AGM (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING),
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7PM,
KINTORE ARMS HOTEL, HIGH STREET, INVERURIE.**

Kate Ramsden in the Chair.

Inez Teece, Branch Secretary advised of the following apologies in advance of the commencement of the AGM; Naida Sneddon, Les Chalmers, Ann Gray and Steve Gray.

Minute Taker: Scott Sutherland.

A full list of those in attendance and apologies received is held in the UNISON Grampian Resource Centre in Aberdeen.

1) CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS:

Kate Ramsden(Chairperson) opened the meeting by welcoming all present and introduced the panel, consisting of Inez Teece, Branch Secretary, Bob Slessor, International Officer/Vice-Chair(for AGM purposes only) and Scott Sutherland, Shop Steward/Minute Taker. Kate added that Sarah Duncan, Regional Organiser was present in the body of the meeting, as Sarah, as the independent scrutineer of the Branch election process, would be involved in the ballot count for elections to Branch positions.

Kate Ramsden (Chairperson) explained that two emergency motions had been received; Terms and Conditions and Support members in the community, voluntary and private care sector. Kate asked consent from the AGM to introduce the two emergency motions and move the order of the other motions around. The AGM agreed by a two thirds majority to admit both of the emergency motions and change the order of motions.

Kate explained the election process for Branch Officers and clarified that all posts are lay posts and candidates remain employees of Aberdeenshire Council, even if seconded to UNISON. Regarding the elections for Branch Secretary and Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded), normal redeployment procedures did not apply and any person displaced from their primary post due to UNISON elections would be found another Council post.

Kate highlighted that all members should have registered on arrival at the AGM and received ballot papers, unless they had previously voted by post. Retired members were not eligible to vote. Kate added that a hustings would take place involving the three candidates for the positions of Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded) and Branch Secretary.

2) APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS:

The AGM accepted and ratified Julie Neale and Morag Lawrence as tellers.

3) MINUTE OF THE 2011 AGM:

- a) The minute of the 2011 Annual General Meeting was tabled and approved.
- b) *Matters arising*; there were no matters arising.

4) ANNUAL REPORT:

The Annual Report was tabled and Branch Secretary Inez Teece spoke to it. Inez highlighted that the Branch was right last year to warn about impending budget cuts, job losses, reviews and cuts to existing terms and conditions of employment. Inez added that the situation will become more difficult in future years, but this was compensated by the Branch fighting back and being more proactive getting out and about, meeting with members. Inez concluded the summary and stated that recruitment to Aberdeenshire UNISON had been good over the past year.

Chairperson Kate Ramsden then opened the floor for debate and questions. Honorary Life Member (retired) Bob Revie highlighted a question regarding the change from RPI (retail price index) to CPI (consumer price index) and the consequent effect on pensions. Bob Revie added that he was aware that the matter had been referred to the High Court and asked if there had been any progress. Branch Secretary Inez Teece responded that UNISON is awaiting a decision from the High Court, but there was no clearly defined timescales.

Chairperson Kate Ramsden then asked the AGM if the annual report reflected the last year? There were no other contributions from the floor and the AGM accepted the Annual Report.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS:

Copies of the branch accounts had been previously tabled by Ian McDonald, Treasurer and available at the AGM. Chairperson Kate Ramsden paid tribute to Ian McDonald for many years of dedicated service as treasurer of Aberdeenshire UNISON. Ann Gray was confirmed as the new Treasurer in wake of Ian McDonald's retirement. Kate added that a huge vote of thanks was owed to Ian McDonald for doing a sterling job over the years. A round of applause from the AGM followed for Ian's valued service and commitment.

Chairperson Kate Ramsden opened the floor to debate and questions. One member raised the issue of why there was a high number of unrepresented cheques?

Branch Secretary Inez Teece replied that the Branch tries to ensure that cheques are properly cashed, but this did not always happen for a variety of reasons. Chairperson Kate Ramsden added that the matter regarding unrepresented cheques will be taken back to the Branch Committee. Kate confirmed that the Branch accounts were in the process of being audited.

There were no other contributions from the floor and the AGM accepted the Branch accounts.

6) ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS/STEWARDS:

A full list of nominations had been tabled and other than the elections for the posts of Branch Secretary and Assistant Branch Secretary (secondment), all non contested Branch Officers and Shop Stewards nominated on the list were ELECTED. The filling of vacant posts was referred to the Branch Committee.

Chairperson Kate Ramsden highlighted the need for more Stewards and invited any interested party to speak to a member of the Branch Committee or note their interest with a Branch Officer at the end of the AGM

Chairperson Kate Ramsden also explained that the Branch sent delegates to various UNISON Conferences, meetings and Committees outwith the North East of Scotland. The AGM accepted that the Branch Committee would ratify the delegates for these events.

Chairperson Kate Ramsden opened the floor for debate and questions. There were no further contributions from the floor and the list of nominations for Branch Officers and Shop Stewards was accepted by the AGM.

HUSTINGS:

Chairperson Kate Ramsden again outlined the voting procedure for Branch elections and clarified the arrangements for speeches from the three candidates. Kate advised the AGM that Bob Slessor Vice Chair (for AGM purposes) would ensure that all candidates adhered to time limits for their speeches. Kate clarified that Sarah Duncan Regional Organiser would oversee the process and supervise the counting of the ballot papers. She then called Bill Edwards and Susan Kennedy to speak.

Position of Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded):2 candidates.

Susan Kennedy and Bill Edwards then individually made their election speeches to the AGM. Chairperson Kate Ramsden then opened the floor for debate and questions. Susan and Bill responded to a number of issues raised from the floor by members. One member contended that no voting should have taken place until after the hustings.

Position of Branch Secretary: 2 candidates.

Bill Edwards and Inez Teece then individually made their election speeches to the AGM. Chairperson Kate Ramsden then opened the floor for debate and questions.

At the conclusion of the hustings, Chairperson Kate Ramsden confirmed that there were no more questions from the floor. Kate advised anyone who had still to vote to do so now by marking their ballot papers and the Tellers (Julie Neale and Morag Lawrence) would ensure that all ballot papers were completed and duly collected for counting. Kate then checked again that every person at the AGM had taken the opportunity to vote before declaring the hustings closed. This was accepted by the AGM.

7. MOTIONS.

7.1 EMERGENCY MOTION 1- TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Proposed by Inez Teece and seconded by Susan Kennedy.

After a full discussion, with a great many contributions from the floor, this emergency motion was CARRIED.

7.2 EMERGENCY MOTION 2- UNISON SUPPORT TO MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND PRIVATE CARE SECTOR.

Proposed by Norman Smith (Cornerstone) and seconded by Tony Brennan (Cornerstone).

After discussion and contributions from the floor, this emergency motion was CARRIED.

Moving to the formal motions notified in advance to the AGM, Chairperson Kate Ramsden indicated that Bob Slessor would assume the Chair during any part of the debate in the motions which involved Kate speaking.

7.3 MOTION 1- THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE:

Proposed by the Branch Committee.

Moved by Kate Ramsden and formally seconded.

This motion was CARRIED. Kate Ramsden stated that this resolution will go forward to UNISON National Conference.

7.4 MOTION 2- END CHILD POVERTY:

Proposed by the Branch Committee.

Moved by Kate Ramsden and formally seconded.

This motion was CARRIED. Kate Ramsden stated that this resolution will go forward to UNISON National Conference.

7.5 MOTION 3- BUDGET CUTS:

Proposed by the Branch Committee.

Moved by Inez Teece and seconded by Kate Ramsden,

This motion was CARRIED.

7.6 MOTION 4- FUEL POVERTY:

Proposed by the Branch Committee.

Moved by Susan Kennedy and formally seconded.

This motion was CARRIED. Kate Ramsden stated that this resolution will go forward to UNISON National Conference.

7) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Nothing was notified to the Chairperson in advance. However, Chairperson Kate Ramsden paid tribute to Jim Murphy (Inspire), a long standing member of the Branch Committee for many years. A round of applause followed for Jim Murphy who was present at the AGM.

8) ELECTION RESULTS:

Chairperson Kate Ramsden then invited Regional Organiser Sarah Duncan to confirm the outcome of the elections for Branch Secretary and Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded),

Sarah confirmed that 117 votes had been cast in total, split as follows:

71 votes for Bill Edwards for the position of Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded).

45 votes for Susan Kennedy for the position of Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded).

Bill Edwards was duly elected as Assistant Branch Secretary (seconded).

As agreed previously, Bill Edwards then withdrew his nomination for the position of Branch Secretary. **This meant Inez Teece was elected as Branch Secretary unopposed.**

9) CLOSE OF MEETING:

Chairperson Kate Ramsden thanked all those who attended for their contributions to the AGM and praised the large turnout. Kate also thanked the Branch Officers, Stewards and the dedicated Team of Support Staff at the UNISON Grampian Resource Centre in Aberdeen.

The meeting was closed at 08:40pm.

