

# Branch Meeting - 17 October 2013

Council Chamber, WF Town Hall

Attendees: 27 members attended. Meeting was inquorate.

1. **Apologies:** Gary Nash, George Beattie, Gabby Guarino, Gill Moriarty
2. **Black list Support Group:** Christian Clark (blacklisted worker and invited speaker) addressed the meeting about the Blacklist Support Group.
  - There are approximately 3,000 blacklisted building workers on the Consulting Association files
  - Many were blacklisted as long ago as 1989.
  - The campaign is organising a Lobby of Parliament on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
  - Question of European Trade Union Council getting involved. We are not sure whether European Trade Unions have been directly involved.
  - The proposed motion could not be taken but the Branch Committee is already are campaigning to get Waltham Forest Council to agree a motion to boycott all blacklisting companies.
3. **Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign:** Len Hockey of the UNISON Waltham Forest Health Branch Secretary addressed the meeting.
  - The Health Branch Chair, Charlotte Monroe faces disciplinary measures.
  - The Barts Hospital Trust, with which Whipps Cross Hospital has been forced to merge, is running with a 2 million pound a week deficit. £78 million is targeted to be saved this year.
  - Price Waterhouse Cooper are involved along with Donald Muir (the disgraced Glasgow Rangers Chair) in planning how that money will be saved.
  - The UNISON branch believes that Barts will be looking at Privatisation; especially as our government are talking 'down' the NHS. Every day seems to bring a bad news story on the NHS.
  - The Health and Social Care Act now paves the way for private individuals to get rich from the NHS.
  - Merging with Barts has proved disastrous as Whipps is now burdened with the Barts PFI debts that run to over £114 million.
  - The branch believe that there could be a loss of 1000 posts
  - On 24<sup>th</sup> October – Charlotte Monroe faces a disciplinary hearing. There will be more details if a lobby is planned.
  - Cuts and re-organisation loom at the hospital and local community support will be needed if we are to campaign successfully to keep services intact.
4. **Pay Campaign 2014**
  - Low morale in trade union means there is little stomach for a fight over pay.

- Discussion about how we lift the mood of our members including raising the UNISON presence in the workplace, electing reps and time off to attend meetings arrangements.

#### **5. Pensions Update**

The branch secretary gave a brief update and focussed on a branch wide plea for Governance reps so the trade union side can keep up its side of the bargain and can provide the reps required for us to be able to influence the investment policies of our scheme.

#### **6. Workplace Reports**

South Grove Primary reorganisation  
Kick/Out Campaign  
Ascham Homes – problems at Cedar Wood House

Were all discussed.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

Today's NUT strike action and petition of support were brought to the meeting's attention as was the FBU petition.

Dave Knight  
Branch Secretary