**Minutes**

**Z60 Branch AGM**

**April 9th 2018**

**Present:**  Dawn Roberts, Debbie Armiger, Nick Armiger,Denis Way, Elaine Stewart Moss, Jamie Sheridan, Robert Redford, Sharon Grimes, Dawn Lovatt, Colin Todd, Andy Sroga, Matt Buckley.

**Apologies Received**: Kate Channon, Sheila Stamp

Not Present: Chris Hanns, Vince Dobbs, Rod Heyward, Elaine Taylor, Matt Fields, Shaun Turner

Presidents Report

The branch president D. Roberts, welcomed everyone to the AGM and spoke about a year of trails and tribulations in relation to the UK workforce and the ever-approaching Brexit and how this was a worrying time for employees and union representatives, in light of probable changes to the current existing employment laws. Dawn stated that as reps we should, where possible, keep ourselves updated through these changes and attend some of the informative training sessions either online or by attending in person, when these sessions are made available through our regional and national body.

The role of a rep is a challenging and changing one, and regardless of workplace, it was important that we support each other, both Matt and Dawn are available for advice and as a listening ear to all those within the branch, if and when challenges are faced and that extra little bit of support is required when our full-time officer is unavailable.

Z60 places its members and reps at its heart, and this includes those family members who also have to often pay the price for time spent preparing for a case or attending meetings etc, so it is important that as we move forward together we recognise those that support us within our own homes.

Secretary’s Report

Matt welcomed everyone to the AGM and spoke about the previous year in which it had been a very positive one. It had grown by nearly 600 members mainly down to members that had been transferred into our branch from schools. Our main aim was to consolidate the membership by when having the opportunity to represent members in these schools to recruit in their as well. Lots of promotional stuff has been bought with a view to leaving in these workplaces to promote and become more noticed. I thank everyone for their hard work throughout the year and asked that we continue to make the GMB feel like a family in which support is always there not only for our members but ourselves too. It is one of the great qualities that the GMB has that sets it apart from other unions and should be promoted and harvested in our recruitment work we do. I have enjoyed my last year as secretary in which i have always looked to be organised and on time with minutes, motions, paperwork, ect but wants the role of secretary to remain a yearly opportunity to elect another person to keep our branch fresh and more democratic than a lot of other branches that only vote three yearly.

The Role of Officers

The following roles are

Branch President - Dawn Roberts (unopposed)

Branch Secretary - Matt Buckley (unopposed)

Branch Equality and Diversity Officer - Dawn Lovett (unopposed)

Branch Young Persons Officer - Kate Channon (unopposed)

Branch Retired Members Officers - Andy Sroga and Denis Way (unopposed)

Branch Publications Officer (Branch Magazine) - Jamie Sheridan (unopposed)

Branch Auditors - Andy Sroga and Denis Way (unopposed)

A new role of a social activity officer was suggested in line with family and social events throughout the year. Nick Armiger was proposed as suitable for this post and accepted to a unanimous vote. The role is unpaid and Nick will be supported by the branch president.

It was proposed and unanimous in vote agreed, that the current honorarium in regards to reps remains the same. £50 per rep per quarter with £10 per branch meeting attended which equates to £80 a quarter. A rep that doesn't attend branch meetings will have their amount stopped. This is to be amended by quarterly.

Dawn R is an active rep within the branch as well as carrying out her active presidents role. Because she goes into a variety of workplaces and represents a fair amount of members, Colin T proposed that as well as the honorarium presidents payment Dawn R is paid for her rep work the same as other reps in the branch. This went to vote and was unanimous. Matt will add this too to honorarium payments.

Branch goals and campaigns remain effective and we continue to strive to find a campaign that will benefit not just union members but members of the public.

The following proposals and changes were received and discussed

1. Retired members Xmas Party.

This was thought by all to be an integral part of the branch, and that this continues in longevity. However, a proposal was brought forward in that Andy Sroga and Denis Way are to be the only ones responsible for the organisation and the delivery of this on the nominated days. It was noted that at last years event, those whom it was felt, left this branch in disgrace had too much input into the event and that the vote was taken for them to have no further input into the running of the event and the day.

1. Branch Social Events

As outlined in the president’s speech to the meeting it was voted as unanimous in the organising of branch social events and that a nominated officer be called to do this. Nick Armiger was accepting of the post and will bring to the next branch meeting the ideas he has on this issue to ensure that members and families are catered for as part of Z60s ethos. Nick will be assisted in the first year of office by the branch president.

1. Branch Presentations

As part of the social aspect of the branch it was thought important to incorporate a branch presentations evening within the social calendar. Nominations will be required later in the year from branch and also members and those who are in receipt of votes will receive an award. More details of this to be discussed at future branch meetings.

1. Full time officer

We appreciate that Colin is a busy person and it was requested that once per month 30 mins is set aside at the regular meetings in order for Colin to be approached by attending reps if required to give advice or support on any matter that is thought pressing. Colin agreed to this and facility time for this will be discussed at the next meeting in order for dates to be identified.

1. Branch Library

Colin has agreed to the storage of a branch library at the main office. Reps /members are asked to contribute any old books they wish to recycle to this on union based, political literature as way of a sharing venture. A track and trace system will be in operation.

1. Effective communication is a core component of a good branch. Please keep workplaces up to date on relevant union info either via the notice boards or via social media. Reps are requested to add members from their workplaces to our facebook page and signpost people to our main Z60 branch website. Recent research has shown that most information by members is sourced via electronic media. This has been growing over recent weeks and should continue throughout the year.

AGM Ended.