



Blaenau Gwent County Branch



THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2023

12.00noon - 1.00pm

via Microsoft TEAMS

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Meeting ID: 347 756 645 195

Passcode: zS3gQW

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AGENDA

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes from 2022 AGM (for accuracy)

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Auditors' Report

Honoraria

Election of Officers

Branch Assessment

Motions

**Guest Speakers: Claire Nash Thompson's, Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester (via TEAMS)**

County Borough of Blaenau Gwent

Burdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA TEAMS

ON TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT:

Helen Sullivan, Leigh Taylor, Terry Fraser, Jim Thomas, Jessica Turner, Leeann Turner, Claire Wall, Mary Welch, Audra Williams, Lee Williams, Allyson Morgan, Allyson Roberts, Damien Assinder, Caitlin Bann, Sian Beard, Claire Smith, Matthew Smith, Steve Smith, Nadine Lewis, Neville Southall, Steve Osbourne, Nichola Peachy, Lynn Phillips, Lee Powell, Andrea Prosser, Dave Rees, Jayne Sarah Roberts, Tracey Roberts, Ian Robins, Clive Rogers, Louise Rosser, Natalie Schoflied, Simon Spree, Simon Green, Nathan Harper, Joanne Hawkins, Justin Hodges, Isabel Jukes, Mike Jackson, Gareth Jenkins, Tracey Jenkins, John Wright, Jon Daniels, Chloe Jones, Paul Jones, Hannah Meyrick, Jonathan Morgan, Lewys Morgan, Peter Morgan, Gethyn Bennett, Claire Nash (Thompsons), Janice Collins, Judith Cosgrove, Joan Davies, Katrina Davies, Bernadette Elias, Dave Elias, Delwyn Evans, Sian Steadman, Claire Skelly, Joanne Sims, Kris Rogers, Mike Price, Melinda Powell, Carol Powell, Amanda Phillips, Paul Hunter, Catherine Parker, Andrew Parker, Rebecca Pagett, Joanne Oates, Julie Morgan, Greg Morgan, Andrew Long, Simon Line, Lynne Gardner, Sally Ann Jones, Stuart Jones, Simon Key, Karl Hale, Nathan Harper, Chris Herbert, Simon Jennings, Andrea Jones, Deborah Jones, Emma Jones, Ceri Jones, Lisa Jones, Nicola Jones, Paul Jones, (Resources), Matthew Stent, Anthony Taylor, Alun Watklns, Dave Watkins, Steph Williams, Dan Perkins, Rebecca Morris, Rhys Pearce, Suzanne Williams, Andrew Taylor, Keri Ball-Robins, John Cooke, Ceri Bird, Mandy Butcher, Peter Butcher, Claire Congreve, Catherine Cuss, Dave Davies, Nicola Street Davies, Claire Edmunds, Claire Gardner, Hugh Griffin, Lisa Griffin, Tim Griffin.

APOLOGIES: Phil Diamond, Gillian Bennett

Dave Rees, Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their support at this difficult time.

1. Minutes of AGM Meeting 21st February 2021 - (Accuracy)

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record

Proposed: Dan Perkins Seconded: Rhys Pearce

2 Chairs Report

The Chair reported this has been a difficult year due to the cost of living crisis. He thanked the officers for all their efforts throughout the pandemic and especially during the last week with the consequences of storm Eunice.

The Chair intends to send out a survey to try to establish why members seem reluctant to take part in a vote for industrial action. The Chair is hopeful the pay rise will be ratified today for the March pay.

The Chair stated that agile working did not suit everyone and the branch recognised that and pointed out that Blaenau Gwent were the only authority to pay an allowance towards furniture.

The Chair then went on to discuss with members the impact the closure of the Civic Centre would have on staff accommodation. 85% of staff were now working from home/hybrid. Following the discussion, it was proposed by Alyson Roberts and Seconded by Sian Beard for all future AGMs to be Hybrid.

The Chair thanked the team for all their efforts this year.

3 Treasurers Report

This has been another difficult year but the branch has a healthy surplus and will explore arranging extra social activities next year. The branch is no longer sharing administration functions with the Monmouthshire branch.

The Treasurer thanked the auditors Helen Sullivan and Carol Fry for verifying the accounts. Proposed: Dave Elias Seconded: Rebecca Morales

4 Auditors Report

Helen thanked Carol for assisting her with the accounts. The accounts are all in order and Helen said she was sure that the Chair will take on board our minor recommendations
Proposed: Tracy Jenkins Seconded: Simon Spree

5 Honoraria

Alyson Roberts said that everyone on the list to receive honoraria had worked hard over and above their day jobs which deserved recognition. The Chair then asked the meeting to endorse the honoraria proposals.

Proposed: Dan Perkins Seconded: Gethyn Bennett

Moved by a show of hands

6 Election of Officers

The Chair advised that there are still a few unfilled posts. Louise Rosser is now Equalities Officer and will be co-opted to the role of Deputy Treasurer at the next Executive

7 Branch Assessment

The Chair advised that our Regional Officer Jessica Turner is taking up a new position and he thanked her for her work and wished her good luck in her new venture. The Regional Officer thanked the branch officers for their work this year and explained the forward plan for the year which includes recruiting more young members, utilising retired members as a reserve and exploring ways to keep in touch with members as a result of agile working.

8 Questions to Guest Frank Bruno

Dave Rees thanked Frank on behalf of the branch for attending.

DR: Can you explain how mental health issues have played a part in your life?

FB: It's nice people can come out and express themselves especially men. Women can cry but men don't talk about it, things like bi-polar I think men suffer the most.

DR: You've had a few relapses, how are you now?

FB: Very well and coping every day, I go to the gym and chill out.

DR: How were you as a child how about your education were you different?

FB: There were six in the family I was the youngest and was spilit. I had my own bedroom but when family came over from Jamaica they would crowd into my room. I had to go to borstal it was horrible at first but when I left I felt I had done well and felt proud of myself.

DR: What can you tell us about Mike Tyson

FB: He was body popping in the fight, I went to New York when I was 19 and we were sparring partners.

DR: How did it feel to be world champion?

FB: Unbelievable I went to the top of the hill and came back down again, dream come true, I feel grateful for the support and humble.

DR: What was your motivation?

FB: I was out for two years with a detached retina and I did pantomime, it's a different mindset, you have to do other things.

DR: You were the youngest ABA Champion do you still hold that title?

FB: Yes, I fought a welsh boxer but he's no longer with us.

DR: What was it like when Terry Lawless rang you with the offer of becoming a boxer?

FB: We didn't have a phone, someone came to the door, mum was a lay preacher and didn't like boxing but when they mentioned money she changed her mind. I used to do jobs on a building site.

DR: What was borstal like?

FB: It was a good school but I had dyslexia and hated the first year and was street fighting over small things but I was proud at the end

DR: Anthony Joshua has had the odd defeat and is a credit to boxing what are your views on him?

FB: Not sure he's wavered a bit something is going wrong he was knocked over by a tele tubby but them came back.

DR: Can you tell us about your charity?

FB: The Frank Bruno Foundation for Mental Health, we have everyone from 5 to 85, teaching you how to look after yourself properly

DR: It would be fantastic if you could start one in Blaenau Gwent, tell us about your book.

FB: 60 years a fighter showed how I lasted so long.

DR: What was your relationship with Harry Carpenter like?

FB: I was scared of him he was well to do but we ended up friends we did the Royal Variety Show; he was like a favourite uncle.

DR: How did you feel when they prescribed you drugs to help with your mental health?

FB: Not nice, horrible side effects I tried to take myself out of it by doing yoga, sport, gym it's best if you try to get through it another way and have a strong mind and body it's the best way to get through.

DR: Do you have any hobbies?

FB: I'm a frustrated DJ, love music and gym work.

DR: Do you have any taste in modern music?

FB: R & B but some of the words are disgraceful and rude but can still get you jigging. My favourite is Chris Rea's Driving Home for Christmas

DR: Thank you for your time, when things improve and social distancing is over we will invite you to visit Blaenau Gwent we wish you every success, love from Wales and stay safe.

9 Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked the executive for their work during an extremely difficult year

JEC

25th February 2022



County Borough of Blaenau Gwent Branch Honoraria Proposals 2022

Honoraria are discretionary one-off payments made to elected branch committee members to recognise their voluntary work for the branch.

POST	Name	2021 £	Proposed 2022 £
Secretary	Ian Robins	800	720
Welfare Officer	Simon Spree	200	-
Social Services Convenor	Mike Jackson	200	250
Chairperson	Dave Rees	-	-
Equalities Officer /Women's Officer	Louise Rosser	225	250
Treasurer	Jonathan Morgan	750	750
Leisure Trust Reps	Alison Roberts Hayley Wright	- -	- -
Black Members Officer	Vacant	100	-
Communications Officer	Rhys Pearce	225	250
Schools Convenor	Simon Key	325	325
Health & Safety Officer	Damian Assinder	350	350
Education & Training Officer	Phil Diamond	225	-
International Officer	Neville Southall	200	200
Minutes Secretary	Janice Collins	200	225
Auditors (2 Posts)	Carol Fry Helen Sullivan	150 150	150 150
LGBT Officer	Vacant	-	-
Home Care Convenor	Izzy Jukes	200	200
Young Members Officer	Luke Walden	-	-
JNC / Chief Officers Lead	Vacant	-	-
Tai Calon Reps	Vacant	- -	- -
Environment & Waste Rep	Rob O'Neil	100	100
	TOTALS	£4,300	£3,920

Total for 2021 £4,300
Total for 2022 £3,920

General Fund Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31st December 2022

	This Year	Last Year
Branch Funding	£42,112.15	£43,772.85
Branch Levy	£0.00	£0.00
Investment Income Received	£0.00	£0.00
Tax deducted or paid on Investment Income	£0.00	£0.00
Retired Members Subscriptions	£0.00	£0.00
Other Income	£131.45	£0.00
Regional Pool Income	£0.00	£19,800.00
Transfer from Industrial Action Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Transfer from Dedicated Action Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Total Income	£42,243.60	£63,572.85
Staff Salaries	-£75.64	£24,110.05
Rent	£0.00	£0.00
Utilities	£0.00	£0.00
Other administration	£9,126.04	£15,845.75
Honoraria	£4,300.00	£4,300.00
Conferences and group meetings	£13,644.39	£283.43
Branch Committee	£3,116.55	£1,521.44
Other Meetings	£1,003.94	£701.94
Publicity	£3,531.03	£10,840.82
Education	£1,114.06	£881.90
Donations	£150.00	£50.00
Affiliations	£0.00	£0.00
Local Activities	£3,302.08	£755.11
Transfer to Industrial Action Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Transfer to Dedicated Action Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Other Expenditure	£0.00	£591.15
Other Branch Funding Deductions	£0.00	£0.00
Rates	£0.00	£0.00
Fighting Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Tax	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£39,212.45	£59,881.59
Surplus/Deficit	£3,031.15	£3,691.26

Consolidated Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31st December 2022

	This Year	Last Year
Fixed Assets		
Freehold Properties	£0.00	£0.00
Leasehold Properties	£0.00	£0.00
Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	£8,889.25	£6,292.36
Investments (Quoted & Unquoted)	£0.00	£0.00
Total Fixed Assets	£8,889.25	£6,292.36
Current Assets		
Branch Funding	£0.01	£0.05
Debtors (Third Party)	£360.00	£1,390.00
Loans	£0.00	£0.00
Building Society	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Deposit	£0.00	£0.00
Current Account	£57,835.92	£65,027.58
Prepaid Card	£1,045.10	£2,399.70
Cash	£0.00	£0.00
Total Current Assets	£59,241.03	£68,817.33
Current liabilities		
Branch Funding	£0.00	£0.00
Third Party	£1,699.99	£11,710.55
HO Loans	£0.00	£0.00
Locally Collected Subscriptions	£0.00	£0.00
Credit Card	£0.00	£0.00
Total Current Liabilities	£1,699.99	£11,710.55
Net Current Assets	£57,541.04	£57,106.78
Total Assets	£66,430.29	£63,399.14
Accumulated General Fund at year beginning	£47,891.80	£44,200.54
Brought Forward Balance Adjustment	£0.00	£0.00
Funds transferred/received on merger	£0.00	£0.00
Surplus/Deficit	£3,031.15	£3,691.26
Accumulated General Fund at year end	£50,922.95	£47,891.80
Accumulated Industrial Action Fund at year beginning	£15,507.34	£15,507.34
Surplus/Deficit	£0.00	£0.00
Accumulated Industrial Action Fund at year end	£15,507.34	£15,507.34
Accumulated Dedicated Fund at year beginning	£0.00	£0.00
Surplus/Deficit	£0.00	£0.00
Accumulated Dedicated Fund at year end	£0.00	£0.00
Total Funds at End of the Year	£66,430.29	£63,399.14

Auditor's Report

UNISON Blaenau Gwent County Borough Branch

Please find enclosed copies of:-

- General fund Income and Expenditure Account for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.
- General fund Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022.

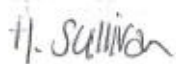
We have examined the books and the accounts of the Blaenau Gwent Branch of UNISON and in our opinion the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet give a true and fair view of the financial position of the branch as at 31st December 2022.

Branch Auditors:

Carol Fry:



Helen Sullivan:



Date: 1st February 2023.

UNISON
County Borough of Blaenau Gwent
Officer Nominations

Post	Nominee
Joint Secretaries	Ian Robins/Daniel Perkins
Chairperson	Dave Rees
Treasurer	Jonathan Morgan
Women's Officer	Louise Rosser
Assistant Women's Officer	Vacant
Schools Convenor	Simon Key
Social Services Convenor	Mike Jackson
Health & Safety Officer	Damien Assinder
Communications Officer	Rhys Pearce
Education & Training Officer	Phil Diamond
Equalities Officer	Kath Hares
Welfare Officer	Luke Walden
International Officer	Neville Southall
Sports & Social Secretary	Vacant
Young Member's Officer	Luke Walden
Minutes Secretary	Janice Collins
Branch Auditors	Helen Sullivan/Carol Fry
LGBT Officer	Vacant
Black Members Officer	Vacant
Regional Home Care Convenor	Izzy Jukes
Labour Link Officer	Dave Rees
Retired Member / Pensions Champion	John Wright

The above-named Officers are nominated unopposed and are deemed elected, subject to AGM approval.

The Branch reserves the right to fill any vacant posts and approve new officers and steward nominations throughout the year



We still have vacancies for Stewards across all workplaces so any nominations or volunteers would be very welcome. Full training will be offered to anyone volunteering.

Officers of the union take the lead on specific areas of activity and work in close liaison with our Stewards and Workplace Contacts to ensure that we deliver effectively for our members.

Specific training is available for many of these positions so don't feel that you will be on your own if you stand, or persuade a colleague to stand. There is only one qualification for officers, they need to be a member of the union; having an interest or experience of the specific areas of activity would of course be welcomed.

Stewards are the backbone of UNISON; they act as a link between members and the union in our workplaces. All new stewards have the right to paid time off for training which UNISON provides. New stewards also have the backup of more experienced officers should the need arise.

Your workplace will be a much stronger place should you nominate someone to act on your behalf, and remember different stewards get involved to differing degrees, so don't worry if you feel you don't have that much time, just being a presence in the workplace is often enough.

If you are interested, please contact the UNISON Office:

**General Offices
Steelworks Road
Ebbw Vale NP23 6AA**

Tel: 01495 355252
Email: UnisonOfficeAdmin@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Website: www.unisoningwent.org.uk



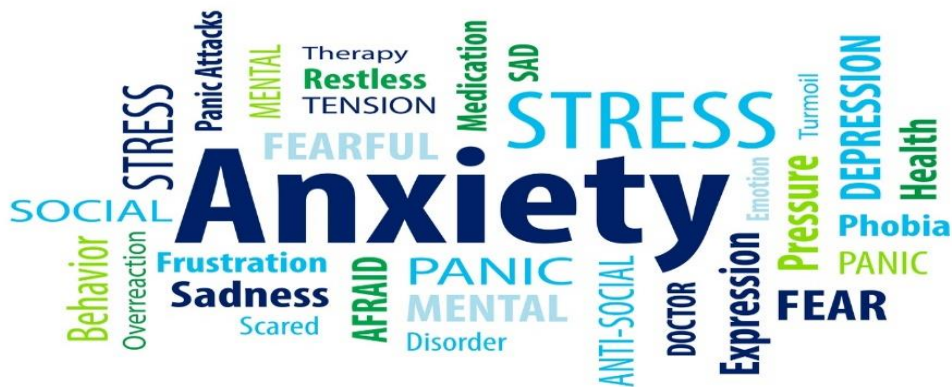
LET'S TALK

Blaenau Gwent UNISON, in conjunction with other local Unison Branches are now able to offer members a new Talking Therapies initiative, which is accessed by completing a simple referral form. We can then put you in touch with a counsellor who can offer online or telephone support for issues such as work-related stress, anxiety and depression.



Sessions can be accessed quickly and arranged at a time to suit you. This support is offered free to all Blaenau Gwent UNISON members.

If you would like to take up this opportunity, please email unisonmon@btconnect.com and a referral form will be sent to you. If you would like us to complete the form for you over the telephone, please call 01291 675502 leaving your name, number and best time to call, and we can call you back to go through this with you.



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(Charity registration number: 1023552 / SCO38305)

UNISON's registered charity provides a unique confidential service just for UNISON members and their families. They offer:

- debt service
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- wellbeing breaks

Telephone: 020 7121 5620

Email: thereforyou@unison.co.uk

www.unison.org.uk/thereforyou



Eligibility - To be eligible to apply for financial assistance, you must have been a member of UNISON for at least four weeks and up-to-date with your subscriptions. Also, that the financial difficulties that led you to apply occurred after you joined. Partners or dependants can also apply.



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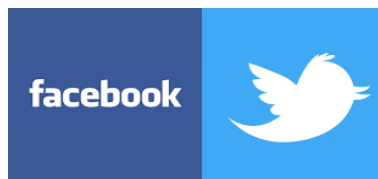
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Unison Blaenau Gwent County Borough Branch
General Offices
Steelworks Road
Ebbw Vale NP23 6AA

01495 355252

UnisonOfficeAdmin@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Website: www.unisoningwent.org.uk

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