



Branch meeting minutes

Thursday 4 December 2025, 6.30pm in-person in Croydon Town Hall and by Zoom

- 1. Present:** there were 3 people in the room and 12 on Zoom. *In the room:* Branch Secretary Pete Raven, Branch Officers Matthew Connolly and Megan Dobney; *on Zoom:* Branch Officers Paul Campbell, Andrea Gilbert, Adam Hughes, plus 6 branch members.
- 2. Introductions:** the Branch Secretary welcomed members to the meeting.
- 3. Apologies:** Maggie Hughes, Yvonne Prendergast, Jack Ryan
- 4. Minutes of last meeting 11 September 2025:** agreed with no matters arising.
- 5. Delegates to GMB Congress 2026** Congress will be held in Blackpool 7-11 June 2026. Attendance is also required on Friday 27 March in the regional office, and Saturday 6 June in Blackpool.

Pete said 2 members had indicated their interest by the closing date: Andrea Gilbert and Adam Hughes. It was agreed that Andrea would be the main delegate and Adam would be the “10% support” delegate. Pete will complete the paperwork and inform the Interim regional secretary as soon as practicable.

- 6. Motions to Congress** Three motions had been received and were discussed and approved.
 - From Adam Hughes on Neurodiversity Coaching and Training for GMB Representatives. There was some discussion from members on whether such courses already exist and Pete will check.
 - From Andrea Gilbert on Divestment of Wandsworth Council’s Pension Funds from companies complicit in human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It was agreed that Pete would tweak the motion to be more suitable for GMB Congress.

- From Chris Wongsosaputro on Justice for Chinese Seafarers. Chris asked, and it was agreed, that he may tweak the motion in the light of expected further information.

Pete said he had also received 2 motions after the closing date from Andrea. It was agreed these would be put to the forthcoming Team Meeting for discussion and possible submission.

7. **Branch update** Pete reported:

- A bit of a drop in membership (136 less in the last 3 months) to 7,816. This was primarily due to the 2025 Congress decision to institute a charge for retired members of £13.05 a year. Thus the drop in subs income is minor (they previously paid no subs) but any drop impacts on our work for the working membership.
- Over the last quarter we had an excess of income over outgoings of about £700. We also have about £27,000 in our account – but this is necessary as just a few days of industrial action can deplete it. As a Branch with around 3,000 workplaces, we don't have a bedrock of organised workplaces with reps on full time release. Branch income covers honoraria for Accompanying Reps, promotional materials, strike pay and admin costs such as travel. He would like to increase the honoraria Accompanying Reps receive and will be looking at this in due course.
- We have a current pay dispute at APCOA in Bromley. Traffic wardens from this office are paid less than colleagues in other areas. On 22 November we had a well-attended march through Bromley to promote the dispute and further action is being discussed whilst the company brings in employees from their other offices to strike break.
- Pete reminded members that the GMB does not represent members with issues with their employers if those issues pre-date their membership. However we do support them with telephone advice.
- Pete said there will be a Team Meeting for Accompanying Reps on Monday 15 December, and also that Matthew will be doing less case work and giving more support to officers organising in Bromley schools.

8. **Any other business**

- Chris Wongsosaputro asked that he be nominated to the Regional Equality Forum and Conference. This was agreed. Pete will send him the necessary paperwork.

9. **Next Branch meeting** Dates for 2026 will be circulated after the Team Meeting.

10. **Close** 19.18