



## Branch meeting minutes

**Thursday 11 September 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 President Maggie Hughes and Branch Officer Jack Ryan, plus 9 branch members.
- 2. Introductions:** the Branch Secretary welcomed members to the meeting.
- 3. Apologies:** none received
- 4. Minutes of last meeting 19 June 2025:** Pete apologised that he hadn't sent out the minutes of the previous meeting but will ensure that the minutes of this meeting are circulated.
- 5. Delegates to GMB Congress 2026** Delegates would be decided at the next meeting so this item was advisory. Pete said we would have 2 (or 3) delegates from the branch to Congress. Anyone who is interested should email him before 16.00 on Friday 28 November on [peter.raven@gmbactivist.org.uk](mailto:peter.raven@gmbactivist.org.uk). Congress will be held in Blackpool 6-11 June 2026. If delegates can't get paid release from their employer they may need to take annual leave to attend. Delegates will also be required to attend a regional briefing on a date in April/May.  
  
Maggie asked if childcare is available – we believe so but Peter will check.  
  
A member said he had attended before, was he eligible to express an interest a second time? Pete said yes, but that no delegate can attend more than 2 years consecutively.
- 6. Motions to Congress** Again, this item was advisory and motions would be discussed and agreed on at the next meeting. Motions should be emailed to him by the 28 November as above. Motions can be on any matter – GMB business, legislation etc, but should cover new matters – they will be checked by Region to see they are not already GMB policy.
- 7. Branch update** Pete reported:

- As of 1 September we have 8,119 members – up by about 90 since the last meeting.
- He reminded members to make sure that their details are up to date and inform him of any change of workplace or situation. Membership is based on the workplace address, not where you live and we are south of the river Thames across south London.
- He again reminded members to ensure that they have a copy of their contract of employment and keep it safe!
- The GMB offers members support if they are interviewed by the police on a criminal matter. This can be work related or not. Members should not take a Caution and should not accept a Duty Solicitor. Instead they should say they are a GMB member and ask for Blackfords Solicitors who will be at the police station promptly. Blackfords are on 08700 107 007.
- He reported that there has recently been a dispute with APCOA Kingston (parking wardens). Unfortunately we were not informed properly by the Region so were unable to tell members who are often willing to support picket lines. One of the members online confirmed that as a retired member he would always be willing to support members in this way.

#### **8. Any other business**

- A member asked if the GMB had had other issues with his company HATS? Pete replied that he would speak to the appropriate Regional Officer
- Maggie said that in her experience companies are sometimes going to disciplinaries without a full investigation, including not interviewing the member. This is particularly so when a member doesn't have 2 years' service as employers know that it is rare that such a member can take them to an Employment Tribunal.
- A member asked we could meet for a drink as we would next meet close to xmas. Pete said this was difficult as we are cover such a large area.

#### **9. Next Branch meeting** Thursday 4 December at 6.30 in Croydon Town Hall and on Teams

#### **10. Close** 19.10