



Branch meeting minutes

Thursday 5 March 2026, 6.30pm in-person in Croydon Town Hall and by Zoom

1. **Present:** there were 8 people in the room and 10 on Zoom. *In the room:* Branch Secretary Pete Raven, Branch President Maggie Hughes, Branch Officers Matthew Connolly and Megan Dobney, plus 4 branch members; *on Zoom:* Branch Officers Paul Campbell, Andrea Gilbert, Adam Hughes, Jack Ryan, Hortense Silvera, plus 4 branch members.
2. **Introductions:** the Branch President welcomed members to the meeting.
3. **Apologies:** none were received.
4. **Minutes of last meeting 4 December 2025:** agreed with no matters arising.
5. **Branch Honoraria:** Pete explained that Branch Officers all receive a small Honorarium for their work as Accompanying Reps supporting our members in grievances, disciplinarys and more. These are paid quarterly and have not been increased for some time. All are part-time except for himself. 4 work 1 day and will receive an increase of £50 per quarter, 4 work 2 days and will get £100, he works full time and will get £300. This works out at between 4 and 6% and was agreed. Pete will put this forward to the Regional Committee for approval.
6. **Election of Branch Secretary and President:** Pete Raven was proposed and seconded for Branch Secretary and Maggie Hughes was proposed and seconded for Branch President. There were no other nominations and the proposals were carried.
7. **Branch update** Pete reported:
 - A bit of a drop in membership to 7,762 (7,816 at the last meeting). 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).
 - We also have about £27,000 in our account and want to get it up to about £40,000 as just a few days of industrial action by our members can deplete it.
 - The dispute at APCOA in Bromley was resolved when a better pay award was agreed.
 - He intends to order some promotional materials for £2-3,000.

- We have an ongoing dispute at Bromley Local Authority – members have claimed a 4.4% pay increase plus 3.2% on merited awards (about £200). 32 members were balloted and the employer's offer was rejected by 17 to 15.
- The region has appointed a new legal officer who should join us in about a month. This will assist as there are many changes in employment law from April onwards, including a reduction in the service required to submit an Employment Tribunal award from 2 years to 6 months. It was agreed to ask the legal officer to attend and brief a branch meeting as soon as possible.
- Nadine Houghton, currently working for the national union, has been appointed as the new regional secretary. Another interim regional secretary will be in post for a month or so and then Nadine will join the region.

8. **Any other business**

- A member asked if Pete had been successful in getting additional Accompanying Reps – Pete responded yes, and Hortense, Paul and Andrea are with us online tonight. They have been in post for several months now.
- A member asked about the regional equality forums and Pete responded that Chris Wongsosaputro was elected at the last meeting. Chris said there is a meeting on 18 March that he will attend and report back from.
- GMB Congress delegates Andrea and Adam were reminded that they should prepare a written report to the branch of their experience there.
- A member asked if Unionline was being done away with. Pete said no, but they are changing the way they are working, details are being prepared and he will make sure that branch officers are aware. Another member asked if there was not a better system than that used by Unionline. Maggie reminded people that they can raise issues with managers at Unionline and should do so if service was inadequate. All awards are paid in full to members (nothing is retained by Unionline) and any non-payment of awards was a civil matter that Unionline should assist with.
- A member asked if the union still paid a funeral benefit to the family of dead members. This was confirmed – a form must be obtained from the regional office and £400 is paid to qualifying family members.
- A member asked that something is put together that has pictures of, and some information about Accompanying Reps. Pete will do this but it will not contain contact details as all initial contact must be made with the Branch/Union.
- A member said that the regional office still has union diaries available and will send them out on request.

9. **Next Branch meeting** Thursday 4 June. Plus: 10 September and 3 December.

10. **Close** 19.30