

## **GMB Lambeth Branch**

### **Minutes 18 12 25**

Present:

Trish

Keith (regional organiser)

Tracy

Marie

Hashi

David

Yvette

Apologies from Blanka and Joan.

### **Secretary's report**

Trish gave her report. She advised that the Country Show has been cancelled due to costs, a disappointing development for local residents who can't afford to go to these kinds of events. She further advised that Nabeel Khan is stepping down from his role. Trish reported that the new HR Director has not met with the unions yet as she's "new", but Trish believes she's been in place for over a month.

Marie advised there is an ongoing dispute involving PAs in London Hire who have had to take time off work due to injury. There have been a couple of specific children whose behaviour needs to be addressed, the schools and the council have been informed but the matter hasn't been resolved yet. Marie has encouraged those involved to get the work with the union. They only have PPE and disinfectant because Rep Lorraine has been complaining. The manager has had to fill in because they are short of PAs. London Hire are claiming that they are making a loss, Kevin believes they are using tricks to make it appear that way. Kevin has asked to see their books but they haven't responded. Every time workers strike, the council has to cover, so it's in the council's interest to increase the size of the contract as the alternative is they will have to pay more anyway. London Hire have not been communicating adequately with staff, they have found out about key details through the newspaper. Kevin wants to speak to London Hire staff and discuss having another strike ballot.

Tracy raised concerns about having discussions about political leverage with a member of the Cabinet in the room. She also felt like a lot of time was being spent on one item that had become too specific.

## Education

To supplement the education report, Yvette raised the issue of schools being short staffed. Sophie Garner has denied that there are staff shortages.

## Hilary's report (trades council)

The GLA TUC have expressed concerns about cuts and are considering local government strikes.

Kevin advised that the National TUC are very concerned about the rise of the far-right and Reform UK. He believes we are likely to see more concerted campaigning from trade unions in 2026.

## Congress nominations 2026

Blanka has been suggested to attend congress at GMB. Hashi also put himself forward. We voted unanimously to send Blanka and Hashi to Congress.

## Regional Office update

Lambeth will have dedicated officer for foreseeable future. An interim regional secretary is in place.

## AOB

We discussed nominations for Southern regional council.

Hashi put himself forward and was nominated unanimously.

Hilary James is interested in taking up the retired member position in the branch as a committee member. Tracy wondered whether the appointment of positions should be put to the wider branch.

Tracy raised concerns about attendance at meetings and suggested they could be at more accessible times. She wondered if we could hold meetings during lunchtime. Kevin recommended hybrid meetings instead and then the meetings could still be in the evening. Kevin also suggested that meetings in December do not tend to be well attended in general. Kevin recommended that we go ahead with January meeting to experiment hybrid meeting. So we're going to try 17:15.