

AMM MEETING (jointly held with Bexleyheath & Crayford CLP)

Minutes of Meeting 27th October 7.30 pm

Sidcup Working Man’s Club

Attendance: Donna Briant (Chair), Anashua Davies, Jo Chodha, Sylvia Malt, Claudia Tony Awusaki, Teresa Gray, Simon Alford, Tim Sellick, Charlotte Hitchman, John Morgan, Munir Malik, Matthew Case Legge, Bryan Moran, Ahmad Brooke plus 2 guests (Mike & Judy)

Item	Minute	Action/Outcome
1	CHAIR’S WELCOME	Apologies; Daniel & Emma Francis, John Cove, Dilip & Pat Dakshy, Jerry Chodha, Cllr Stefano Borella, Cllr Anna Day, Hannah Briant, Kathryn Smith, Claire Hedderman, Helen Sellick, Bridget Riches, Anthony Riches, Stephen & Wendy Perfect, Jay Zilik, Hannah Briant, Lynn Ellard, Dave Tingle
2	Declarations of Interest	None
3	Minutes from last meeting	Minutes pre - distributed for all members Agreed Munir Malik withdrawing his offer to invite a Windrush guest to the AMM.
4	CLP Business updates	Appeal to OBS Members: Canvassing now weekly , all members encouraged to support as we start to be on an election footing. Saturday 3 rd Dec 1400 to 1600 Foodbank and New Toys donations to 31 Sidcup Hill. Current campaign www.saveourstation.co.uk please sign survey, Albany Park being particularly supported due to the disproportionate cuts. AMM agreed that Dave Tingle would be the CLP Bexley Labour Election Team member (BLET)
5	Speaker – Andy Smith – CWU union (Guests Tammy Pane and Matt Riddle)	Thanked OBS for support at the picket line, there are 15 more dates to the 2 nd December. Dispute on pay but primarily on the changes to the contracts. In Feb 22 Dave Ward and Terry Pullinger (CW) wrote to the Royal Mail (RM) regarding a pay rise. No response until

		<p>April 22, turning the pay rise down, but then offering a 2% derisory increase in July 22.</p> <p>RM whilst passing on £450m in shareholder profits and 240m in July 22, is in managed decline predicted to turn a profit making business into loss making. The view is that management are deliberately positioning the share price for sale (changing the name of the business to International Distribution Company, to detract from a household business being sold off. Ultimately turning the workforce into a 'gig economy', abandoning the 2018 and 2021 'Pathway to Change' and 'Agenda for Change' agreements.</p> <p>Postal workers worked throughout Covid within the communities, losing their lives and going the extra mile, earning an average of £420/week in hand, and are seeking an inflation busting pay rise, given already relative low wages.</p> <p>The CWU ballots were held democratically with a 97.3% (77% turnout) and 98.7% (74% turnout) mandate to strike, workers are currently really suffering from strike days, but none the less are determined that management are challenged on the long term future of the business (pay being secondary).</p> <p>On Simon Thompson the CEO, has a track record of 3 year terms in NASDAQ and FTSE companies, stripping assets for short term profits. Currently earning 750k/yr and taking huge bonuses. The CFO taking 1.3m in bonus.</p> <p>The treatment of workers likened to P&O on steroids by CWU leader Dave Ward with T&Cs being decimated.</p> <p>Two years ago voluntary redundancy was equivalent to 2 years pay and now that's down to 12 weeks only, with many facing long years of unfunded retirement after 30 + years of service. Fears that RM will dip into the pension pot.</p> <p>3 hour shifts under threat (great for mums and people who need flexibility). Sunday pay, is now less than normal pay and RM managers deliberately not recruiting into permanent positions to squeeze the service more, giving way to short term part time cheaper workers, forced to work long hours to make up a decent pay-packet.</p>
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6	<p>Speaker – Tim Sellick Bexley Labour Group Delegate</p>	<p>Labour groups current focus being on Campaigning Station campaign)</p> <p>On cost of living, working with Citizens Advice Bureau to issue fuel vouchers (government funded).</p> <p>Working with Dartford Labour group on the train timetable changes, particularly the changes required at Hither Green and Lewisham to get to London Bridge. Concern that Albany Park will become the new St John’s Wood.</p> <p>Tim reflected on the stark change in the dynamics since he was last in the council, Tories have a certain arrogance and disdain where as before things were more civil between the benches.</p>
7	<p>Conference report - Donna & Claudia</p>	<p>Both delegates spoke warmly of the conference, how the party felt united and ready for government and commented on how the MSM were very positive in the main They both enjoyed meeting familiar faces that would otherwise be on the airwaves, Claudia talked about attending fringes and was particularly interested in the bigger picture economic challenges.</p> <p>Reports to be distributed to the membership and all encouraged to attend.</p>
8	<p>AOB</p>	<p><u>Outstanding</u> AMM’s February request for a Coop speaker with Kathryn Smith to organise.</p>