

Minutes of Prospect BEC meeting 5th February 2007, Elm Bank Hotel, York

Present:

Tony Cousins (TC)
Glenn Brearley (GB)
Andy Stewart (AS)
Lorraine Adams (LA)
Marcus Sangster (MS)
Sue Benham (SB)
Iain Kirk (IK)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Glen Dobson.

2. Minutes of the Previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May were accepted after some minor date changes and signed by TC.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Bullying

A motion regarding bullying has been submitted to conference therefore guidance on bullying will be clarified after the ADC if the motion is carried, if the motion not carried then LA will seek clarification as per the minutes of 5th September 2006.

3.2 Travel and Subsistence

Motions have been submitted to conference regarding current T&S rates, BEC are supporting the motions, if carried work will progress using these guidelines failing this it will be taken forward as part of the 2007 pay negotiation.

3.3 Membership/Distribution lists

Distribution lists are proven to work well with the organisation of the ADC, further discussion was held in regard to making these lists available to Prospect NOC members so that they are using the most up to date information lists possible.

Action IK to contact Sue Gillingwater for NOC members names.

3.4 Notice boards

Our BEC members have all put up their information on local notice boards.

Discharged

3.5 Learning Representatives

Following from Claire Johnstone's statement at the last meeting it was agreed that any of our members could become a learning rep therefore this will be advertised to all members at ADC, through eBranch and an email hyperlink. MS reinforced the value of attending union training courses and that the union pays for accommodation and facility time.

Action IK/LA

3.6 FR Climate Change Project Leader

Chair and Branch Secretary to move forward with this to remind FR Management that consultation is requested for all posts to prevent this change in terms and conditions from occurring again.

Action TC/LA

3.7 FC Choices

FC Choices will be openly debated during conference.

3.8 Relationships within HR

Relationships with HR are also the subject of ADC motions and will be debated at this time. It is now possible to inform members about the HR guide that has been written but is as yet unpublished.

3.9 Pay 2006

The pay claim for 2006 has been offered and accepted by staff and will be paid in the end of February pay packets. To staff and members for this year has been received by ministers some weeks ago, the Scottish minister has agreed to the proposal but Ministers for England and Wales have still to respond. The treasury is looking at the claims very stringently this year and are clearing claims in batches rather than individually. Some provisional meeting dates have been set up and it is hoped that there may be some news in time for these dates.

3.10 Organising and recruitment

CJ has been off sick since our meeting in September therefore we are using the information leaflets and the new flyer designed by IK for display at the ADC.

3.11 TUS Organisation

Our position is maintained on this in so much as we are not prepared to individually ask all our members for permission to release their data to the TUS office in accordance with the data protection act.

3.12 Alice Holt Site Review

The Staff Council not has a Chair in the form of Robert Matthews therefore agendas will be moving on from here.

In regard to the planning permission for the campsite at the back of the Alice Holt site Richard Williamson is due to meet with Alice Holt staff next week to answer any questions.

3.13 Budget

The Branch Council budget has now been approved and confirmed as £9,170. The accounts for 2006 have been sent to our auditor John Anstey for his approval and he will report back at ADC.

4. ADC 2007

Glen Dobson telephoned TC on 1st February to absent himself from ADC 2007 due to an unavoidable change in his schedule. However he had already asked if local representative Mike McDonald would attend on his behalf on either day should we wish it. It was decided to ask Mike to attend on the Tuesday as Pay and Pensions were timetabled. It is hoped that he will be able to update those attending on the current situation regarding civil service pay and the spending review.

BEC also agreed with the proposed again to write to Prospect Headquarters and the General Secretary expressing our concern about the lack of time that Glen seems able to spend with us. This has further reaching implications due to Claire Johnstone being off long term sick. Care will be taken to ensure that this letter could not be seen as a direct criticism of our representatives, but the way their time is allocated.

5. Change to Acceptance of BEC minutes

Everyone agreed that checking of the minutes could be done via email in future so that they can be published more quickly ensuring that members are kept fully informed.

6. Replacement of Treasurer

TC will approach Paul Cody during ADC so ask if he would like to take on the Treasurer's role. If he declines then a representative from Wales will be considered to ensure that all the countries have BEC representation.

7. Report from Staff Council meetings

There is nothing extra to report from the FCTU meetings. At the last TUS Core Group meeting the success of the pay deal was discussed but nothing more was tabled.

AOB

We should report back to Greenaways that Prospect BEC will be supporting the reduction of the carbon footprint by trying to hold BEC meetings via video conference rather than those in the south travelling to Scotland.

LA to investigate video conferencing facilities

Next Meeting to held Tuesday 15th May, Silvan House or video conference.