

**FORESTRY WORKERS ORGANISING MEETING HELD AT UNITE
HOUSE HOLBORN LONDON ON WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL 2010**

Present

Robert Beaney Scot Chair
Edwin Rowlands Eng
Tim Gill Eng
Tom Grimwood Eng
Chris Tucker Wales

Andy Phillips Wales
Lawrence Villa Scot
Audrey Campbell Scot
Raymond Smith Eng
Andy Patmore Eng

Also in attendance for part of meeting:-

- Ian Waddle National officer
- Susan Murray Health & Safety

Apologies received from :- Ivan Monkton, Jeff Dymond & John Broatch.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to our new National Officer Ian Waddle. Ian thanked the chair for the welcome and went onto outline his background and area's within the union he had worked in. Ian stated that he was very much looking forward to working with everyone within the sector.

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th October 2009 were accepted as a true account of the meeting.

Matter arising

- Forestry Motions, Edwin confirmed that the two motions that had been passed at the meeting in April last year had been forwarded to the National Committee and had been accepted by the group. Ivan then took the motions to the executive committee for advice on how to proceed. The National officer outlined the importance of this matter and requested that as we have a Policy conference coming up at the end of May he feels that this is the arena for raising the awareness of our concerns and to get the motion spoken to at the conference. It was agreed that Edwin & Ian prepare the motion. Edwin would propose the motion at conference if it gets on the agenda. It was also agreed that the motion could include the matter of Climate Change together with raising the awareness of FC land sales.

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Regional Council Reports

England

- Tim Gill reported on the Disposal policy and asked our chair if it was possible to get a copy of the proposed disposals programme. The chair agreed to explore if this is possible. (The chair has now obtained a copy of the programme and has forwarded a copy to Ian)
- Cambridge office now closed, Bristol is the new HQ for Forestry England.
- Tim outlined the importance of filling the vacant UNITE seats on the England staff council. The chair proposed that one of the vacant seat could be taken up

by Paul Bullock from the North East. He had spoken to Paul and Paul has agreed. Everyone present accepted the chairs proposal.

The chair thanked Tim for his presentation.

Wales

- Andy Phillips reported that the financial situation seems very good at the moment, but we must hope the Wales Government continues to see the importance of forestry in Wales
- Chirk workshop, Wrexham Borough Council now have part of the complex which will mean the down sizing facilities.
- Planning application has been forwarded for 7 wind farms in Wales, it is hoped that this will create 25 new jobs and help secure posts for staff in Wales
- Chris Tucker has asked for a meeting with MES management, but as yet not been able to set one up.
- Management wish to introduce a shift system for machine operators, further development on this matter will be reported at the next meeting.
- buildings.
- Andy reported that two apprentices have been taken on in Wales.

The chair thanked Andy & Chris for the report from Wales

Scotland

- Audrey brought the meeting up to date with regard to the position of trainees.
- Lawrence reported that there was an ongoing review of MES and all of the Business units and their activities in Scotland. As part of the Business review Lawrence expressed concern that the TU side had not been consulted regarding the review the outside consultants engaged to undertake the review. Lawrence provided copies of correspondence that had been received and forwarded copies to Edwin to keep on record.
- The Regional industrial sector committee has been formed.
- Still in the process of organising a forestry branch for the Galloway area.
- There is a reduced programme of activities for the Scotland Civil Engineer in road making, more work is being undertaken by contractors.

The chair thanked Audrey & Lawrence for their presentations.

Pay 2009/10

The Chair asked members to consider what the Unite priorities should be for the next Pay claim. The Chair asked Committee members to canvass their members locally to assess what if any weighting should be put on our Claim or should we be looking for an across the board increase.

Bullying & Harassment

The chair reported that the number of cases are still on the increase, if any member wished to become a B&H rep then to let him know.

The recent review of the FC policy have been undertaken by the FC and they have taken on some of the TUS recommendations.

Health & Safety

The chair introduced Susan Murray who outlined the following

- European week on safety & health, this years theme is Risk assessments
- New safety reps handbook, Susan is working on this with amicus colleges.
- Sector specific H&S leaflets.
- Workers Memorial day is Wednesday 14th April, Susan asked if members could hold a minutes silence at noon on the day in remembrance of those who have suffered.
- The chair reported that some progress has been made regarding the setting up of an internal training course for H&S reps in the FC.

European forestry

- Edwin reported that he has been looking at the Rural Development Policy and reviewing the forestry position within Europe.
- The meeting planned for last week Edwin was not able to attend because of the flight problems.
- Health & safety still a lot to do throughout Europe to make the work place a safe place.

AOB

As this is Andy Phillips's last official attendance at this meeting the chair spoke of Andy's long service both to the TU side and the FC. Andy was presented with a gift from the committee members. Andy thanked everyone for their help and support in the past and wished his colleagues every best wishes for the future.

Tim Gill announced that this was probably his last meeting as he is planning to retire from the FC shortly. The chair asked Tim if he could make the effort of attending our next meeting, Tim agreed.

The chair thanked everyone for there contribution on what had been a long day and informed members that the next meeting had been set for Thursday 21st October 2010.