

PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF



Coventry & Leicester Variety Branch

Minutes - Zoom Meeting Monday June 28th 2021

Attending:-

Brian Emeney (Chair) Bob Oakley (Branch Secretary) Annie Gay (Communications Officer) Trevor Gay (Treasurer) Nick Steinberg (Social Organiser) Jimmy Riddle (Committee) Marek Gundelach (Committee) Eleanor Mattley (Committee) Ian Bayes (Midlands Area Organiser) Billy DeLaine (Member)

Apologies – Marc Stringer - June Pullon – Sheila Payne – Sally Treble – John Brennan – Sally Treble

Welcome – Brian welcomed everyone to our June meeting.

Item 1. Bob read the Minutes of the May meeting which have been distributed by e-mail to Committee. Accepted as a true reflection of meeting by Annie Gay and seconded by Nick Golden

Item 2. Matters Arising

Item 3. Notice Of any Other Business – SRC Motion and Attendees to be discussed

Branch Secretaries Report

Bob read his Branch report as presented to Branch Secretaries Meeting on June 16th (See separate pages)

Bob also expanded his report to this meeting (See document dated June 28th)

Branch Communication.

There are changes being made to communication systems and email addresses. Emails are now being sent out via an organisation called Action Network. We still await assurances from The General Secretary regarding the disclosure of our database to a third party.

Branch Meetings

Physical Branch meetings will be allowed after SRC which means need to plan for October

Branch Portal

249 members 33 signed for portal.

Branch Secretary expressed concerns regarding reports of members being assigned to wrong branches. Awaiting report back from Equity

Treasurers Report

Trevor reports no change to last month

Social Media, PRO & Branch Activist Report - Annie Gay

Since our last branch meeting on 17th May, Annie has attended 2 training sessions:

1. The sending out of mass emails and newsletters through the new 'Action Network' system. There is a simple, basic version which she used to send out a recent branch email. There is also another more complex 'extended' version with more functions for newsletters, but she needs more practice/training
2. Instagram training. Annie is not sure it's the right social media platform for our branch, as it's for photos and videos. However, if anyone thinks it has a useful purpose, she will start an account, unless someone else would like to take it on??!!

Social Activities Report – Nick Steinberg

Nick expanded his suggestion for Video Offer to attending members when physical meetings resume.

Marek reported response from Pricilla Morris who has agreed to give a talk about her business when we reconvene live meetings.

Organisers Report - Ian Bayes

Ian updated us on his busy schedule together with update on Birmingham City Clean Air issue and how it will impact the night-time economy and members working in the city.

He also reported that he had been able to carry out cast meetings in theatres both in Derby and Northampton.

STAY IN TOUCH – DON'T BE ALONE - SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

Ian also suggested that we might invite Kate Jones (Equity) to talk about problems we may have with Action Network communications and e-mail issues?

Ian also informed us of work regarding racial equality with colleagues within Equity.

Midland Councillors Report - Agents Lists will become available when Sally completes her survey

Any Other Business.

The meeting was able to formally welcome **Steve Butler aka Billy Delaine** who is a long-standing member of Equity. Steve raised questions about working through the Covid pandemic and the effects it had on him personally due to the fact that he operates two separate businesses. Eleanor expressed her views and how she has successfully survived by adapting to prevailing conditions.

Special Representative Conference.

There were no proposed motions from members, but Branch Secretary put forward two ideas.

The Motion entitled **Communications and Social Media** the preferred option, with the suggestion that it was less wordy. Proposed by Annie, seconded by Nick followed by a majority vote in favour.

Branch Secretary e-mailed Committee with adjustment but only had one response so could only assume no objections. The following was submitted to Ian half an hour before deadline.

Proposed Motion For SRC September 2021

Communications & Social Media.

This SRC requests Council to construct a strict and transparent communication structure within Equity to prevent continued politicisation of the union both in press releases and on social media.

This should include a review of how Social Media is used by Staff, Councillors, Committee Members, Branches and Members.

It should also include an open and transparent review of 'The Online Branch' which is operating outside of normal branch protocols and has the

potential to become a collective of like-minded members recruited from across home nations and world-wide.

SRC Attendance. September 26th/27th in London.

Members attending were asked if anyone would like to attend SRC.

Branch Secretary expressed his wish to attend as he wrote the proposed motion.

Proposed by Annie seconded by Nick

Nick Golden has provisionally offered to attend with Bob subject to checking his diary and work commitments. Proposed Annie seconded by Bob

A unanimous vote approved the above.

Chair closed the meeting

Next meeting Monday July 26th 7pm Committee 7:30pm members