



UNISON

56 Eastgate Street
Stafford
ST16 2LY

Staffordshire Branch

01785 245000

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www.staffordshireunison.org.uk

Staffordshire UNISON

@staffsunison

Annual General Meeting 2022



Virtual Meeting

**Wednesday 9th February 2022
at
5.00pm**

**Staffordshire Branch of UNISON
56 Eastgate Street
Stafford
ST16 2LY**

UNISON Workplace Representatives

UNISON is a democratic organisation, which aims to put its members at the heart of everything that it does. The Workplace Representative is UNISON's most important link between the union and its members.

TYPES OF REPRESENTATIVES

Steward

UNISON aims to have at least one Steward in each workplace.

A Steward is elected annually by the members that they represent. A UNISON Steward is the first and main contact with the union for members. The role includes talking to members; distributing information and obtaining members' views (effectively being their spokesperson) for that workgroup; recruiting and organising in the workplace; undertaking representation work; and the attendance at Branch Executive meetings, to ensure members' views are heard and brought forward to the Branch.

Elected Stewards have access to paid time off for training, meetings with members and managers, and access to UNISON advice, information, mentoring and support from Branch and Regional Officers.

Health & Safety Representative

Health & Safety Representatives are elected on an annual basis.

A Health & Safety Representative has the right to training and to raise issues which affect the health & safety of members. In some cases, the Health & Safety Representative and the Steward are the same person, but they have two separate roles. The Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations of 1977, regulation 4 part 2a, requires that employers allow union Health & Safety Reps paid time off, as is necessary, during working hours to perform their functions.

The role includes making representations, on behalf of members on health and safety or welfare matters; inspecting designated workplace areas; investigation of potential hazards, complaints by members and causes of accidents, dangerous occurrences, and diseases.

Workplace Contacts

This is an ideal role for members who would like to get more involved in UNISON, but who do not want to take on the full role of elected Steward. You do not need to be elected to be a workplace contact, but members you support need to establish a democratic way of agreeing who the contact will be.

Workplace Contacts can get involved in various ways, including being a point of contact between members and the Branch; supporting existing Stewards or Branch Officers; recruiting members; supporting members at work; distributing information and helping with Branch organising.

Union Learning Representative

Union Learning Representatives work closely with the Branch Education Officer to promote learning. They are entitled to paid time off to undertake their role for training and have access to support from the Branch and Regional Office.

You do not need to be elected to hold this post, but the post must be ratified by the Branch Executive Committee on an annual basis. The role includes analysing learning or training needs; providing information and advice about learning or training; working with the Branch to promote workplace learning with employers.

Equality Representative

Equality Representatives work closely with the Branch Equalities Officer, ranging from the promotion of diversity management to helping ensure legal compliance and conducting audits. They can raise awareness of issues relating to equality and diversity, raise the profile of equal treatment of workers on the grounds of gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, etc. and engage employers on a range of equality issues.

Equality Representatives have no statutory rights to paid time off to undertake duties, training or facilities. Training is available to undertake the role and facilities arrangements and time are negotiated at a local level with the employer.

If you are interested in any of these roles and want to know more, please contact the Branch for further details on **01785 245000 or visit our website at www.staffordshireunison.org.uk**

A nomination form is available overleaf to complete and return to the Branch.

Workplace Representative Nomination Form 2022



Steward and Health & Safety Rep authorisation is renewed on an annual basis. For continued authorisation as an accredited representative of the Branch in 2022 until the AGM in 2023 **existing & new applicants** must complete this form & return it to the Branch office.

	New	Re-elected	Standing Down
Steward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health & Safety Rep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	New	Re-elected	Standing Down
Union Learning Rep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Personal Details:

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other:	Membership Number:	Home Address:
First name:	Date of Birth:	
Surname:	NI Number:	

Employment Details:

Employer:	Workplace Name & Address:
Workplace(s) Covered:	

Contact Details:

Home Tel Number:	Work Tel Number:	Mobile Tel Number:
Email Address:		

Mailing Preferences:

After your appointment you will receive the following mail – please indicate where you would like to receive it:	Mailing Type	Home	Work
	Activist's mailing from Branch		<input type="checkbox"/>
Activist's mailing from Region		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNISON Focus		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed & Seconded By (Must be Staffordshire UNISON Members):

Proposed By – Print Name:	Seconded By - Print Name:
Signature:	Signature:
Membership No:	Membership No:

Declaration:

I certify that I am willing to serve as a Workplace Representative for the year 2022, I am a current member of the Branch and eligible for election. I also agree to undertake suitable training as a Steward within two years of my election.	
Signed:	Dated:

Nomination approved by Branch Secretary:

Signed:	Dated:
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Notification sent to Employer: YES/NO Date:

Return your completed nomination form to:

Staffordshire Branch of UNISON, 56 Eastgate Street, Stafford. ST16 2LY

BRANCH OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

This form must be completed by all nominees for Branch Officer posts and returned to the Branch Office no later than **Tuesday 7th December 2021**. As recommended by the UNISON National Office, Candidates should provide an election address of no more than 500 words with their nomination.

If more than one nomination is received for an Officer post, members will be notified, and a postal ballot will take place.

Nomination for the Post of: _____
(See List provided) _____

Title: _____

Surname: _____

Forename(s): _____

Workplace Address: _____
(including Postcode) _____

Work Telephone Number: _____

Department/Workgroup: _____

Current Job Title: _____

UNISON Membership Number: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

Home **Work**

Signed by
Nominee: _____

Date: _____

Proposed By
Print Name: _____

Seconded By
Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Officer Posts - Staffordshire Branch of UNISON

A number of functions are defined within the rule book as the responsibility of specific Branch Officers. However these tend to be general statements, covering overall responsibility for the proper running of the branch, each of which entails a large number of tasks.

All branch officers are bound by the collective responsibility of national, regional and Branch policy and decisions taken by the Branch Committee.

Outlines of all the Branch Officer Roles are available from the Branch Office.

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Branch Secretary
- Assistant Branch Secretary (3 Posts)
- Assistant Branch Secretary (Fire & Rescue Service - must be from this employer)
- Assistant Branch Secretary (Ofsted - must be from this employer)
- Branch Treasurer
- Health & Safety Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Equalities Co-Ordinator(s)
- Women's Officer
- Communications Officer
- International Relations Officer
- Young Members' Officer
- Auditor
- Environmental Officer
- Labour Link Officer

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2022**

****Please note this meeting will take place virtually****

To: All Members of The Staffordshire Branch of UNISON

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held virtually by **Staffordshire Branch of UNISON**, on **Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 5.00pm**.

An invitation notice will be sent to all members approximately 6 weeks before the meeting date, this will include the online registration details for the meeting.

Remember that this provides an opportunity for the general membership of the Branch to participate in Branch affairs and to influence policy. If you wish to change existing UNISON policies, or to initiate new policies, this is your chance!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Vaughan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Mike Vaughan
Branch Secretary**

A G E N D A

- 1. WELCOME**

- 2. NOTIFICATION OF BRANCH OFFICERS**

- 3. ELECTION OF THE BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 4. MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2021**

- 5. ANNUAL REPORT: to receive the Annual Report from all Branch Officers which will be tabled at the meeting.**

- 6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS: to receive the Branch Treasurers Statement of Accounts for the twelve months to 31st December 2021**

- 7. HONORARIA PAYMENTS PROPOSAL**

- 8. ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

- 9. MOTIONS: Must be submitted in writing and received at least 7 days before the meeting.**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2021

ATTENDANCE

47 Members were present, and 7 apologies were received

1. WELCOME

Nigel Brindley, Branch Chair introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the meeting was being held online due to the current pandemic.

The Branch Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and explained how the meeting would work along with the procedure for voting in the polls and the question and answer function. Telephone callers to the meeting were asked to identify themselves.

The Branch Chair notified the meeting that due to a technical error he had lost the information from his screen but would do his best in taking the meeting forward with the help of his colleagues.

2. BRANCH SECRETARY BALLOT – RESULTS

The Branch Chair thanked the Branch Employed Staff and the Independent Scrutineer for their hard work in arranging the ballot under the current COVID restrictions.

Following the Branch Secretary election ballot, the results were announced as follows:

Total number of papers received:	430
Total number of spoilt papers:	2
Votes for Mark Allen:	74
Votes for Mike Vaughan:	354

Therefore, Mike Vaughan is duly elected as Branch Secretary.

An error was made in the announcement of results: Mike Vaughan received 354 and not 374 as read out at the meeting.

3. NOTIFICATION OF BRANCH OFFICERS

The Branch Chair read out the positions and the nominations received, followed by the vacant posts. Anyone interested in the vacant posts should contact the Branch Office.

The Branch Officers posts were agreed as:

Branch Secretary	Mike Vaughan
Chairperson	Nigel Brindley
Asst Branch Secretary	Nigel Brindley
Asst Branch Secretary	Kate Salter

Asst Branch Secretary	Mandy Dancocks
Asst Branch Secretary (FRS)	Tim Wareham
Asst Branch Secretary (OFSTED)	Carolyn Thompson
Branch Treasurer	Kate Salter
Health & Safety Officer	Mike Vaughan
Equality Co-ordinator	Mandy Dancocks
Communications Officer	Dan Watson
Auditor	Helen Bailey
Welfare Officer	Vacant
Disabled Members Officer	Vacant
Women's Officer	Vacant
Education Co-ordinator	Vacant
Black Members Officer	Vacant
International Officer	Vacant
Young Members Officer	Vacant
LGBT Officer	Vacant
Member Services Officer	Vacant
Environmental Officer	Vacant

Proposed by S Nixon
 Seconded by S McKeown

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on the Branch Officer positions. There were no questions raised.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For: 95%
 Against: 0%
 Abstention: 5%

The Branch Officer posts were accepted by the meeting.

The Branch Officers posts are subject to ratification by the Regional Office.

4. ELECTION OF BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following nominations were received and read out to the meeting by the Branch Chair.

WORKPLACE STEWARD NOMINATIONS

Name	Workplace
Mick Barker	Chartwells - Grounds Service
Marguerita Brown	Burton & South Derbyshire College
Liz Chadwick	The De Ferrers Academy
Agata Dorrington	St Peters Primary Academy
Karen Giles	Bhylls Acre Primary School
Andy Hollinshead	South Staffordshire College

Sue Insull	Staffordshire County Council – SP1
Shani Salter	Sir Graham Balfour Mat
Helen Smith	Staffordshire County Council – SP1
Jim Smith	Entrust
Diane Walsh	East Staffordshire Children’s Centre/The Grange
Kay Walsh	The De Ferrers Academy
Dan Watson	Hednesford Valley High School

HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATIONS

Name	Workplace
Nigel Brindley	Staffordshire UNISON
Kerry Chorlton	Hempstalls Primary School
Mandy Dancocks	Staffordshire UNISON
Agata Dorrington	St Peters Primary Academy
Sue Insull	Staffordshire County Council – SP1
Jim Smith	Entrust
Carolyn Thompson	OFSTED
Dan Watson	Hednesford Valley High School

UNISON LEARNING REP NOMINATIONS

Name	Workplace
Tim Wareham	Fire & Rescue HQ

EQUALITY REP NOMINATIONS

Name	Workplace
Kay Walsh	The De Ferrers Academy

Proposed by Mandy Dancocks

Seconded by Sue Skerry

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For: 97%

Against: 3%

Abstention: 0%

All nominations were accepted.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY AND 5th FEBRUARY 2020

The Branch Chair advised the minutes are available on the Staffordshire UNISON website.

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were agreed to be a true record.

Proposed by: S Nixon

Seconded by: S Salter

6. ANNUAL REPORT

The Branch Chair advised that the reports from the Branch Officers are available on the website. Any questions on the Annual Reports should be forwarded to the Branch.

7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Branch Chair handed the meeting over to Kate Salter, Branch Treasurer.

The Branch Treasurer delivered an overview of the accounts. The Branch Treasurer read out the reports for the benefit of telephone callers to the meeting.

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions for the Treasurer.

A question was raised around the collection of subs, this was identified as a personal member query and the member was asked to make contact directly with the branch so this can be followed up.

A question was raised regarding the number of members transferred to the Branch from East Staffs Borough Council UNISON Branch. Mike Vaughan, Branch Secretary responded to the question, there was approximately 100 members transferred over from East Staffs Borough Council Branch.

A question was raised regarding how the private sector membership is putting pressure on spending. The Branch Treasurer responded that the Branch is not given any facility time for the private sector work and therefore the Branch has to employ private caseworkers to undertake this work.

A question was raised asking what the property fund is. The Branch Treasurer responded advising that the main employer Staffordshire County Council has indicated that they will be reviewing the facilities agreement with the Branch, the current agreement includes a property free of charge on county council premises. However, as part of the review the county council may ask us to vacate the current premises, if this is the case we will need to seek alternative premises. A lot of research has been done on renting an office space in the local area but feel that is cost prohibitive, this option would not be protecting our assets for our membership. Therefore, purchasing a property would be the safest way in safeguarding our members money. The property fund was set up in preparation for the reality of this situation and ensuring funds would be available should an acceptable property come on the market.

Mike Vaughan, Branch Secretary added that is likely that the County Council will offer the Branch alternative premises and there is no issue of dispute with the County Council. However, the issues with accommodation being offered is whether it has the most effective broadband to enable the office to function remotely.

The Branch Treasurer concluded the report with a summary of the balance sheet.

Proposed by S Salter
Seconded by S McKeown

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For: 97%
Against: 0%
Abstention: 3%

All statement of accounts was accepted.

8. HONORARIA PAYMENTS

The Proposed Honoraria Payments were presented to the meeting and read out for the benefit of the telephone callers to the meeting.

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on the honoraria proposal.

A question was raised whether the payments were as a consequence of COVID. The Branch Treasurer responded that in part they could be attributed to the pandemic as that has very much increased the flow of work into the branch in terms of member referrals, enquiries and requests for assistance for help and advice. The Branch Officers have had to do a lot of reading to ensure they are up to date with the latest government guidance and any changes are fully understood. There have also been the difficulties of remote working after the branch closed in April due to the government guidance, this has caused difficulties with the working day often being longer than usual.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For: 78%
Against: 8%
Abstention: 14%

The honoraria proposal was accepted.

9. ELECTION OF DELEGATES

The Branch Chair read out the election of delegates for the benefit of the telephone callers to the meeting.

The Election of Delegates is as follows:

Committee		Nominations	
County H&S Committee		1	Mike Vaughan
(Includes Schools)		2	Nigel Brindley
Branch H&S Officer + 5 Seats		3	Mandy Dancocks
GENERAL-1023		4	Sue Insull
		5	Dan Watson
		6	

Committee			Nominations
Regional Local Gov Committee	3 Female	1	
6 Seats TBC		2	
UNISON-9009		3	
	3 General	4	Mike Vaughan
		5	Nigel Brindley
		6	
	Reserve		
West Midlands Regional Council	5 Female	1	Mandy Dancocks
8 Seats TBC		2	
UNISON-9008		3	
		4	
		5	
	2 General	6	Nigel Brindley
		7	
	Reserve		Mike Vaughan
Local Govt Conference Delegates	5 Female	1	Mandy Dancocks
6 Seats TBC		2	Liz Chadwick
UNISON-9001		3	
The delegation must comply with UNISON's rules on fair representation and proportionality,		4	
		5	
	1 General	1	Mike Vaughan
	Reserve		
National Conference Delegates	5 Female	1/	Mandy Dancocks
6 Seats TBC		S	
UNISON-9001		S	
		2	Carolyn Thompson
The delegation must comply with UNISON's rules on fair representation and proportionality		3	Liz Chadwick
		4	
		5	
	1 General	6	Mike Vaughan
	Reserve		
Donations, Affiliations & Gifts Committee		1	Kate Salter
5 Members		2	Liz Chadwick
(at least 3 members to make decision)		3	Tim Wareham
		4	
		5	

Committee			Nominations
Branch Staffing Committee (4)		1	Nigel Brindley
Branch Appeals Sub Committee (3)		2	Mandy Dancocks
Committee members will be selected from the list to sit on either the Staffing Committee or Appeals Committee as required		3	Sue Insull
		4	Dan Watson
		5	Liz Chadwick
		6	Kay Walsh
		7	Tim Wareham
		8	
		9	
		10	
North Staffs TUC		1	Mike Vaughan
UNISON-9010		2	Mandy Dancocks
		3	
		4	
East Staffs TUC		1	Mike Vaughan
UNISON-9011		2	Liz Chadwick
		3	
		4	
Wolverhampton & Bilston TUC		1	Mike Vaughan
		2	
		3	
		4	

The Branch Chair advised anyone wishing to put themselves forward for any of the committees to contact the Branch.

Proposed by: S Nixon

Seconded by: C Ham

9. MOTIONS

The following motions were submitted by Mike Vaughan, Branch Secretary.

Motion 1:

Staffordshire UNISON Branch agrees that all future Branch Executive Committee meetings and Annual General Committee meetings may be held virtually, physically or via a blended combination of both. Decisions relating to the said hosting of such meetings will be kept under regular review by the Branch Executive Committee.

Mike added that due to the current pandemic the National Executive Committee of UNISON gave permission to all Branches to allow them to hold virtual meetings on the basis that at the AGM the Branch put it forward to the membership whether they wanted to continue in this way going forward.

Proposed by: M Vaughan

Seconded by: S Nixon

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on Motion 1.

A question was asked if the meeting was quorate. The Branch Chair advised that the meeting was quorate, and the meeting was also attended by two representatives from the Regional Office.

A question was asked for more time for the members to submitted questions to virtual meetings.

One member particularly welcomed the motion as they do not live locally.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For: 98%

Against: 0%

Abstention: 3%

This motion is carried.

Motion 2:

Virtual Branch Executive Committee and Annual General Committee Meetings will always be recorded in the interests of accuracy. Recordings will be used to ensure that minutes of meetings are complete. The recordings will be deleted after 2 months by the Branch Office Manager. Participating UNISON members can object to their image being recorded by turning their ICT equipment camera off. However, their voiced contributions will be recorded.

Proposed by: M Vaughan

Seconded by: A Hine

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on Motion 2.

A question was raised about participants names not being given to employers. The Branch Secretary responded by assuring the meeting that UNISON does not share details with employers unless it is in connection with formal case work. Confidentiality is kept at all times and information is not shared with employers with regards to members attending these meetings, the Branch is governed by GDPR rules.

A question was raised whether the motion should start Annual General Meeting rather than Annual General Committee meeting. The Branch Chair advised the motion covered the Branch Executive Committee Meetings and the Annual General Meetings.

A question was raised are the recordings deleted at 2 months or after 2 months. The Branch Secretary responded that the recordings will be deleted at the 2-month mark.

A question was raised about the Annual General Meeting minutes being available within the 2-month time frame rather than December or can the motion be amended for the AGM recordings be kept for longer. The Branch Secretary responded that people may worry if the recordings were kept for longer than 2 months and would expect that the minutes would be available within the 2 months' time frame.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For:	85%
Against:	5%
Abstention:	10%

This motion is carried.

Motion 3:

In view of the cost of physical postage and the expanding selection of online communication systems, the Staffordshire Branch Executive Committee will examine how future contested Branch Officer Elections will be organised.

Proposed by: M Vaughan

Seconded by: J Buckley

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on Motion 3.

A question was raised whether this is something the Branch decide or is it an NEC decision. The Branch Secretary responded advising it was his understanding that it is a Branch decision as it is on contested Branch Officer elections only, there are no changes regionally or nationally.

A question was raised whether there would be a paper vote or online voting. The Branch Secretary responded saying online voting was favoured as it is the cheaper option and encourages participation, but it is understood that some people don't wish to use online technology. It is a review of what the Branch does currently to encourage democracy.

A question was raised as to what steps are being taken to ensure members contact details are up to date, so they are involved in Branch Officer selections etc. The Branch Secretary responded advising that members need to ensure their details are kept up to date, the Branch makes contact with members as much as we can with a gentle nudge to update their details and when we become aware of changes ourselves we do update them. Some members do not allow us to communicate with them in certain ways so we will have to look at how we can communicate with all members. If members don't

provide the Branch with an email address, we will have to write to them, but we have to rely on those members ensuring their address details are up to date.

A question was raised with regards to online privacy. The Branch Secretary responded to the question advising that nothing will be done without it being 100% certain that it is confidential. All concerns will be thoroughly debated at the Branch Executive Committee meetings.

A question was raised as to what the costs of an election is. The Branch Treasurer responded advising the postage costs was around £6000, in the 2021 election the ballot papers were sent out with the AGM invitation with extra printing costs of £1000.

A question was raised that jobs were being removed by moving from paper votes. The Branch Secretary responded that there is no intention to reduce resources. If the Branch can save money and redirect resources to more representation work, activist work campaigning on behalf of members then this has to be more beneficial to the Branch. The intention is to communicate better, quicker and smarter with members.

A question was raised that less than 10% of the membership are voting, is there anything being done to try to improve this. The Branch Secretary responded that at Branch level there has been an improvement of reaching out to members via social media and thanked the Communications Officer for his hard work in continuing to keep this up to date. The Branch wants members to know what we're doing and wants members to ask questions so if they have got concerns, they will get involved. The Branch can answer any concerns and provide information and the Branch will be transparent. The recent ballot was sent out with a stamped address envelope. We do need the membership to be engaged. There is no easy answer, but this is part of the review.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For:	85%
Against:	5%
Abstention:	10%

This motion is carried.

Motion 4:

Staffordshire UNISON Branch will impose a fixed quorum of 27 with effect from the Annual General Committee meeting in 2022.

The Branch Secretary gave some further background to this motion stating that several years ago it was agreed at an AGM that the quorum figure would rise by one each year. It has been difficult to get people to attend the meetings each year. It is an excellent turn out today, but this hasn't always been the case and last year the Branch only just got the 39 attendees needed to reach the quorum. The figure of 27 was chosen after a

number of discussions including with staff from Regional Office. It is important to have quorate meetings to ensure the business goes through each year.

Proposed by: M Vaughan

Seconded by: S Broughton

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on Motion 4.

A question was raised if the Branch can contact East Staffs Borough Council to ask them to let the members know of the amalgamation of the Branch so they can send information out. The Branch Chair responded that it was his understanding that this has already been done but if it hasn't it would be done after the AGM. The Branch Secretary confirmed that UNISON Regional Office had written to every member to notify them of what was happening and to ask for their views on the transfer. The Branch Secretary advised that the members would be written to again as part of a full membership newsletter.

A question was asked about the quorum and if there is a review on engagement and contact with members then 27 seems low compared to the current number. The Branch Chair responded to advise this is the quorum figure; this is the minimum amount of people that can be at the meeting to move business forward.

A statement was made by a member that when the Branch was first formed after the merger the quorum was 150. The Branch Chair responded advising sadly over the years it has been difficult to get members to participate in the meetings.

A statement was made that now the meeting was online this is much easier to access than travelling to Stafford. The Branch Chair responded that it is easier for some to access and it may be that in the future that the Branch look at blended meetings.

A question was asked whether the quorum should be reduced to a low figure when there is over 5000 members when such important matters are voted on. The Branch Secretary responded stating it was valid observation but as previously stated getting members to participate has proved difficult. It is hoped that passing this motion means there won't be an AGM in the future where the Branch can't pass business. Not being able to pass business creates major problems for the Branch moving forward.

A question was asked if the quorum can be reviewed at the next AGM where more online is encouraged. The Branch Secretary responded advising that effectively the quorum is reviewed most years because we're always worrying whether we will be able to get people to turn up.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For:	82%
Against:	11%
Abstention:	8%

This motion is carried.

Motion 5:

Staffordshire UNISON Branch will strongly welcome details within the election address of past personal involvement in positive trade union, social justice or community-based activity by any candidate seeking election to any contested Branch Officer position.

The Branch Secretary added that members deserve to know about anyone who is putting themselves forward for a Branch Officer position. The Branch Secretary would like more participation. There are vacancies on some of the committees. If you are standing for election to any position, it is surely not a burden for the members and voters to be told more about you as an activist and what you want to achieve in the position. It applies at district, county council and parliamentary elections, members should know more about who they are voting for, what they represent and what they've done indicates that, its providing information. It is a polite request and not compulsory because the UNISON rule book doesn't allow that, a polite request doesn't breach UNISON rules.

Proposed by: M Vaughan

Seconded by: J Durham

The Branch Chair asked if there were any questions on Motion 5.

A concern was raised that the motion may stop people contesting so needs wording clearly. This was noted.

A vote took place via a poll and the telephone callers were asked for their votes.

Poll result:

For:	92%
Against:	5%
Abstention:	3%

This motion is carried.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Branch Chair thanked Ashley Morley and Anne Quinn representatives from the Regional Office for attending and overseeing the meeting.

A very big thank you was given to Dan Watson, Communications Officer and Ann-Marie Davies, Branch Office Manager for ensuring the meeting went ahead, there have been several practices and a few hiccups with technology but we've managed to get the business of the meeting done.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the AGM meeting and to all the officers of the Branch, for going above and beyond this year, its not been easy and its been difficult not being able to meet up in the office. But business has carried on and members have been supported using online platforms.

Mike Vaughan, Branch Secretary added his thanks to everyone who attended the meeting. Anyone wishing to become more active in the Branch should make contact with the Branch office. Mike will respond to any issues raised at the meeting in due course.

There being no further business the meetings closed at 6.30pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2022



Tuesday 8th March 2022
Staffordshire UNISON Branch to celebrate International Women's Day

APRIL 2022



Week commencing 25th April 2022
Health and Safety Week leading to Workers Memorial Day on Thursday 28th April 2022



MAY 2022



May 2022
UK Mental Health Awareness Week

OCTOBER 2022



19th October 2022
World Menopause Day

Show Racism the Red Card



October 2022
Show Racism the Red Card

If you would like to get involved with any of these events, please contact the Branch on 01785 245000 or via email unison@staffsunison.org.uk



To update your details and communication preferences please visit: <https://www.unison.org.uk/my-unison>

Don't forget to check our website for all the latest news & info
www.staffordshireunison.org.uk

You can also find us on Twitter
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