



**Notes from Suffolk HealthCare Branch Officer Meeting held on Tuesday  
24<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm, Monet Room, St Clements Hospital**

**Present: Ian Talbot, Philip Bloyce (Chair), Steve Cook, David Edginton,  
Ray Hill and Annette Petty (Notes)**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as a true and accurate record.

1. Awaiting confirmation for Bob Holmes Steward Stage I Training in Norwich at the end of November
2. New Reps Checklist completed by Philip – items on list were discussed including recruitment and retaining reps with a probation/trial period – needs to be reflected in the Branch Rules. New reps to have a senior rep as mentor. Suggested index page with further information attached. Philip circulating list to branch officers for comments/amendments – **to be returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> November** –  
**Action:** Philip
3. Programme needs to be devised for new reps list for officers/reps easy access and encourage new reps to participate  
**Action:** Ian
4. Private/Voluntary Sector UNISON Membership – Yvonne Cleary, based at regional office is taking over from Cheryl Godber as the branch Regional Organiser. Yvonne currently looks after West Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital health branches – only NHS Suffolk. Annette to invite Yvonne to next Branch Officer and final Branch Committee Meeting for this year – “Action Plan” to be devised, what the branch expects and how we interact with our regional officer.  
**Action:** Branch Officers and Annette
5. NHS Cutbacks Campaign – reconfirmed as per last month’s minutes – need other health branches/representatives to demonstrate more positive support. Nationally, as part of a TUC campaigning alliance, all UNISON branches are being asked to support a mass Lobby of Parliament on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**, the purpose of which is to raise the alarm about NHS reforms, the impact of deficits leading to cuts in jobs and services, and increasing privatisation
6. Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT merger 1<sup>st</sup> October – Waveney UNISON members will be transferred to East Coast Health Branch on condition that regional office organise the Walnut Tree members for release to our branch including due back pay. In addition the 11 Grosvenor members need to be transferred to Bury Health District Branch.  
**Action:** Ian and Brian Lynch

7. The New Suffolk PCT – David reported the new PCT Headquarters “Rushbrook House” in Paper Mill Lane, Bramford is due to be completed 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 (covering Central, East and West PCT’s)
8. Formal Consultation Document on the Proposed Management Structures for Suffolk PCT – 20<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November (21 pages). Document discussed briefly. Philip and David to meet with staff at Thingoe House on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 10am for discussion. Further meetings to be arranged.  
**Action:** Philip
9. Health Crisis in Suffolk – Press Release from Geoff Reason – Suffolk Punched – a Survey of NHS Cuts, Closures and the threat of Privatisation in one English County – researched for UNISON Eastern Region by Dr John Lister, London Health Emergency. Both documents have been emailed out by regional office and by the branch to representatives for copying/display in workplaces for members. The above will be available shortly on the website
10. NHS Direct – Riverside Clinic – Ian reported that UNISON members at the clinic have been given redundancy notice for March 2007 as parts of the service is shutting down, to be maintained nationally. NHS Direct adopt the same redundancy process as Ipswich Hospital and SMHPT – in order to qualify for a redundancy package, staff should be actively pursuing jobs within the NHS
11. UNISON Consultation on the review of branch and service group structures information booklet – Annette has forwarded copies to branch officers for information
12. Train to Gain Conference – 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Ipswich Town Football Club – 9.30am to 2.15pm – Annette has forwarded copies to Mike Hurley, Education & Development Manager, Philip Bloyce and Liz Potter for their information

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4pm

**The next Branch Officer Meeting is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2pm, Monet Room, SCH.**

**Please forward any agenda items to Ian one week prior to meeting**

**IT/AP  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2006**