



Dorset NEU – General Meeting Minutes Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Meeting Commenced 6:06pm

★ Feedback from Treasurer

£500 has been agreed for Visible Women statue in Dorchester- we need Visible Women's bank account details for a bank transfer as the fundraising website will not accept our bank account.

Extra signatories to the bank account- GC has heard nothing further from Regional Office. RP to chase up.

RP queried timescale for conference. KL has agreed to take over the booking of accommodation for whoever is attending. KL will need to know definite names and dates for those that are attending. Delegates to let KL know, especially if arriving late/leaving early. She also needs to know whether partners are attending etc. KL to email RP with specific information request for RP to send to delegates.

★ Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RP is intending to publish all meeting minutes on the Dorset website - due to GDPR all names will need to be redacted.

PRP campaign- after initial push not much more has happened on this due to RP undertaking lots of casework.

Until signatories are changed, Geoff will need to sign off on all money transfers.

Training- several people have requested SW training.

HD Raised issue of lots of emails from various NEU groups e.g., Regional/ Training/Dorset etc. and whether it was possible to unsubscribe from any of these.

RP does not have access to 'people' to create groups etc. on Action Network yet.

★ Support Staff

The NEU position on not being able to negotiate pay for support staff remains unchanged but is still under negotiation. RP recommended everyone in the building should be in a union. Support staff are often the most vulnerable and especially vulnerable to redundancies due to funding pressures.



★ Facilities Time

VR updated on facilities time situation for Joint Branch and District Secretary role. There is still no agreement from all parties due to a hold up with Schools' Forum by Wessex MAT COO is chasing this up with Dorset Council HR.

RP- DTSC. RP was unable to attend the last meeting- they oversee the facilities time pot. NEU has 4 facilities days per week. Only 3 days per week for the NEU were noted on the last minutes for 2026/27. GC suggested the DTSC meetings should only be held on days when RP is available due to having the largest membership- RP to provide a list of dates to DTSC and request this. Currently numbers are 4 facilities days for Unison, NASUWT 2 days.

★ National Conference

Current delegates:

RP

EC

VW

PD

SS

PP

MC

KW – tbc (RP to chase)

Confirmed unable to attend:

AC

LK

RF

RP to set up a WhatsApp group for conference delegates.

RP confirmed that she had submitted the priority motions that were agreed at the committee meeting.

PP asked about claiming for expenses- last time GC paid for meals for everyone, paid by credit card and claimed back as treasurer. PP said this streamlined the expenses claiming process. PP has said he would be happy to do this and then fill in a claim form. GC said PP would need to say who the delegates are that he is paying for so that KL can check no one has accidentally claimed twice.

★ Fund Fair Pay Campaign

The 2.8% pay offer is below inflation and is unfunded RP attended the National briefing last week- we are gearing up for another pay campaign: 'Fund Fair Pay.' Around 97% of secondary schools are facing cuts next year. Loss of support staff, subjects being cut, staff not being replaced. Per pupil funding over time- next year's funding will be the lowest it has been for the last 15 years.



RP emailed all reps yesterday and is running 2 reps' briefings online to brief reps on the campaign. Indicative ballot starts on 1st March and runs to 11th April. RP thinking of sending a 'roadmap' for reps that might feel daunted at the start of a campaign.

PP raised the issue of hardship fund and reminded that members sometimes needed to be encouraged to apply. VR noted it is worth reinforcing with reps and members that we got back in our next year's pay packet more than we lost out on due to taking strike action.

HD noted that funding is the main issue within her school that concerns teachers.

RP noted the previous campaign Dorchester Strike Event and March at the start of the previous pay campaign was well attended, which helped motivate people and raise visibility. RP said she would like to run this kind of event again if strike action goes ahead.

AC raised the issue of SEND funding and culture now where parents are finding that even though their child has an EHCP, they are not getting the provision they should legally have. (This also ties up MAT money in litigation etc.).

RP said anyone could sit in on rep campaign briefings if they 'd like to – RP to send info to committee.

★ Stand Up To Racism (SUTR)

Tommy Robinson is organizing another far-right march on 1st Feb.

An NEU member has contacted RP and is submitting a motion- proposing a £100 donation to the coach for Dorset SUTR who are running a coach from Weymouth and Dorchester. It is being run on Eventbrite- members can identify themselves as union members, link here: <https://bit.ly/4gmVKVo>. AC seconded the motion, Motion agreed. GC said they would need the bank account and sort code to action this- RP to check this with Candy Unwin. RP, VR and AC attended the Dorset SUTR summit in Weymouth last year. RP also attended the previous SUTR march which was well attended by NEU members. Pickups for coach are on the website. RP to ask Dorset SUTR if we can have another pick up point in Wimborne. A coach will also go from Bournemouth, in collaboration with BCP NEU.

★ Any Other Business in Dorset

New Reps: HD's school has a new Health and Safety Rep- HD queried whether there was a course they can attend- RP will chase this.

SW Regional Meetings- KL noted that attending the SW region meetings must be in person and this is very costly- petrol alone cost £100. RP has requested that she could attend online, and this has not been allowed.



Casework- Currently lots of informal support plans in Dorset. There has also been a spate of disciplinaries. PP fed back on a particular casework result.

Meeting Closed 7:15pm