

Dorset NEU - Annual General Meeting Minutes
Friday 9th May 2025 6:00-8:00pm
The Kings Arms, 30 High East Street, Dorchester, DT1 1HF

1. Apologies:

Nadine Turner
Mark Chutter
Helena Doherty

Present:

Lisa Kearney (Independent Officer)
Emma Cartwright (LGBTQ Officer)
Rebecca Pearce (District Secretary)
Peter Parsons (Retired Officer)
Paula Doyle (Support Staff Officer)
Mark Oliver (Retired Officer)
Vicki Richmond
Karen Lindsay (Assist Treasurer)
Ali Chown (Vice President)
Lisa Hill
Serena Scaife (Women's Officer)
Richard Foyle (Committee Member)
Geoff Cooke (Treasurer).

2. Minutes of AGM 2024

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record of that meeting-

Proposed: KL **Seconded:** AC

3. Matters Arising: None

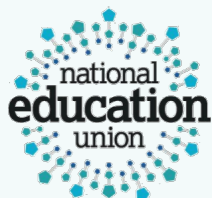
4. Minute Silence

One minute silence for the passing of Heather Cooke was observed.

5. Declaration of election of Officers and Committee for 2024-25

The following nominations were received and were unopposed and unanimously voted for 'en bloc':

Position	Firstname	Surname
President	Ali	Chown
Vice President	Peter	Parsons
District and Branch Secretary	Rebecca	Pearce
Assistant Secretary	Serena	Scaife
Treasurer	Karen	Lindsay
Black Members Officer	Vikki	Oriogon-Williams



Position	Firstname	Surname
Equality Officer	Mark	Chutter
Health and Safety Officer	Emma	Holder
LGBTQ+ Officer	Emma	Cartwright
Retired Members' Officer	Mark	Oliver
Retired Members' Officer	Peter	Parsons
Support Staff Officer	Paula	Doyle
Women's Officer	Serena	Scaife
Committee Member	Lisa	Hill
Committee Member	Richard	Foyle

Additionally, Geoff Cooke and Vicki Richmond were proposed as Committee members with Vicki Richmond as Minuting Secretary.

Geoff Cooke is stepping down as Treasurer. GC will remain available as KL takes over the role.

Proposed 'en bloc' by AC, **Seconded** MO and RP, motion carried.

6. Installation of new President

AC made a speech as newly elected President. It has been a busy year for the NEU. Our main priority next year will be the pay ballot. The trans issue, given the recent Supreme Court ruling may be an area where we need to remain open to dialogue. We are sorry to lose Heather Cooke who has played an important role in Dorset NUT and NEU. We look forward to a fighting year. It has been an excellent start for RC - the committee is here to support your work.

7. Additional nominations and proposals

a. Committee Members

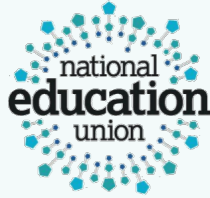
Committee Members were approved. AC enquired about the NUT chain of office- GC now has this. AC suggested it could be sold and money used by Dorset NEU. GC suggested donating it to the Education Museum which keeps union paraphernalia. AC suggested the old banner could also go to them. GC to locate.

b. Delegates to Regional Council

RP, KL, MO, PP to continue attending. LH will step down.

Proposed: AC, **Seconded:** KL - Motion carried.

c. Delegates to National Conference in Brighton April 2026



PD, RP, GC, AC, VR, PP, LH, RF, VW expressed an interest in attending.
Proposed and Seconded, Motion carried.

GC noted cost of rooms has increased and suggested a provisional block booking.
Budget will be agreed- normally at the beginning of school year. A draft budget will need to be submitted to the next committee meeting. Action: KL and GC

Delegates need to confirm their places by November

Action: Agenda Item for next committee and general meetings for full list and approval.

8. Financial Report

a. Presentation of Accounts for 2023/24

There were only a few Hardship Fund applications hanging over into this year. Our income is slightly more than previous years and our expenditure is less- a fairly modest amount. Income £21,011.11, Expenditure £23,392.69. Planned deficit of £2,391.58 to continue to reduce reserves. We can continue a deficit budget for next financial year. Our previous account balance was high due to lack of expenditure during the pandemic. This has helped to keep members' subs at a very low level.

GC noted that expenditure for 2024/25 will be much higher due to purchase of new technology and therefore the deficit will be higher, and that we are in a very good financial position compared to other Districts in the region.

b. Nomination for lay auditors for 2024/25

Nigel Pridmore and Peter Green were proposed by GC, seconded RP - motion carried.

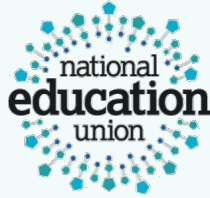
c. Proposals for Honoraria of £630 each for 2024/25

GC - Treasurer
Paul Eaton - Secretary
PP - Casework
AC - Minuting Secretary

AC proposed: Secretary, Treasurer, Caseworker and Minuting Secretary for 2024/25

Seconded: LH, motion carried.

d. Proposal for local subscription level for 2025/26



GC proposed subscriptions to remain at 5% of national subs (the lowest it can be).
GC noted we may need to increase this to 7.5% depending on funding.

Proposed: GC, **Seconded:** RF, Motion carried.

e. **Proposals for major expenditure items for 2025/26**

GC noted a change to the usual annual £1000 to Steve Sinnot Foundation. This is now being split between Steve Sinnot Foundation and Dorset Race Equality.

Due to the pay campaign the budget will potentially evolve this year

Proposed: GC, **Seconded:** RP, motion carried.

MO proposed that the Committee formally thanked Geoff for his incredible work as Treasurer and District Secretary.

9. Secretary's Report

RP noted that VR has been unable to take up the role of District Secretary due to facilities time constraints.

AB has not been able to take on role of Branch Sec next year - she is willing to be Lead Rep for SAST if Facilities Time can be agreed.

We've seen an encouraging increase in Committee Members- 5 new members/officers this year and many have continued their roles.

RP was proud of the sizeable Dorset delegation for NEU Conference with many sectors represented.

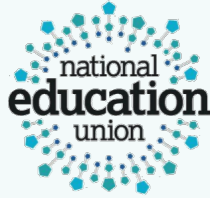
RP has created a Dorset NEU website which she will continue to update.

Fund Fair Pay Campaign- we've learnt a lot from the Preliminary Ballot - Dorset reached 42.7%. We have a clear strategy going forward for the Formal Ballot.

Fighting the Far Right- RP has attended several demonstrations.

Trans Rights - RP has purchased a crate of merchandise to use in demonstrations.

Bank account - signatories still needs to be resolved - RP is still to hear back from the bank.



Casework- we have 3 caseworkers- PP, RP and AB (SAST)

GC noted casework data is not collated centrally by NEU.

10. Other Officer's Reports

Retired Members: Retired Members continue to meet - 3 meetings per year. The next event is in June.

Action: MO to send information on events to RP for website.

Independent: Introduction of VAT on fees has been a problem with various schools closing, having an impact on employment. Local Authorities then have to provide school places. Canford and Dumpton have been purchased and many independent schools have been merging.

LK is pleased to report that Bryanston is about to achieve voluntary union recognition- the next stage is a staff vote.

TUC: AC is happy to continue. RP could possibly attend from September. TUC has held lots of events regarding refugees, the far right and takeover of ancillary jobs in the NHS. There will be several films shown- Action: AC to notify RP of dates.

11. Future Plans and Campaigns.

Fund Fair Pay - we are awaiting the STRB report in the summer.

School Cuts Campaign is running alongside this.

Fighting the Far Right

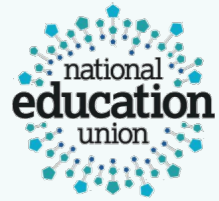
Support Staff- NEU is now able to actively recruit members. Action: RP to raise issue of subs for support staff- could these be lowered?

12. (AOB)

Action: VR to give laptop/printer/phone to KL

AB gave an update on SAST- several grievances. Shaftesbury and Sturminster will have redundancies due to joining 6th forms to a hybrid model.

Indicative ballot for Strike action has met threshold- formal ballots now in process.



Meeting closed 7.45pm

Next meeting date: General Meeting 28th June 2025 at the Hotel Rembrandt, Weymouth.