

Minutes of the NEU OGM 6th October

Apologies Treasurer, President and Vice President

Introductions 9 members attended including 1 executive member and 3 District and branch officers

Minutes of the last meeting Feb 2020 agreed as a true record , no matters arising

District items

Scott Riley was introduced as a new member of the committee

Treasurers report

Last years 2019-20 spend and budget were presented no questions were asked about wither of these.

Conference business

Feedback from 2020 conference 626 members attended the rearranged conference virtually on 3rd October. The morning session was a closed session for members only to discuss business including standing orders, rules and the executive report. The afternoon session consisted of 3 motions that focused on the Covid pandemic and its effect on schools and pupils, reflecting on some of the issues that have arisen and making a representation around these. Plus looking forward and how the ongoing situation should be managed.

Motions for conference 2021- These need to be submitted nationally by the 3rd Dec, the next OGM on Nov 10th will discuss these motions. Members to submit motions to District officers prior to this meeting further info will be sent out

National officer post elections- information from members putting forward for these posts is beginning to come through to the District, these will be shared with members prior to the next meeting so a vote can be taken on the nominations for these posts from the District.

District secretaries report

Since March 2020 Calderdale District and Branch officers have attended weekly/ fortnightly DBS meetings. Federation meetings have been held with other unions termly to discuss issues related to Covid and the management and the continuation of facilities time. Meetings with DLT have taken place throughout the summer term and during the holidays to discuss Covid issues. Union recruitment has increased considerably during the past 6 months, and the number of workplace and Covid reps has also increased online forums have kept members informed and provided a platform for discussion and support. Information from officer circulars has been shared with members through the online platform – Action Network.

NEU Executive report

Since late March there have been nine “meetings”, most of which have been information briefings from the Joint General Secretaries and National President about Covid-19 related issues and preparation for last Saturday’s Special Conference (which replaced the essential business of the cancelled annual conference).

The Officers Steering Group have met fortnightly between these “meetings” to make urgent decisions.

Full Executive meetings started again in September and there is one planned each month.

TUC plaque

Daniel outlined the project being spearheaded by the TUC to place a plaque on Northbridge to commemorate the events of 1842 associated with the Chartist movement and the struggle for an improvement in workers pay and conditions. Calderdale council have granted permission for this plaque to be erected , the cost will possibly be around £750 and funding from unions is being sought.

A proposal was made that a donation be made by the Calderdale District NEU to support this project, as the meeting was not quorate this was unable to be passed and will be taken forward to the next meeting in November.

Please see below a link for a book about the events of 1842

<https://www.breviarystuff.org.uk/catherine-howe-halifax-1842-a-year-of-crisis/>

Branch

Overview of current work

Branch secretaries have been very busy during the past 6 months supporting colleagues with issues related to Covid. In the Autumn term work has continued to be busy with meetings that had been on hold being reinstated plus ongoing Covid work

Covid situations in schools celebrations and challenges

Concerns shared by members

- Compacted timetables resulting in different expectations on staff with more timetabled hours and a difficulty balancing staffing. Resulting in members working long hours
- Members not being informed of cases in schools and therefore causing anxiety
- Year group bubbles not being maintained on school transport
- Parents not wearing masks when they drop children off, school offering free masks to parents
- Weekly meeting between CEO and union reps beneficial
- Members can wear a visors if wish in the classroom and a mask at staff meetings
- A variance in the efficiency of communication between schools

Date of next meeting 10th Nov 5pm