



**THE AGM OF THE NEU
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE DISTRICT)
– Wednesday 26th May 2021**

MINUTES (website version)

The meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies received from a number of local members.
2. Minutes of the last AGM (19 March 2019) – the minutes of the 2019 AGM were not available. There was no AGM in 2020; cancelled to the pandemic.
3. Introduction of Sue Amatiello. Sue is studying for a PhD in Education and Social Justice with Lancaster University, researching how trade union activists learn through engaging in activism, and how this is impacted by gender. She had asked if she could attend the AGM and make notes. This was agreed.
4. **Speaker:** Chris Dutton – Executive Member for District 8.
Chris spoke on a number of items, including how the executive would take forward the large increase in NEU over the past year, and also his views on the how the merger of NUT and ATL into the NEU went.
5. Declaration of the results of the election of Officers and Committee – these officers to take up their posts, if new in post, from September 2021:

District Secretary:	Lee Everson
Vice-President:	Rich Pellow
Treasurer:	Jon Kelly
New Professional and Young Workers Officer:	Leo Nikolaidis
Support Staff Officer:	Nandini Banerjee
Committee Member:	Michael Carter

Nominations were taken in the meeting for the following:

Committee Members: Kathryn Symonds
Ruby Szarowicz
Frank Clarke

Confirmation that the Vice-President, Leilah Boyce, will become the District President from September 2021.

6. Changes to NEU South Gloucestershire District Rules:

a) Rule 3.3.3

Elect South Gloucestershire District members of and submit motions, amendments and prioritisation thereof to annual conference;

3.3.3i if the relevant general meeting is not quorate the election of the local district members of annual conference shall be undertaken by a membership ballot.

Note - by the addition of 3.3.3i to 3.3.3, this brings the rules in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

b) Rule 3.3.4

the local district, its officers and committee shall ensure that all members of the district eligible to be a member of conference are notified of the nomination process.

Note - by the addition of 3.3.4, this brings the rules in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

c) Rule 3.5

The South Gloucestershire District shall keep records, documents and books of accounts relating to the financial transactions of the South Gloucestershire District as the Executive shall from time to time decide and annually at **August 31** or at such other dates as shall be required by the Executive, shall prepare and submit to the General Secretary, a Statement of Account in the form and manner required by the Executive, and in compliance with the requirements of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. The Auditor(s) of South Gloucestershire District shall carry out their duties in accordance with the requirements of the Auditors appointed by the Executive of the Union.

Note - this brings the rule in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020 by changing the financial year end date from 31 December.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

d) Rule 5.6 - deletion

All conference representatives as per the entitlement listed in accord with Main Rule/Appendix X shall be elected in the South Gloucestershire District in accordance with the provisions set out in the preceding Rules 5.1-5.4

Note - deletion of this section brings the rules in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

e) Rule 6.8

The quorum for all general meetings shall be **10** members from no fewer than 3 education establishments. The quorum for Committee meetings shall be 40% of Committee members [and no less than 5].

Note - this brings the rule in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020. The previous rules gave a quorum of 15.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

f) Rule 6.9

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Secretary on the instructions of the Committee or within twenty-one days of the receipt of a written requisition stating the purpose for which the meeting is called and signed by not less than **10** members. No business other than that stated by the Committee, or in the requisition, shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting.

Note - this brings the rule in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020. The previous rules set a requirement for the notice to be signed by 15 members.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

g) Rule 8.3

South Gloucestershire District's financial year shall end on **31 August** and at that date or such other dates as shall be required by the Executive of the Union, the South Gloucestershire District shall prepare and submit to the General Secretary a Statement of Account of the South Gloucestershire District in the form and manner required by the Executive and in compliance with the requirements of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.

Note - this brings the rule in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020 by changing the financial year end date from 31 December.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

h) Rule 8.6

8.6 All banks, building societies and/ or other accounts should be in the name of the South Gloucestershire District and withdrawals from the account shall require the signatures of or authorisation of an electronic payment by at least two Officers of the South Gloucestershire District. **The district should have three signatories.** A signatory should not sign their own cheque or authorise their own electronic payment unless a second who is not connected (as a spouse or civil partner; a relative, or relative of a spouse or civil partner) to the first signatory also signs or authorises the payment.

Note – this brings the rule in line with the district model rules in the NEU rule book, 3 October 2020 by the addition of the required number of signatories.

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

7. President's address: Leo Nikolaidis

Although Leo has been President since April 2020, he used the opportunity of the AGM to give a Presidential address to the district. He divided his address into three parts, which were; anger, then hope, then action.

He also remembered those colleagues that had passed away since the previous AGM; Chris Ewing and Nina Franklin.

8. District Officer's reports (except Treasurer – see item 7):

- a) Secretary – verbal report given
- b) Assistant Secretary – verbal report given
- c) Membership Secretary – written report circulated prior to AGM. Increase of 14% in local NEU membership since 8 September 2020.

9. Treasurer's Report:

a) Statement of Accounts

- have amassed quite a large balance, due mainly to reduced expenditure because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

b) Budget for 2021-22: approval by AGM

- reduction of the local membership subscription for 2021-22 from 15% to 7.5% is likely to reduce the annual district income by half
- expenditure in 2021-22 is likely to be slightly above than in the previous pre-pandemic year.

10. Motion: **Honoraria in 2021-22**

In recognition of the union activities undertaken by the officers of the NEU South Gloucestershire District in their own time, the District agrees to make the following honoraria payments for the year from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

President	£500
Treasurer	£1,000
Membership Secretary	£250
Minutes Secretary	£250
Health & Safety Officer	£1,000
Equality Officer	£500
New Professional & Young Workers Officer	£250
International Solidarity Officer	£250
Communications and Media Officer	£250
Support Staff Officer	£250
Post-16 Officer	£250

The honoraria payments will be confirmed at the final quorate district General Meeting in 2021-22. For officers taking up post after the start of September, the General Meeting will confirm whether the full payment or a pro-rata payment is appropriate. No honoraria payments will be given to any officer (branch or district) who undertakes casework duties, and no honoraria payments will be given to any branch officer who receives a facilities time allocation in 2021-22. No officer may receive more than one honorarium. Where two or more individuals share an officer role, they should share the honoraria awarded to that post.

Proposer: Jon Kelly Seconder: Michael Carter

Amendment: That the District Secretary with an honorarium of £1,000, should be included in the list of those district officers to receive an honorarium in 2021-22.

AMENDMENT AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, AGREED BY A SHOW OF HANDS

11. Motion: **Local Subscription Rate, 2021-22**

This district notes that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the expenditure of the district since March 2020 has been much less than would have normally been incurred. This has been in part due to the cancellation of two annual conferences, saving delegates expenses, the inability to hold meetings, saving venue and refreshment costs and a reduction in travel expenses. As a consequence, the reserves of the district have increased in the past twelve months.

The district proposes to reduce the local subscription rate for NEU South Gloucestershire members from 15% to 7.5% for the subscription year 2021-22. For illustration purposes, for a full-time standard member, this would reduce the local contribution from £28.76 to £14.38, an annual saving of £14.38.

Proposer: Jon Kelly

Seconder: Michael Carter

AGREED BY SHOW OF HANDS

12. Discussion of matters declared urgent by the meeting – none

13. AOB

- discussion around the union 'Directed Time' campaign that has been launched in term 5.

14. Dates of General Meetings and AGM, 2021-22

- dates for next year will be circulated at a later date to all district members in South Gloucestershire.