

General District & Branch Meeting

Agenda 02/07/2026

Venue: The Merebrook

Attendees – See attached sheet.

Apologies	
Minutes/Matters Arising	Laptop Purchased Special Conference and Conference successful
Welcome Introductions	
Reports	
Local Disputes	
National Campaign	Save Education National Ballot
On going concerns	Office Space Price increase Phone Contract Renewal
Correspondence	Payment of Past Honoraria.
Financial Resources	Update from Treasurer
Honoraria	Ratification of Honoraria 2025/26 – Only to be voted on by branch members
Upcoming events	22 nd July Next Years dates announced 8 th August New Brighton Pride 5 th October Launce of Paper Ballot
AOB	

Appendix

Last Minutes

General District Meeting

Agenda29.1.26

Venue: Merebrook

Attendees: See attached register

Quorum	Yes
Number of Members	21
Number of Schools	14
Number of active members	20

Apologies		
Minutes/Matters Arising		
Welcome Introductions		A ballot missed threshold but members' got everything they wanted form the dispute. Strike action isn't being reached as schools are quite often folding after indicative ballot stage.
Reports		
Local Disputes	Strike Action and Ballots	A ballot missed threshold but members' got everything they wanted form the dispute. Strike action isn't being reached as schools are quite often folding after indicative ballot stage.
National Campaigns	Save Education	Save Education Campaign Launched focused on Pay , Funding and Increase in 1265 hours. Indicative Balot opens 28th February
On going concerns	Special Conference	Support Staff opinions wanted and gathered. Emails will be sent out to

	Laptop Issues- MF	get feedback from wider membership base on how delegates should vote. Delegate list voted on. MF Laptop is really beginining to struggle It is overheating and is not fit for purpose, WF TD support the idea of a new one so MF can do his job unhindered,
	Annual Conference	Delgated list put forward and voted upon,
Motions requiring voting	See below	
Correspondence	Venezuela Solidarity Campaign	NS detailed the campaign. Concerns where voice over support of Maduro, TD attended online teams regarding campaign.
Upcoming events	Special Conference 28th February 16th March Branch Meeting Spring Thing Merebrook Together Alliance March 28th March	
AOB		

Appendix



National Education Union

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Mabledon Place
London WC1H 9BD

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neu.org.uk

General secretary
Daniel Kebede

Deputy general secretary
Sarah Kilpatrick

24 June 2026

Honoraria – Mr Paul Ronayne

Dear Michael Farrelly

This letter is to confirm the process for Wirral paying Mr Paul Ronayne's Honoraria to the executor and beneficiary of his estate Ms J Cook.

Wirral District can pay the gross Honoraria awarded to Mr Ronayne directly to Ms J Cook via bank transfer. Ms J Cook will then need to write to HMRC to declare the Honoraria as part of the estate income and the appropriate tax can be calculated. I spoke to the Bereavement Services team at HMRC on 23 June 2026 to confirm this approach was suitable. I will write a letter to Ms J Cook containing the text below which acts as a summary of what I explained to HMRC to ensure they understood the Honoraria payment was not regular income or remuneration from employment.

Mr Ronayne was a member of the NEU and elected officer of Wirral District, not an employee, and the Honoraria awarded by Wirral District was done so on an ex-gratia basis in recognition of the work carried out on behalf of the District. Wirral District were under no legal obligation to award Mr Ronayne the Honoraria payment and Mr Ronayne was not entitled to compensation or remuneration for his services as they were given on a voluntary basis with no contract of employment between Mr Ronayne and the NEU or Wirral District.

District Officers of the NEU are elected for a period of one year. Each year Wirral District has the option to award their elected officers an Honoraria payment to thank them for their services. The District is under no obligation to pay Honoraria and each year the decision must be taken at the District AGM without prejudice to decisions that were made in previous years.

There are no term limits for District Officers however they can be re-elected each year with this decision being made by the members of the District who then have the choice to award the Officer an Honoraria payment once their term is up. Consequently, there are two decisions made by the members of Wirral District each year that are mutually exclusive and evaluated on their own merits that lead to an Officer receiving an Honoraria payment.

In terms of District reporting, the Honoraria payment to Mr Ronayne has been awarded, agreed, and ratified correctly meaning no further decisions are required in advance of Wirral District transferring the Honoraria to Ms J Cook. To ensure transparency, the Wirral Officers should report the payment at the next General Meeting and provide the background.

On behalf of the Finance Department I apologise this was not resolved earlier. Please email me at Nikheel.Channa@neu.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Yours Sincerely

Nikheel Channa
Interim Head of Finance

Appendix A

APPENDIX A (2025/26)

Officer Roles Eligible for Honoraria Service Period 2025-2026 (Agreement in Principle)

District/Branch:

OFFICER NAME (if Known)	OFFICER ROLE *	AMOUNT OF AWARD (GROSS) *
Michael Farrelly	Secretary	£5835+STRB
Terry Dobbins	Assistant Secretary	£1167+STRB
Neil Sledge	International Officer	£937 + STRB
Wayne Blessing	Treasurer	£1,659.15+strb
Paul Ronayne	Assistant Treasurer	£276.25+strb

The following is a list of Elected Officer Roles that will be eligible for Honoraria for the service period **1st September**

2025 to 31st August 2026.

This list should be presented at the **2024-2025 AGM** and included as an appendix to the minutes as authorisation of those Officer Roles that will be eligible for honoraria for the **2025-2026** service period (subject to those roles being fulfilled).

*** must be completed**

Declaration:

The Officer Roles and amounts detailed above have all been voted for and **agreed in principle** at the **2024-2025 quorate AGM**.

For honoraria to be paid the officer roles, names, amounts and service period will need to be ratified at the last General Meeting of the 2025-2026 Financial year.

The Officers will receive payments for the roles detailed above in **March 2027**.

Authorised by:

Treasurer: _____

Secretary: _____

DATE: _____

Appendix B

APPENDIX B (2025-26)

Ratification of Elected Officers for Honoraria Service Period 2025-2026

OFFICER NAME*	OFFICER ROLE*	AMOUNT OF AWARD (GROSS)*	SERVICE PERIOD (amend if not full year)
Michael Farrelly	Secretary	£6068.50	1 st Sep 25 – 31 st Aug 26
Terry Dobbins	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	£1213.70 + £1820.70/12*7=1062.08 =2275.78	1 st Sep 25 – 31 st August 26 29/01/2026 – 31/08/2026
Wayne Blessing	Treasurer	1820.70/12*5 =£758.63	1 st Sep 25 – 28 th Jan 26
Neil Sledge	International Secretary	£997.91	1 st Sep 25 – 31 st Aug 26
			1 st Sep 25 – 31 st Aug 26
			1 st Sep 25 – 31 st Aug 26
			1 st Sep 25 – 31 st Aug 26
			1 st Sep 25 – 31 st Aug 26

District/Branch: Wirral

The following is a list of Officers who completed their term of office for the Honoraria service period **1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026**. The officer roles and amounts should match **Appendix A 2025-26** (presented at the 2024-25 AGM).

This Appendix should be presented at the **final quorate General Meeting of 2025-2026** and included as an appendix to the minutes as authorisation of the Officers eligible for honoraria for the **2025-2026** service period.



*** must be completed**

Declaration:

The Officer names, roles, service periods and amounts detailed above have all been ratified at the **final quorate General Meeting of 2025-2026.**

The Officers will receive payments for the roles detailed above in **March 2027.**

Authorised by:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael Yarnell".

DATE: