

NUT Agenda

10th March General meeting

Voodoo Cafe, Skinnergate, Darlington

5:30 - Upstairs

Attendees: Julie Ashmore (chair) Simon Nicholson, Zoe Mather, Hazel Commane, Laura Thurman, Graeme Cooke.

1. Apologies: Paul Butt, Luke Watkinson, Dom McArdle
2. Minutes - Matters arising.

HC to send email to all members re: setting PM objectives in Summer 2 and early September. To tie in with reps training on same theme.

Accounts have not been handed over and so accounts were not presented. **GC to speak to PB to get statements and accounts missing at AGM to be presented in next general meeting - 30th June.**

Gloriana has spoken to Liz re: leaving present for Dave. A pewter tankard was suggested, meeting agreed to spend £30 - £50 on present. To be engraved with 'In thanks for your years of service and dedication to the NUT in Darlington'. **HC to sort.**

Has GC checked our allocation of reps for conference as membership has increased? (Sorry if this was mentioned - I missed it)

3. Jenny Chapman meeting

ZM & HC fed back. Generally a positive meeting although still some work to do in getting across reality of the pressure on teachers. Some disappointing rhetoric from Jenny about raising the bar and continuing

to change outstanding to good etc. However, she took our manifesto and sounded positive about it, and took away our petition to consider signing it. It seemed to be the start of a positive relationship and both sides open to meeting more regularly and keeping a dialogue open. Jenny also encouraged us to run hustings. Jenny also suggested affiliating to Labour party as a branch, which we said was unlikely, partly due to political fund rules.

4. Hustings

Proposal of Wed 22nd April, 7.00 - 8.30 @ QESF, offering Tim Fisher role of chair. **HC to check the dates of other hustings.** Title of 'Education Question Time' with NUT as a 'sponsor' rather than an NUT event as such. Possible refreshments beforehand supplied by NUT (wine?)

SN and JA to approach Tim Fisher about using QESF

Possible alternatives - approach Pat Howarth at Hummersknot or hire Forum (or a hotel?) but preference for an education setting. Alan Rutter (exec member) could be an alternative chair.

Once decision made on venue and date, **HC to invite candidates, HC to design flyer & arrange printing, ZM/DM to contact Northern Echo, DM to organise copy of manifesto and flyer for EQT to be dropped in free papers delivered to doorsteps, LT to contact Uni & invite students, HC to speak to regional for support and banner, HC to email members/tweet etc**

Flyer to include email address (nutdarlington@gmail.com) to ask people to send in questions in advance and offer opportunity for people to arrive early to submit cards with questions on. Small team (e.g. JA, HC, DM, GC) to sift through cards on the night and select a group of questions which will allow a range of issues to be discussed. A front of house team will also be needed on the night.

HC to arrange follow up meeting with small team at QE to continue arrangements for event

5. Local reps training

To take place after GCSEs and SATs, so after 18th June. HC to liaise with RO.

HC to send letter to HTs to inform them reps training is happening and that someone from their school should be there. (Thanks Zoe for suggestion post meeting)

6. Website - agree intro wording

Slight change agreed (deleting 'welcome to the website of') so home page of website now reads:

Welcome to the NUT in Darlington. We are a branch of the National Union of Teachers serving around 500 teachers in Darlington. We support teachers across a broad sector, teaching in schools from nursery to post-16. We also support retired members.

Our branch is run by teachers working in schools, who volunteer with the NUT because they care about education and getting the best for children and teachers in our schools. Our team is growing, but we are always interested in more help, so if you would like to get involved, get in touch.

HC to change site so it reads as above.

PB to sort photos on website

7. AOB

ZM has been on learning rep training. She filled us in - a learning rep supports CPD including raising awareness of and increasing access to training. ZM has written a fact finding questionnaire on google docs which will allow her to assess learning needs. **ZM to send survey to committee to trial and get feedback. Committee to fill in survey. At next meeting committee will discuss events the division can organise to fill gap, accessing grant money to support. Agreed to offer prize for survey to incentivise.**

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LT keen to do work around teacher stress levels and workload, looking at mental health and balancing pressure put on teachers. Some discussion around access HTs and best route to this. **LM to write letter introducing herself to the head teachers and offering to come in and talk to staff during staff meetings about mental health issues. Letter to be sent via GC. LM to have a slot at the reps training in June/July 2015 to raise awareness.**

Meeting finished 7:15ish

Next meeting - Tuesday, June 30th, 5:30pm

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