Members present: Paul Oakden (Party Chairman) (PO), Steve Crowther (SC) (Interim Leader), Elizabeth Jones (EJ), Marion Mason (MAM), Fiona Mills (FM), Paul Oakley (PJO) (Interim General Secretary), Katie Fanning (KF), Mick McGough (MM), Katie Fanning (KF), Piers Wauchope (PW), Paula Walters (PWl) (from 2.45pm).
Also present: Adam Richardson (AR) (Party Secretary), Jonathan Arnott MEP (JA).

*The meeting started at 2.40pm.*

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Bown, David Sprason, Anish Patel, John Bickley and Peter Whittle.

The decision was taken in March not to replace the NEC vacancy until the next annual NEC elections, following advice from Alan Bown. However, with SC becoming Interim Leader, there is now effectively a second vacancy.

The meeting voted to choose the next candidate on the list (Paula Walters – PWl).

*PWl entered the room.*

The meeting approved the previous minutes.

PW said that the Stoke report still has not been done [previously delayed due to General Election]; he can still do it if needed. KF felt that it is still needed; PW said that in that case it will be done for the next meeting.

The meeting voted to re-admit Clive Easton and Patrick Barrington-Coates to the Party, who had previously been expelled.

The changes to the composition of the NEC regarding elected members will be considered as part of the Constitutional Review.

Roger Bird will be asked to present his report to the next NEC meeting.

There followed a brief discussion on the General Election and policies, with both positives and negatives mentioned.
The Interim Leader’s Report primarily focused on the review of UKIP’s branding, which means looking at the Party’s philosophy as well as the physical components of the branding.

Chairman’s Report
We have sold 231 tickets to the Conference. This is further on than last year. These have started to pick up since the leadership election.

The NEC approved the splitting of a branch in Sunderland.

Branch regional reform update
The Party is proposing to restructure around a County basis and to try to draw influence away from members of staff who have worked for MEPs. Of the 18 Regional Organisers and 5 Regional Chairmen, all but two were in favour of this.

We are in the process of putting together an electronic Independence magazine, and there will be an advert allowing people to apply for these roles.

There will be a paper circulated on this, with the idea of approval in July.

The NEC appointed Peter Staveley as the National Nominating Officer.

MEP Update
Roger Helmer has announced his intention to resign as an MEP, which creates a vacancy. The NEC noted that Jonathan Bullock is the next on the list, but the NEC is not obliged to choose the next on the list – it is only required to choose someone from it.

The NEC considered Jonathan Bullock’s credentials. He has been a UKIP Borough Councillor, developed a branch, been a County Chairman, stood for the General Elections in 2015 and 2017, and has been a campaign manager. He has travelled to support target seats, donated to the Party and campaigned at Parliamentary by-elections.

Consequently, it was happy to approve Jonathan Bullock to take on the MEP seat to be vacated by Roger Helmer.

The NEC ruled that the Party Leadership election will be conducted by a postal ballot, but envisages that future ballots will be done digitally and/or with a system of automated telephone voting.
The NEC planned to hold the next meeting at a weekend.