Minutes of UKIP NEC meeting 28th October 2017

Members present: Henry Bolton (Leader) Paul Oakden (Party Chairman) (PO), John Bickley (JB) (Party Treasurer), Alan Bown (AB), Fiona Mills (FM), Steve Crowther (SC), Mick McGough (MM), Paul Oakley (PJO), Katie Fanning (KF), Paula Walters (PAW), Andrew Moncreiff (AM) Elizabeth Jones (EJ)

Also present: Adam Richardson (Party Secretary)

1. Approval of minutes from meeting 11 August 2017

Proposed PW, Seconded AB

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

2. Matters Arising not covered on the minutes

Nil

3. Vote of thanks to Steve Crowther for his time as Interim leader

Proposed PW, Seconded AM

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 1 Abstention (SC)

Leaders report

Spokesmen - All have been approved but feel free to give comment. I know KF produced a document about YI elections, I’m hoping that their new Chairman should be able to double hat as spokesman for youth affairs too.

I am intending to continually review the Spokesmanships and there may be a reshuffle in late spring but this will be based on the effort put forward by the relevant Spokesman. I see the spokesmen as developing policy in their area. The baseline for each Spokesman should be 2015 manifesto, I am going to ask them to formalise 10 people to fit their expertise group, these would be experts to inform their brief and then update the manifesto.

The NEC would ensure policy complies with the constitution. The Spokesmen are expected to project themselves into British politics MEP’s or not. Some MEP’s have some resources available to them and to use them where they can.
I do believe that we should have some more discipline and there should be some collective responsibility. NEC should be informed and I should be informed. There is also a social media discipline and we need to look at how people behave on social media.

In terms of projecting our politics into British life I would like to campaign on the ‘out now’ campaign and we need to ramp it up. There is a good opportunity for us to ramp up support for the armed forces.

*General discussion about membership subscriptions being too low as an average.*

SC: We have an average renewal rate of £24 pounds.

MAM: Direct debit has to take place

JB: it has but we could do more

AM: so the direct debit model that exists and is available to use.

AB: historically we did put the subscription up quite a bit and we didn’t lose members.

HB: I would like to see how the members are broken down in each category of membership and I would like to see how much they are worth. There is a team in place to help improve online recruitment.

**Action - PO to report back on membership figures/numbers and lead discussion on subscriptions.**

I believe there is a great opportunity to give a voice to the local community. Those are the themes I’d like to look at.

I would like to look at planning and campaigning processes for general and local elections. I think we ought to have a lot more depth and sustainability in terms of its impact. That planning will feed into regular updates into itself.

Transparency among the NEC is important. We need to make it clear of where the minutes are.

MM: We are not listed in independence magazine and the only people who know you are people who know you in your own region. We should get our contact details on.
EJ: Why don’t we return to the RM e-mail forum?

HB: In an ideal world we would have a secretariat for the NEC. The problem we have with this is an NEC member making policy.

There will be a common process that spokesmen put forward an address where people can apply to a working group for the policy formation. The NEC will then review that.

MM: There was a policy disconnect between those writing the manifesto and those spokesmen.

HB: It’s my job to keep the Spokesman motivated and to keep them working.

JB: how do you intend to motivate the troops?

HB: We have started a meet the leader tour. I will go to every single Christmas party I am physically able. There is not a day that I shouldn’t be doing these things.

PW: one of the most important things you can do is sort out training for campaigning.

KF: how are we doing in the Make Votes Matter issue?

HB: I have engaged with Make Votes Matter to try and make it

EJ: I am extremely impressed with the level of media exposure you have garnered. What was your plan during your campaign and what is your plan moving forward for new big donors?

HB: I am meeting some on Thursday. Let me bring this down to a focus thing. I have wanted to understand how this party works. Then we need to get activity going. In tandem I am going to meet with donors and the day to day running of this party should be met with subscriptions. I need to address the concerns of the donors we already have.

4. NEC E-mail Contact details to be published.

13 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

UKIP.org emails to be arranged for all NEC members, ready for next meeting.
Chairman’s report

We managed to break even on conference. Turnout was excellent. We had a great expo stand, we got positive coverage. The conference was further proof of our increasing ability to push down costs of putting on such events. As an example, last year, the cost of the audio visual was 15k this time it cost 7k, without any noticeable drop in quality..

Regional Organisation

We put out the call for county organisers. We are now reforming an ability to get emails and contact information out to the regions.

MAM: can we please have a matrix of who is who in every area?

PO: of course.

“Out Now” campaign, we have ordered a great amount of materials. We have ordered 1000 leaflets per branch’s, stickers, badges, briefing flyer, roller banner. What we are not doing is giving to branches that will not do any work.

HB: I would like to use a better employment of social media and get all the marketing out there.

PO: As you know David Sprason is no longer the chairman of the Councillors Associations. He has been replaced by Peter Reeve. Would the NEC like to vote to invite Peter to future NEC meetings, taking the slot previously filled by Dave Sprason?

PW: I believe now is the time to discuss again how we allocate those two places. We should invite the councillors association on a rolling basis with MEP’s elected representatives in London and with Wales.

PO. I know there have been discussions for a number of months about revisiting the composition of the NEC. It we are to do that now then it would seem appropriate to invite representatives from the Councillors Assosiation, Wales and London to come to our meeting in November and participate in that discussion.

PO asked PW if he would prepare a paper in advance of the November meeting. All agreed.

NEC elections
PW: In our rules it had to be an electronic vote in our NEC election.

PO: We shall revisit this in November. Both politically and financially.

Treasurers report

5. MM, FM to join the F&RC

11 in Favour, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions (MM, FM)

AB: The one thing I keep saying is that we need to get better at housekeeping. We need to make sure we’re never overcharged. Certain things are being charged, insurance, Indy mag, Every single costs should be put out to tender. Are we having a spring conference?

PO: We are suggesting that the national party should not have a spring conference and instead there should be regional conferences.

GenSec Report

Paul Oakley discussed all outstanding disciplinary cases.

Party Secretary

Adam Richards discussed all outstanding legal cases.

YI Elections

Katie Fanning has put forward a proposed timetable for the upcoming YI elections.

6. Propose Paul Oakden as the returning officer -

11-0-1

7. Setting of the time timetable delegated to Paul

11-0-1

PO. Jake Painter has put in a written policy request for the NEC to consider. That UKIP Students leaves the NUS
8. UKIP Students Leave NUS
10 - 0 - 1

AOB

HB: There is going to be a transition to the centre of gravity from Brussels back to the UK. I am not going to appoint people I don’t know, that simply won’t happen. They are not appointed because they are MEP’s they are appointed because I know them. If they don’t perform they will no longer be spokespersons.