Members present: Henry Bolton (HB) (Party Leader), Paul Oakden (Party Chairman) (PO), Paul Oakley (PJO) (General Secretary), Marion Mason (MAM), Fiona Mills (FM), Mick McGough (MM), Alan Bown (AB), John Bickley (JB), Piers Wauchope (PW).

Also present: Adam Richardson (AR) (Party Secretary), Jonathan Arnott MEP (JA) (minutes; MEP representative).

Apologies for absence were received from Katie Fanning, Paula Walters and Andrew Moncreiff, and from Piers Wauchope (who arrived later).

20 Motion 1: That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Proposed by AB, seconded by JB. Carried by 8-0 with 1 abstention (JA - not present at previous meeting).

PO noted that Paula Walters felt very passionately about halal meat at the previous meeting; PO said that, having spoken to Stuart Agnew, the intention is to put that policy to a Conference motion next year.

FM said that it should be correctly termed non-stun slaughter.

Leader’s Report

HB reported that he is in the progress of setting up various Groups:

Leader’s Group - which will be policy advisory and include Margot Parker, Jim Carver and Mike Hookem.

Shadow Cabinet - self-explanatory

Communications Group - for external messaging

Events Group - for organisation of events

Fundraising Group - we need to be much more clever in our broader approach towards fundraising

Membership & Recruitment Group

Campaign Planning Support Team

Save Our Services - both on the welfare side and future capabilities, to ensure a sovereign capability.
Brexit Planning Support Team - to reinvigorate our entire Brexit messaging. This is a complex piece of work which requires planning and thinking.

Elections Planning Support Team - noting that a General Election is not completely off the cards.

HB said that there are Council by-elections taking place which we don’t hear about until after they’ve happened. Selection, vetting, training, preparation and support - there’s a lot that needs to be done.

We need national ‘mood music’, a backdrop to the Council election campaign next year.

HB has been to Newport, Bridgend, Bedfordshire, Great Yarmouth, Surrey, the Welsh Assembly, and the London event. All so far have gone very well.

HB is due to go to the North East, East Midlands, West Midlands and Southampton and will be on Question Time on Thursday night.

HB and JA met George Holding, the representative of the House Speaker on US-UK relations, last week. He seemed interested in establishing and maintaining relations with the Party - but also highly concerned about the lack of sophisticated planning within the British government. That seems to be the feeling in Washington.

HB met with a very high-ranking European Commissioner who is involved in the negotiations. They have that same concern - “For years we’ve got used to the UK never taking the lead on anything but providing good, practical common sense. We were all expecting the UK to be a real challenge in terms of their negotiation. We found that there is absolutely nothing there.” The feeling was lack of competence in London. HB heard exactly the same from another source. We have a fantastic opportunity there.

HB and JA monitored and responded to the Budget. SC said that the BBC interviewed representatives of all parties including the Greens but did not interview UKIP.

SC wondered whether it might be worth making a complaint; HB said that for other reasons (including the Question Time appearance) it would not be prudent at this stage.

HB was due to debate Gina Miller and Alastair Campbell tomorrow, but it has been pulled.
HB addressed the EFDD staff on the crisis in the Mediterranean for two hours, and is debating at the LGA on December 5th along with Hilary Benn.

FM would like to publicise the tour a little better; the wrong date went out for the North West. She would like posters for social media.

HB agrees that this is a problem, and we need to do more to communicate with members.

PO said that we’ve put things out at least twice to the membership.

MM said that we used to get regular listings of by-elections.

PO said that used to be put together by Chris Adams, who is no longer in that role.

HB wants us to pick up on that, but this is why we need to get these groups up and running.

FM said that sometimes Councils don’t publicise notices more broadly.

JB wondered whether Peter Staveley could do this as the National Nominating Officer, working with Peter Reeve.

HB said that this is what the Communications and Elections groups will be doing.

PO said that we need to have someone putting out graphics during Question Time on Thursday night.

HB said it works, and it’s something we should be doing as a matter of course.

MAM asked what happened with the Save Our Services launch; the email went out the night before.

HB said that there were two things about that campaign: one, it was timely to demonstrate some activity on a live issue; and two, we will have the planning teams to shape future launches. If we’d done that with the Save Our Services campaign we’d have had to wait. We didn’t seek a perfect launch.

MAM asked who is in the Shadow Cabinet; HB will send on the email.

JB said that the NEC just needs to know formally who is on which Committees.

SC said that on Question Time, HB will need a ‘bomb’ to let off. Let’s craft a really nice phrase that is headline-worthy and make sure we get it out there.
People thought Brexit was the Tories’ game. They’re utterly failing at it, but we need to put that out.

HB said that the Irish border is an issue being brought up; the UK has never asked for an external border.

SC said that the British government should be able to announce our position on this, and get it out of the way.

JB said that we have not yet registered either ‘For The Nation’ or the new logo, and asked HB if he has any issues.

HB is finding that the logo is the number one contentious issue everywhere with the branches. There is a practical difficulty - what logo do we use for the ballot in May, what logo is campaigned on? There is no way that branches will be properly equipped with Correx boards and so on.

AB buys Correx boards for the Party in bulk at a massive discount. Before he did that, members were paying £3-£4 per Correx board; now it is £1. AB has something like £40,000 of Correx boards which he paid for - all with the pound sign on.

PO said that we can print on the reverse of that Correx as well. If we are not careful, the branches will not have sufficient Correx boards.

For HB, the practical campaigning issue is the key point. Some branches do not have a couple of hundred quid.

SC said that the members tend to buy it.

HB said that members should be campaigning already.

HB said that it’s all very well and good sitting here and saying that May is 6 months away. But his concern is that with the financial state of this party, the branches will be out there with the pound signs irrespective of what we do.

JB said that we can have multiple logos registered with the Electoral Commission.

Motion 2: That the pound sign logo will continue to be used on ballot papers as the UKIP logo until after the Local Elections on May 3rd 2018; the transition to the new Party logo will take place thereafter. Proposed by HB, seconded by SC. Carried by 9-0 with no abstentions.
HB said that to assist in that transition, we could have both logos on leaflets and/or websites.

**Chairman’s Report**

We now have Regional Controller and Regional Communications Manager roles filled in Wales, Scotland and the South West; shortly we expect London, the West Midlands and East Midlands will follow. We have had problems in the North East although the Regional Controller role is now being filled. The Eastern Region is broken up but we have a Regional Controller in place. We are still working on the South East, but are still getting people applying. Regional roles will hopefully be filled by Christmas, and they will be able to go out and recruit.

MAM clarified that these roles are purely voluntary. PO confirmed.

PO said that this year we should encourage and support regions in holding regional conferences and guarantee that the Leader will go to as many as he can. We will not have our own national conference.

Finally, there is no intention to hold a meeting in December but we would like to hold every third meeting on a Saturday.

SC suggests that we revert to the first Monday of the month except February, July and October (Saturdays).

The dates of the 2018 meetings were agreed as follows:

- **Mon January 8**
- **Sat Feb 3** *(Birmingham)*
- **Mon March 5**
- **Mon April 2**
- **Mon May 14** *(Manchester)*
- **Mon June 4**
- **Sat July 7**
- **Mon Sep 3** *(Birmingham)*
- **Sat Oct 6** *(York)*
Mon Nov 5th

Fri Dec 7th

Treasurer’s Report

We are in a much better position than we were this time last month. HB is driving forward his business plan. This will be reviewed at the February meeting.

JB left the room.

PO asked whether there are any other candidates for Party Treasurer. There were none.

There being no other candidates, the meeting moved to a vote.

Motion 3: To re-appoint John Bickley as Party Treasurer for the next two years. Proposed by MM, seconded by PJO. Carried by 8-0 with no abstentions.

JB re-entered the room.

General Secretary’s Report

PJO updated the committee on current complaints.

PO said that Alan Craig has put forward a proposal for the NEC to consider. Tied to this, there is a suggestion for a Spokesman for Families and Children.

PJO said that the proposal is for the setting up of a ‘Support for the Family in UKIP’ special interest group.

JA believes that this Group cannot be set up at present for the simple reason that the Constitution does not meet the criteria which the NEC has previously set out to evaluate such Groups.

PJO will write to them to ask them to bring their Constitution in line with UKIP’s requirements before further consideration can take place.
NEC elections

PO said that sending members new membership cards would allow us to do e-voting. They would then have PIN numbers to increase security of online and telephone voting.

PO said that in an ideal world, we would send out an issue of Independence News in January with a full explanation of how to use the PIN number system.

HB said that we would need to procure or develop the systems to do this. We cannot hold an NEC election before they are in place. We need to have a serious conversation about regional representation - this is merely a recap.

MM said that regional chairmen’s and Regional Organisers’ meetings can achieve those channels of communication.

PO said that JB has offered to continue getting that process in place, and can be accepted or otherwise at the January meeting.

JB said that there was an intention to change the Constitution when PN was Leader.

AB wants us to get other quotes for Independence News.

Motion 4: That the NEC elections be delayed until no later than the end of February 2018 in order to provide time to re-issue membership cards and put in place appropriate systems of electronic voting for the Party. Proposed by HB, seconded by PW. Carried by 10-0 with no abstentions.

Party Secretary assumes responsibility for minute taking.

Discussion on two co-opted positions on the NEC

JA: Briefly these two designated seats were put in the constitution for a simple reason to allow for paid elected members to have representatives with votes.

The case is for MEPs who are full time elected officials. There are 3 groups in the party that require some types of representation. However, councillors don’t need a seat as they can stand for NEC. The MEP’s are the biggest group of elected members to whom that applies.

GB entered the room and addressed the members on Welsh representation
PWh entered the room and addressed the members on London representation: Leaders proposal, Wales and MEP get full voting seat.

230 Proposed PW, Seconded JB
5-1-3

Invite monthly reports London AM’s UKIPCA
Proposed SC, Seconded FM
10-0-0

Membership subscriptions

240 A discussion regarding Memberships took place.

Suggestion is that from 1st December each year, a calculation will be made which will enable the central party to transfer to each branch a sum applicable to 10% of each of their standard and concessionary members annual subscriptions. Such a transfer will take place to each branch, from the central party annually during the months of January and February, from the beginning of 2019. This will ensure that the party is covering the costs of its membership whilst ensuring some of those monies make it back to branches each year.

250 The Party will now collect annual subscriptions centrally for each member, for each year.

Proposed SC, Seconded MM
8 - 0 – 0

MEETING CLOSE