UKIP NEC MINUTES Monday 26th February 2018

Members present: Gerard Batten (Interim Leader) (GB); Paul Oakden (Outgoing Party Chairman) (PO); Tony McIntyre (Incoming Party Chairman) (TM); John Bickley (Treasurer) (JB), Andrew Moncreiff (AM), Mick McGough (MMc), Paula Walters (PWl), Marion Mason (MM), Elizabeth Jones (EJ), Katie Fanning (KF), Fiona Mills (FM); Piers Wauchope (PW); Paul Oakley (General Secretary) (PJO).

Mike Hookem MEP and Margot Parker MEP in attendance.

Apologies: Adam Richardson.

SC having stood down from the NEC at the EGM, motion on whether Patricia Bryant (PB) takes his place as next-best performing candidate at the last NEC elections.

Proposed: JB
Seconded: PW

Nem con save 1 abstention (AM).

PB joins the meeting.

Paul Oakden
“I have nothing to say in my outgoing chairman’s report save that it’s been a joy to work with you.”

Proposal that Tony McIntyre takes over as interim chairman.
Proposed: EJ
Seconded: JB

Nem con.

Vote of thanks to Paul Oakden who leaves the meeting.

TM gives details of his background within the party and confirms that he will not be taking a salary. He also kindly offers not to take any expenses save where these have been approved by the party in advance.

Matters arising from previous minutes
PJO: Consideration of approval of Support 4 the Family had been postponed until this meeting. Members, including GB, confirm that they had not had time to read their application and amended constitution. Consideration therefore postponed again to next meeting.

Interim Leader’s Report
GB intending to adopt Margot Parker to be Deputy Leader. She will deal with media while TM focuses on administrative and organisational roles.

He is going to resurrect the “pound sign” logo. “Lenny the Lion” is old-fashioned. Existing stocks of correx boards and posters can thus be used in the local elections.

AB points out that £40,000-worth of “pound sign” correx boards are still available at Lexdrum House for branches.

MM points out that the NEC are in line with GB’s proposal as we had already agreed that these boards could still be used by branches.

AM suggests motion to approve use of “pound sign” boards.
Proposer: EJ
Seconder: KF

All in favour save FM and JB abstained.

GB turns to fundraising. He plans to raise £100,000 in the next few weeks and plans to write around 40,000 letters to all existing members and past members. He will also ask branch chairman what they can afford to donate to the central party from local funds.

The letters will cost £22,758 to distribute. GB generously undertakes to pay for them from his own money on the understanding that this will be repaid to him from the first of the funds raised.

AB suggests possibly concentrating on the 1,200 regular donors which would cost less.

JB points out that, historically, email funding requests do not raise as much money as letters.

EJ suggests also contacting patrons, perhaps at a dinner.

Motion supporting GB’s fundraising plan.
Proposer: KF
Seconder: EW

Passed nem con.

Mike Hookem MEP generously proposes to GB that he will provide half of the monies required for the letter on the same repayment basis.

INTERJECTIONS
The NEC was addressed by Messrs Richard Inman, Dave Moreland and Simon Beane MBE about proposed support for UKIP from Veterans against Terror. They will urge
their 16,000 supporters to join UKIP. Their focus is on working class communities who feel they have been let down by Labour.

Their priorities are opposing Islamisation and terrorism as well as supporting freedom of speech.

Issues affecting veterans also impact on the wider community and include jobs; housing; the NHS and policing.

The vision which they promote to members is “Stand; Fight; Protect.”

They are not politicians and are not looking to take over UKIP.

The NEC votes on a motion: That GB has the authority of the NEC to bring the group Veterans Against Terrorism on board.

Proposer: GB
Seconder: MMc

Passed nem con.

GB wants to have a special reduced rate for veterans for a short period to be decided. Discussion also turns to returning members. GB says that he will not approve any return of any person who has left UKIP to lead their own party. This will not necessarily apply to rank-and-file members of such new parties who want to return to UKIP. There is general assent to this around the table.

KF asks about the possibility of reducing membership for YI too. GB asks that this be considered at the next meeting.

Motion that there be a special reduced rate for veterans and for returning members for a period of 6 weeks. From the date of thisa meeting.
Proposer: GB
Seconder: AB

Approved nem con.

Local Elections
GB is going to write to all local councillors to urge them to work with Pete Reeve during the forthcoming campaign.

Mike Hookem MEP suggests the possibility of delivering EFDD literature at the same time. GB mentions the potential difficulty of doing so under the rules but will check.

Training of prospective councillors is discussed. PW mentions that he might be willing to take over this task again.
Mike Hookem MEP, JB and MMc discuss the situation with the UKIP Thurrock councillors sitting as independents. Mike Hookem says that he is shortly to speak to Tim Aker about the matter and will report back to GB.

GB mentions that he is thinking of adopting an Animal Welfare spokesman and endorsing the compulsory labelling of halal meat products with an image of an animal having its throat slit.

GB will be looking to have no more than 10 or 12 spokesmen in total.

GB states his priorities will be fundraising; increasing membership levels and putting the case for Brexit on the front line.

**Treasurer’s Report**
JB informs us that staffing costs have or will drop following the departures of Paul Oakden, Gawain Towler (Part Time) and Noel Matthews.

JB is going to spend some time with TM on identifying other areas for cost cutting. The party is down to 9 paid employees now and in many respects “it’s where we’ve been for the last two years”, that is, progressing on an even keel.

The cost of the Henry Bolton EGM will be somewhere between £25-30,000 to be firmed up in around a week. Members have however donated around £23,000 already towards this. The finances are, broadly speaking, back where they were before party conference last year. This is one of the reasons why GB intends to focus on fundraising.

TM mentions that pallets of correx boards and Out Now literature are being stored at Delivery Partners at a cost of approximately £150 a month and that members are welcome to take these.

JB will sit down with TM and see about cutting overheads.

**Party Secretary’s Report**
Given by PW in the absence of Adam Richardson on legal cases.

**General Secretary’s Report**
PJO ran through outstanding disciplinary matters.

**Presentation on behalf of Mike Hookem MEP on Communications Audit**
Mike Hookem to forward the proposals by email to NEC members.

Skills audit of NEC and members suggested.

GB points out that cost saving is the main priority at the moment.
Leadership Election
PW observes, JB concurring, that this should be held within 90 days of EGM on 17th February 2018 by paragraph 75 of constitution. KF refers to paragraph 76 and dissents.

Mike Hookem suggests that GB can stay on longer than 90 days. JB disagrees.

PW proposes possible PR for the vote but says that this must be agreed before nominations open. Further consideration of the process to be given at next NEC meeting following GB members/funds drives.

Motion that Piers be reappointed Returning Officer
Proposer: MMc
Seconder: KF

Nem con, 1 abstention (PW).

Any Other Business
Peter Staveley to be reappointed as NNO

Date of next meeting: Sunday March 25th