UKIP NEC MINUTES Sunday 25th March 2018

Members present: Gerard Batten (Interim Leader) (GB); Tony McIntyre (Party Chairman) (TM); Sebastian Fairweather (Treasurer) (SF), Andrew Moncreiff (AM), Mick McGough (MMc), Paula Walters (PWl), Marion Mason (MM), Elizabeth Jones (EJ), Patricia Bryant (PB); Michelle Brown (MB); Ryan Waters (RW); Alan Bown (AB), Fiona Mills (FM) (By Conference Call); Piers Wauchope (PW); Julia Reid (JR); Paul Oakley (General Secretary) (PJO).

Mike Hookem MEP and Margot Parker MEP in attendance.

Apologies: Adam Richardson. Katie Fanning

Minutes of the previous meeting Monday 26th February 2018 approved. PB proposed; PW Seconded. EJ Abstained. Otherwise, nem con.

TM asked for background of the preparation of minutes and PJO explained the process.

Chairman’s Report
TM explained that he was helping to save the party financially as he was unpaid and both Paul Oakden and Noel Matthews, who were salaried, had departed.

He had been in discussions with several regional officers and would prefer to call them “officers” instead of “controllers” as had been suggested. When issues arise, he wants members to approach their regional officers first before approaching senior party officers.

TM said that the role of NNO would be discussed later in the year but has in the interim installed Deputy Nominating Officers in the regions.

As at today’s date, around 550 members would be standing as candidates in the local elections.

Following a discussion about London candidacies, GB directed that the party was not to put up a candidate for Lewisham Mayor because of the £500 x 2 cost of doing so.

PWl raises the question of whether there could be a hyperlink on the UKIP website to both Kipper Central and UKIP Daily.

GB observes that this should be done in conjunction with a communications officer.

Proposal: That a link is put on the UKIP website to both UKIP Daily and Kipper Central.

Proposer: PJO
Seconder: RW

Nem Con.

TM will be meeting with Mark Harland who runs the Sovereign Draw as this may fund Lexdrum House. GB says he would like greater promotion of the Sovereign Draw.
TM confirms that the 2015 manifesto will be used as the bedrock for future policy.

TM will be dealing with the new Data Protection issues with both Ruth Purdie and PB.

TM would like to revisit the question of regional NEC representation and will be meeting with regional officers to discuss this.

He has been receiving invitations to speak around the country but has been passing these to MP as the public face of the party.

TM suggests that the discounted membership fee promotion be extended for 3 months.

**Interim Leader’s Report**

GB had sought £175,000 from members in his funding appeal but was very pleased to announce that current receipts are at £217,000.

GB said that he had had a good response to the funding plea from the Veterans and he would be crowdfunding further with a picture of Sadiq Khan following his publicly-stated hope that the party would disappear.

There are plans to update the party website as well as the Patrons’ Club.

GB has been speaking at various meetings around the country. He went to Birmingham for the “Justice for the 21” March and is to be interviewed by Tommy Robinson who is setting up his own alternative media TV Channel.

GB suggests a Vote of Thanks to the staff at Lexdrum House.

Proposer: AM  
Seconder: MM

Nem con

**Treasurer’s Report**

SF gave an oral report.

More signatories are needed for the bank account. No further staffing cuts are possible at Lexdrum House or else UKIP will not be able to function as a political party.

The basic cost of running UKIP is £40,000 a year. The website costs £12,000 per annum. SF suggests a “Life Patron” membership starting at £5,000 for the first year.

Proposer: MMc  
Seconder: GB

Nem con.

**Branch Mergers**

Discussion about merging Thanet North with Thanet South and also Thurrock with Basildon.
Matters move to Tim Aker MEP who is standing as a Thurrock Independent in the local elections and not for UKIP. TM states that the last time Tim Aker was a standard party member was in 2015. He then became a Patron but this membership ran out in January and has not been renewed although he is in the three month grace period.

TM does not want a “major falling out” with Tim Aker at this stage before the local elections but will ask Ruth Purdie to write to him to renew his membership.

EJ refers to a “disaster” at a recent by-election in Ockenden. She says that Tim Aker has not funded Eastern Area at all. EJ urges that Tim Aker be expelled from the party.

GB points out that Tim Aker is technically not a member at present so cannot be disciplined. The Thurrock Independents were set up by others such as Jack Duffin and not by him.

GB says that he is trying to keep a lid on matters and does not wish to address these issues until after the local elections have concluded.

**General Secretary Report**
PJO informed members of the current state of disciplinary complaints.

There was an adjourned application from “Support 4 The Family” to be accredited as a group.

Proposer: PJO
Seconder: MMc

Passed with four abstentions.

PJO then had to leave the meeting early.

**Leadership Election**
It was agreed that an election for Party Leader should be announced as per Constitution and that Gerard would stand, hopefully unopposed, but would not serve a full term. PW to act as Returning Officer

**NEC Elections**
It was pointed out that as the previous election result was announced 14/12/16 there exists the ability to delay the 2018 NEC election until July 2018. Further discussion and plans to be put in place and next NEC meeting.

**Agenda Items 11 & 12**
Discussion postponed until next meeting due to time constraints.

**AOB**

**GDPR**

PB outlined the requirement for GDPR explaining that preparations were in hand for the party to work towards compliance. The meeting agreed unanimously that this work should continue and PB to report back to next meeting.