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

Mike Hookem MEP and Margot Parker MEP in attendance.

Apologies: Alan Bown (AB),

Minutes of the previous meeting 25th March 2018 were approved unanimously

Chairman’s Report

The committee congratulated GB on becoming the new Party Leader in an unopposed election.

It was noted that the committee gave their full support to GB in his efforts to revive the party after the disastrous drop in membership numbers.

It was agreed that the venue for the National Autumn Conference should be the ICC Centre in Birmingham. This is the same venue as that used for the EGM earlier this year and can easily accommodate our needs. An initial visit has been made and the event costed in detail. TM agreed that he would visit the venue before the next meeting with Kirstan Herriot. The event is to be advertised through the website, MYUKIP, UKIP Daily & Kipper Central.

TM asked the NEC to approve the following branch mergers given to him from Lexdrum House:

Bedford to merge with North East Bedfordshire
Altrincham & Sale West to merge with Stretford and Urmston
Tameside & East Manchester to merge with Stockport
Sheffield to merge with Pennistone & Stockbridge
Wnasbeck to merge with North Tyneside
Hexham to merge with North Tyneside
Washington & Sunderland to merge with Houghton & Sunderland South
Suffolk Central to merge with Waveny
Banbury to merge with Wantage (Oxford Branch)
Henley to merge with Wantage (Oxford Branch)
Oxford East to merge with Wantage (Oxford Branch)

Oxford West & Abingdon to merge with Wantage (Oxford Branch)

Witney to merge with Wantage (Oxford Branch)

The results of the Local Elections were discussed at length. It was appreciated that the party was not well prepared for these elections but congratulations were given to Alan Graves and his fellow candidates who achieved remarkable results in Derby.

It was also noted that many UKIP members stood for election stood for this election as Independent candidates. It was appreciated by the Committee that this has been accepted in the past as permissible where there is no UKIP Candidate standing. However, from a Party point of view this stance is not one that the Party should condone as it is has a detrimental effect on our National standing.

Those members who stood as candidates for another party registered with the Electoral Commission, with their own Party Logo have been expelled from the party for disregarding the Party Rule Book.

The recent outburst from W Etheridge MEP was discussed at length. It was decided that this was not an NEC matter, but at the leaders recommendation Mr Etheridge would have the party whip removed for bringing the party into disrepute. He will be offered the chance to appeal this decision.

**Leader’s Report**

GB gave a detailed report on his activities over the past few weeks. He has been accepting press and Media interviews when offered, meeting as many members as possible at events around the country and doing his best to improve the image of the party. The committee appreciated his efforts.

GB raised the subject of putting a candidate forward for the Parliamentary snap by-election taking place in Lewisham East. Due to the very tight time frame it was agreed that he should head up a team to get the best candidate available, who is local to the area. David Kurten AM was mentioned as a possible candidate, but it has yet to be confirmed.

Progress is being made with the new website. It will be an improvement on our present website, but no doubt will still have its critics. It will be launched in the near future.

**Treasurer’s Report**

SF gave a brief account of the current state of the party and had circulated his detailed report in advance of the meeting. Due to the exceeding generosity of the branches and members the appeal raised in excess of £300,000. This means that we are finally in the black, which makes a change. However we do not currently have the funds to invest in campaigning, so there is still much work to do. The newly structured Patrons Club is coming along slowly, but it remains difficult to get individuals to invest in UKIP at the moment.

SF then put forward a proposal from the committee.
"There is the expectation that any member being elected to paid a public office as a UKIP candidate will make an on-going financial contribution to the Party for the assistance given in winning the seat. This will not apply to anyone receiving less than £10,000 per annum."

MB felt that from the point of view of the Welsh Assembly members they are already contributing towards the cost of the next elections into UKIP Wales. This should be taken into consideration.

A majority in favour passed the motion.

**Party Secretary’s Report**

The Jane Collins case is still in the hands of the courts and we await the final judgments that should arrive this Autumn.

AR circulated a legal brief regarding policy formulation for the NEC. The document will be discussed at the next meeting.

**General Secretary’s Report**

PJP went through a long list of complaints from members which were dealt with. It was agreed that a sub committee be created to deal with these cases rather than spend an inordinate amount of time at the monthly NEC meetings. This proposal was was carried unanimously.

**NEC Election Update**

The election process is now in place and a number of candidates have already entered. It looks as though we will have fewer than the number who applied at the last elections, hence the process will be far easier to organise. It was suggested that Lexdrum House be used to count the votes as a cost saving measure. Work will start on producing an Independent Magazine that can be combined with the voting slips and sent out to all members. We are running late on this one due to the difficult circumstances inherited from past leaders.

**Compliance on Data Protection Laws.**

Thanks to the efforts of Pat Bryant and the staff at Lexdrum House it looks as though we will be fully compliant with the new laws that come into force at the end of May. Congratulations to all concerned.

**Policy**

It was suggested by TM that we put round a circular to branch officials to find out what grassroot members feel are the most important issues that effect them on the doorstep whilst campaigning for the party and it's candidates. It was also stated that any policy decisions have to be accepted and supported by the party leader as it is him/her who will be quizzed by the press.

**The Role of YI**

This topic was deferre to the next meeting due to lack of time.
AOB

The date of the next meeting was set for Sunday June 17th. Venue to be arranged.

Meeting closed at 5.30pm