Members present: Gerard Batten (Leader) (GB); Kirstan Herriot (Party Chairman) (KH); Adam Richardson (Party Secretary) (AR), Richard Ford (RF), Marietta King (MK), Andrew Moncreiff (AM), Elizabeth Jones (EJ); Fiona Mills (FM) (By Conference Call); Piers Wauchope (PW); Katie Fanning (KF); Donald Mackay (DMc); Ben Walker (BW); Nathan Ryding (NR); Paul Oakley (General Secretary) (PJO).

Apologies: Mark Harland (MH) Alan Bown (AB)
Mike Hookem MEP (MH) and Margot Parker MEP (MP) in attendance.

Minutes of the previous meeting approved with minor amendments.

Motion that Paul Williams be co-opted as Party Director to NEC
Proposer: RF
Seconder: GB
Abstentions AM; FM
Otherwise, nem con

Motion that Margot Parker be co-opted as MEP representative to NEC
Proposer: MK
Seconder: KF
Nem con

Motion that Ernie Warrender join NEC after resignation of Mick McGough (MMc).
Proposer: GB
Seconder: NR
Nem con

Leader’s Report (GB)
GB said that the 9th December rally had been extremely successful with estimates of between 10-17,000 in attendance. There had been no arrests at all unlike at the extremist lefty Marxist counter-rally.
He had been to Newton Abbot HQ before Christmas. Current membership was around 26,800 and the Christmas Bonus had been well-received.
GB believes that anyone ought to be able to afford a monthly membership fee of £4. He does not agree with reduced memberships at £15 and observes that the numbers had fallen to 17,000 before he took over. His next target is 50,000 members. To assist, he has written a leaflet called “What We Stand For” which sets out core beliefs.
Regarding his activities, GB confirmed he would be up in Wigan in the next few days. He is planning to have a series of rallies in northern England.

He observes that we need a social media guru. A campaigns manager is needed and we have a budget of around £50,000. It is important to have this role filled with upcoming elections.

Many MEPs are staying with UKIP. They are Ray Finch; Stuart Agnew; Margot Parker; Jill Seymour and Jane Collins.
GB then proposes that DMc become the new leader in Scotland and spokesman. No NEC member disagreed.
GB referred to his current term of office which comes to an end on 13\textsuperscript{th} April 2019. Discussion followed about extending the term to take into account the local elections.

Proposal that GB’s term be extended under NEC meeting on 5\textsuperscript{th} May 2019
Proposer: EJ
Seconder: PW
Motion carried.

GB referred to those elected representatives who had resigned from the party and suggested that we needed more stringent assessment procedures and only have candidates with a proven track record.

**Treasurer’s Report (MH)**
A written report was tendered as he was in Malta

There would be a new funding appeal in the next issue of Independence. Text message funding had not raised as much as expected. The UKIP shop needs to be looked at for future direction. The Sovereign Draw was underperforming and he would deliver a report next month. He will strengthen the links between himself and the branch treasurers. We had been neglecting YI somewhat and this needed to be improved.

GB observes that the shop had made a profit of around £2,000 since he took over.

**Membership Numbers**
We have gained 2,313 new members and lost 1,103. 1,106 were paying the £4 a month option. GB proposes removing £15 concessionary rate as membership should be seen as a “value product”

Motion proposed that the only membership options should be £30 annually or £4 a month.
Proposer: GB
Seconder: RF
Motion passed save that NR was against and MK abstained.

**Chairman’s Report (KH)**
We have around 1,300 candidates for local elections with a target of 3,000. We have 230 parliamentary candidates and 130 replies to the “MEP Red Alert”.

Branch mergers: Southend East & Rochford
Southampton Test & Itchen

Proposer: KF
Seconder: NR
Passed *nem con*.

AR had saved £43,000 on the Jane Collins bill of costs. A vote of thanks to him was passed unanimously.

Discussion followed about voting rights for £4 members
Motion that AR amend Rule N.62 to state that no new member may vote until 6 months have elapsed from the commencement of their membership.

Proposer: KF  
Second: PW  
MP abstained, otherwise nem con.

**KF Discussion on Campaigning & Local Activity**
Says we need more leaflets and GB confirms that they will be forthcoming. KF suggests “roaming action days” organised by ROs to make us more visible. She refers to Yorkshire as an example and will send out an email setting out her thoughts in full to the NEC again. KF further suggests the Alternative Vote in any run-off for leader and suggests STV for NEC elections. She will circulate a document setting out her thoughts to the NEC before the next meeting for further discussion.

**Patrons Discussion**
Whether it had been a good idea in principle to set up the club as a separate group as per Seb Fairweather’s changes. This had led to problems with the Electoral Commission and ICO. A suggestion was made that the Patrons be re-established as a branch. GB said that confidence had been restored amongst the Patrons recently.

Proposer: KF  
Second: RF  
Against: AM  
Abstain: PW; GB; MK; MP; BW

**Press Officer Kris Hicks Discussion**
GB confirms that his salary is generously paid by Professor Tim Congdon and that he is the Leader’s Press Officer. All he had before was Gawain Towler who is now entirely in Nigel Farage’s camp. GB says that he also needs a person to edit the website and a campaigns manager.

**Party Secretary (AR)**
An update was given on various legal matters affecting the Party

**General Secretary (PJO)**
An update was given on various disciplinary matters.

**Any Other Business**
GB warned that a parliamentary by-election might be called in Peterborough.  
Mr Whitby was invited into the meeting to address the NEC and answer questions.  
Motion that Mr Whitby be approved as our PPC, subject to vetting.

Proposer: RF  
Second: MK  
*Nem con.*