UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

27/06/20 – 13.00 to 17.00

Online via ZOOM Meeting

1, Attendance

Ian Garbutt (IG), Paul Girvan (PG), Elizabeth Jones (EJ), Marietta King (MK), Donald Mackay (DM), Steve Hollis (SH) Ben Walker (BW), Neil Hamilton (NH), Pat Mountain (PM), Freddy Vachha (FV), Tomaz Slivnic (TS), Julia Searle (JS), Eddie McNally (EM), Joel McGuigan (JM), Pete Muswell (PeteM).

Apologies

None

2, Approval of Minutes

Members voted to accept the minutes from the last NEC Meeting.
Votes FOR – 7, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENIONS – 3

3, Matters Arising

(FV) Joined the meeting.

Current party descriptions of the party and potential new ones were discussed by the NEC. Following discussion (BW) would email key members in the various Assembly/Parliament regions for suggestions which would be ratified by the NEC by email.

4, Leaders Report

(PatM) gave a short run down on her work prior to the handover to (FV). (BW) thanked (PatM) for all her hard work as Interim Leader and that she had helped fortify strong team ethics throughout the NEC and Management Team. (BW) proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the NEC which was unanimous.

(FV) updated the NEC on the direct response to his Leadership Launch in London at the beginning of the week and the subsequent press coverage. Members of the NEC praised (FV) for the launch and videos produced in the week and gave support to him. (BW) reiterated support to (FV) and pledged that he and the NEC would do all it can to support his leadership.

(SH) & (PG) joined the meeting.
5, **NEC Election Report & tech Committee Update**

Rob McWhirter, Deputy Returning Officer and Chair of the party's Tech Committee joined the meeting to take the NEC members through the NEC Election Report and updated the meeting on the Tech Committees work this month.

6, **Treasurers Report**

(NH) updated the meeting on the current position of the party's finances. The party was finalising its end of year accounts and was now in an extremely strong financial position because of the party's administrative restructuring. The Sovereign Draw was now back in house and will no longer be paying over-exaggerated fees to former directors. (BW) supported (NH) and gave some more info about the party's new monthly operating costs. He also talked about the need and planning of campaign funds for forthcoming elections. (JS) offered her services to help fundraise and work with the Patrons Club.

(JM) joined the meeting.

(NH) also updated the meeting on the current legal proceedings of the party.

7, **General Secretary’s Report**

(FV) informed the meeting there were no outstanding disciplinary cases. Suspended members who were eligible for appeal had chosen not to appeal.

(FV) asked (PG) if he would be happy to take over the role of Gen Sec as he could not carry out the role as Party Leader. (PG) duly accepted and was appointed General Secretary with the full backing of the NEC.

(FV) also praised (PatM) for her work as Interim Leader and asked her if she would accept the position of Deputy Leader. (PatM) duly accepted with full backing from the NEC.

(FV) also thanked (BW) for his work as Interim Chairman. He proposed that (BW) was his chosen appointment for the permanent position of National Party Chair. This was seconded by (NH) and following comment from each member of the NEC (BW) was appointed as permanent National Party Chairman with unamoius support from the NEC.

8, **Chairman’s Report**

The party membership currently stood at approx. 7500 members. The recent NEC election letter sent to members without email addresses had been well received and had generated many renewals and donations.

(BW) informed the meeting he had been in discussion with the Patrons to fund a mail-out for ALL party members and lapsed members. Agreement had been given in principle with Patrons to be surveyed.

The administrative restructure was covered with an update to NEC members who were pleased with the current progress and cost savings/efficiencies.

There was no update from the Constitutional Working Group at this point.

The following Branch Mergers were proposed by (MK) and seconded by (PatM).
All Branches in Leicestershire and Rutland have been absorbed into Rutland, Melton & Harborough Branch (i.e. the only active Branch, 2/3rds of which are in Leicester anyway, i.e. Melton and Harborough) however the Branch is now called Leicestershire and Rutland Branch. The vote was unanimous.

(BW) brought feedback from the previous Wednesdays RO Meeting to the NEC. Party Descriptions were covered earlier in the meeting. A proposal for all NEC members to stand down for re-election to settle membership differences was discussed and potential legal actions and settlements were also discussed.

9, **Policy**

(FV) assumed responsibility from (PeteM) of all policy and the Party Spokes Persons. Policy was a responsibility of the Leaders Office for ratification by the NEC.

10, **Campaigning Update**

Had been covered in “Matters Arising”.

11, **Scotland Update**

Had been covered in “Matters Arising”.

12, **Wales Update**

Had been covered in “Matters Arising”.

13, **Northern Ireland Update**

Had been covered in “Matters Arising”.

14, **Any Other Business**

(JS) mentioned her support of the intended party mail out and offered her assistance.

The next meeting date/time wasn’t set as (BW) would investigate the possibility of a physical meeting which could be a hybrid ZOOM meeting and would organise via email.

The Meeting was closed at 17.52.

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**Ben Walker**  
Interim National Party Chairman