UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes
02/08/20 – 13:00 to 16:00

Online via ZOOM Meeting

Attendance
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 Slivnik (TS), Julia Searle (JS), Eddie McNally (EM), Joel McGuigan (JM), Pete Muswell (PeteM), Adam Richardson (AR), Josh Radcliffe (JR)

Apologies
Ian Garbutt (IG)

(BW) welcomed (JR) to the meeting who had registered an interest in the vacant Party Secretary position. A vote was unanimously passed to allow (JR) to sit in on the meeting.

Following discussion, the NEC agreed to re-visit this matter at a later date.

Approval of Minutes

Following amendments tabled by (MK) and (PG), namely that the proposed Leicestershire and Rutland Branch subsumes all constituent branches of those counties. NEC members voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the meetings held on 27/06/20 and 13/07/20.

Proposed: (JS), seconded: (PM)

Matters Arising

(TS) delivered the findings of the committee tasked with concluding the terms and conditions of (BW)’s appointment as Party Chairman.

Without prior notification (FV) named (MK) as his nominee for Party Chairman.

Following several minutes of discussion, (NH) suggested the matter be adjourned pending the Secretary’s deliberation. (SH) voiced his desire for continuity and paid tribute to (BW)’s efforts as Chairman. (DM) mooted the suggestion that (MK) decline (FV)’s offer of appointment. Responding, (FV) re-affirmed his prerogative as Leader to install the candidate of his choice even though he had proposed (BW) a month ago who was unanimously appointed.

After further contributions from (PM), (JS) and (TS), the committee proceeded to a vote on the appointment of (MK) as Party Chairman (Proposed: (FV), seconded: (TS). The motion was defeated. 2 votes FOR, 5 AGAINST, 2 ABSTENSTIONS

Following the count, (FV) proposed a motion that he be granted full access to the Party’s social media accounts. This was met with reservations by (JS) and (DM), who argued that existing
safeguards should remain in place. (MK) countered that, unlike his predecessors, (FV) did not have the support of a dedicated, full-time Press Officer or Party apparatus behind him.

(EJ) recorded her opposition to the granting of social media access to (FV) on the grounds of his perceived intellectual snobbery, which she feared could be liable to undermine support for the Party. It was suggested that he should instead focus on building his profile via personal accounts.

In the ensuing vote, the motion that (FV) be granted full access to the Party’s social media accounts (Proposed: (FV), seconded: (TS) was carried 6 votes FOR, 2 AGAINST.

**Leader’s Report**

(FV) put on record his thanks to members and appealed for their continued support.

**Treasurer’s Report**

NH updated the meeting on the current position of the Party’s finances. With significantly reduced overheads and the haemorrhaging of members having been stemmed, the Party now enjoys a small surplus, which it is hoped can be supplemented and later earmarked for campaigning purposes. It was also reported that Ruth Purdie and (BW) will be undergoing training in account management with additional support to be provided by Hilary John.

**General Secretary’s Report**

(PG) reported that no disciplinary matters had been brought to his attention.

**Chairman’s Report**

(BW) advised the committee that since the meeting held on 13/07/20, he had exercised emergency powers to suspend several Surrey-based members. To date, no appeals have been received and are unlikely to be forthcoming as the individuals concerned refuse to recognise the NEC or Chairman’s legitimacy. (AR) took the opportunity to remind members of their directorial duties and counselled against any form of communication with the parties involved.

(BW) proceeded to update the meeting with details of ongoing legal actions against the Party.

It was reported that, while Party membership had declined to 5,718, the recently issued Leader’s circular was generating a favourable response. The newly requisitioned Sovereign Draw also creates an additional revenue stream. This, coupled with the cost-saving measures implemented as part of the administrative restructure, was said to have put the Party on a sound financial footing.

**Party Director Update**

Having been unveiled to the membership in a recent email circular, (BW) formally introduced (JS) as Party Director and invited her to discuss her new role. (JS) thanked (BW) for his introduction and outlined her hopes of healing ongoing divisions within the Party. Among her proposals was the creation of a template letter to address the grievances of disaffected members. (TS) voiced reservations about engaging with pro-Batten elements, while (FV) suggested the Party would be better served by targeting new recruits than expending time and resources on those hostile or resistant to its direction of travel.

**Leader’s Policy Report & The PIGG**
(PeteM) advised the committee that, in the interests of developing the Party’s live manifesto, he had assembled a team of spokesmen and senior officers to contribute to the newly created Policy and Ideas Generation Group (PIGG). For their reference, (AR) volunteered to share a policy-making document he had authored previously. Members gratefully accepted this offer.

**Campaigning Update**

Due to time constraints, this item of business was postponed to the committee’s next meeting.

**Scotland Update**

Due to time constraints, this item of business was postponed to the committee’s next meeting.

**Wales Update**

Due to time constraints, this item of business was postponed to the committee’s next meeting.

**Northern Ireland Update**

Due to time constraints, this item of business was postponed to the committee’s next meeting.

**Any Other Business**

(JS) proposed the addition of a newsreel feature to the Party website, whereby fresh content could be constantly uploaded. She also suggested alternative formats for the members’ online discussion forum be explored.

(SH) identified flooding as a potential campaign issue and pinpointed dredging as the most effective means of alleviation. (FV) invited (SH) to act as Party Spokesman on this and related matters.

**Date of Next Meeting**

TBC

The meeting concluded at 16:46