UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

04/10/20 – 13.00 to 16.00

Online via ZOOM Meeting

1, Attendance

Ian Garbutt (IG), Elizabeth Jones (EJ), Donald Mackay (DM), Ben Walker - Chairman (BW), Neil Hamilton (NH), Pat Mountain (PM), Julia Searle (JS), Tom Harrison (TH), Steve Hollis (SH), Robert Stevenson (RS), Rob McWhirter (RM).

2, Apologies

Received from Eddie McNally via email

3, Approval of Minutes

Carried out by email prior to meeting

4, Legal Update

The party’s legal advisors, Party Secretary and General Secretary updated the NEC on ongoing legal matters.

5, Tech Sub-Committee Update

(RM) joined the meeting at 14.40 and updated the NEC on the party website, NEC Forum, and training. Following questions (RM) left the meeting at 14.55.

5, Matters Arising

(JS) proposed and (DM) seconded the following resolution which was passed unanimously by the NEC’s voting members.

This NEC meeting resolves as follows:

"If (which is denied) the meeting of NEC members held on 29 August were validly convened and the appointment of party officers purportedly made thereat validly made, the resolutions by which those appointments were made are hereby rescinded."
If the meeting was valid, the NEC can remove the chairman by a simple majority. However, we cannot appoint a chairman without the leader's nomination. But we can appoint an acting chairman - otherwise there would be an impasse if Leader and NEC disagree and until an EGM can be held.

(PM) proposed and (EJ) seconded a proposal for (BW) to make contact with Stephen Place to agree the repayment of his Leadership Application fee and cease legal actions which honoured the NEC’s original resolution on this matter prior to pressure and a subsequent forced decision from intervention by Freddy Vachha.

The resolution was passed, 6 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 1 ABSENTION. No vote cast by the chairman.

6, Leaders Update

(NH) updated the meeting on his work over the past few weeks and what he had planned for the immediate future.

(NH) also welcomed the return of former UKIP MEP, Bill Etheridge and advised the meeting of plans to film dual videos and open discussions with high profile members.

(BW) informed the meeting that over the last month social media engagement had significantly increased. Facebook for example had seem a 244% increase in engagements compared with July resulting in 740K engagements. This was a direct result of positive, current, and engaging graphics, posts and (NH) videos.

7, Treasurer’s Report

(NH) reported to the meeting that the party was operating efficiently and well within its means which was supported by (BW) in reporting bank balances and outstanding invoices.

(BW) informed the meeting that the Sovereign Draw was now fully operational, and a new draw had now taken place and 100% of the profits would become party money as opposed to paying for wages of the former directors.

8, Chairman’s Report

(BW) discussed the existing branch structure of the party and the need to update the model. This was agreed by the NEC and the following appointments were supported unanimously by the NEC.

Branch Structure Officer Pat Bryant (PB)
Local Election & Campaign Manager Pat Mountain (PM)

(PB) and (PM), working alongside (JS) the Party Director would investigate models/options and report back to the NEC with proposals on the required structural changes for party.

(PB) was also commended on hosting a successful Grassroots Meeting which was well attended. It was also noted that (PB’s) Branch Network WhatsApp Group was the ONLY official WhatsApp Group the party operates.

The NEC agreed to use the following slogan on the party’s website to mirror current social media postings and graphics. This would not be a change made with the Electoral Commission.

Stand up for Britain #Save Britain
9, Any Other Business

(DM) Talked about recent success for UKIP Scotland in targeting anti-devolution feeling in the Scottish Islands which had resulted in several papers covering UKIP press releases.

(NH) asked (BW) to organise a meeting with the Patrons Club.

(BW) presented communication from several former members who wished to return to the party. The NEC instructed (BW) to talk to these members based on some basic requirements and to report back to the NEC.

An informal evening training session was to be organised by (BW) to take place in a couple of weeks and he will advise members accordingly.

The next Full NEC meeting was organised to take place at 13.00 on Saturday 7th November 2020.

The Meeting was closed at 16.15.

Ben Walker  
National Party Chairman