UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

07/11/20 – 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), Eddie McNally (EM), Joel McGuigan (JM), Pat Bryant (PB), Rob McWhirter (RM) Adam Richardson (AR).

Apologies

None

2, Approval of Minutes

Carried out by email prior to meeting

3, Matters Arising

(BW) raised the chairmanship election issue of the Young Independence (YI) Chairmanship which had been brought to his attention by some of its members. The NEC discussed the matter and decided it was best for the 2018 YI to remain unchanged and that the term of a chairman/deputy remains a 1 year. The NEC also discussed that the National Party Chairman be instructed to organise an election. These two points were proposed for acceptance by the NEC by (PM) and seconded by (IG) and voted for unanimously.

A new £2.00 annual membership fee for YI members under 25 was also discussed and agreed to form part of a new drive for YI members. This was proposed by (JS) and seconded by (EJ) and voted for unanimously.

(BW) would liaise with (TH) & (NH) to produce a new video to advertise the YI election and form part of a drive for new, younger members.

4, Leaders Update

(ARG) & (JM) joined the meeting at 13.25.

(NH) updated the meeting on his work over the past few weeks and what he had planned for the immediate future.
(BW) advised that a vote was required for (AR) to be present at the meeting. This was proposed by (PM), seconded by (EJ), and carried unanimously.

5, **Treasurer’s Report**

(IG) deferred the report to (BW) who reported bank balances and outstanding invoices. He also reported that party membership currently stood at 4035.

6, **General Secretary’s Report**

(TH) reported on positive communications being received because of the online messaging currently being produced over social media by (NH) and the Press Team. This had also resulted in the return of former members.

There were no outstanding disciplinary matters.

7, **Party Secretary’s Report**

(DM) had no business to report to the NEC.

8, **Chairman’s Report**

(BW) reported on the imminent re-launch of the UKIP Shop on the main party website and encouraged NEC members to send him any ideas in relation to new stock items. (EM) requested that we re-stocked the original UKIP tie which was supported by (NH). (BW) would investigate this. (EJ) requested that (BW) also investigate collectable items which would appeal to political collectors.

9, **UKIP Tech Group Update**

(RM) joined the meeting at 13.55 and brought the NEC up to date with rolling changes/updates to the main party website. The NEC paid thanks to (RM) for his continued work on the website. (RM) left the meeting following his report.

10, **Local Elections & Campaign Manager**

(PM) reported to the NEC on a growing approved candidates list and that progress was slow from some branches who were awaiting the outcome of a legal action from a former party member. Overall, the push for candidates was progressing well. Work in the South East Region continued in relation to branch bank accounts and (PM) advised that this was a useful process that needed to be carried out across all regions.

11, **Branch Structure Officer**

(PB) reported on her work so far in the preparation of a proposal for discussion at NEC level to re-organise the current structure. Great work had been achieved in London and a report prepared by Robert Stevenson the party’s National Nominating Officer would be discussed at the next NEC meeting. A vote of thanks was proposed by (IG) and carried unanimously, thanking (PB) for her work so far. (PB) left the meeting following her report.

12, **Party Director Report**

(JS) advised the NEC of communications she had been engaged with to members. There were some follow-up points from those communications which would be taken up with (NH) & (BW).
13, **Leaders Policy Report**

(NH) informed the meeting that he didn’t intend to alter any policy in the short-term as the party’s manifesto was robust. He did discuss the former Policy Committee which (BW) would look to reform.

14, **Campaigning Update**

(DM) reported on the current campaign preparations and the adoption of candidates, along with a run-down on the current political landscape in Scotland.

(TH) & (NH) reported on the current campaign preparations and the adoption of candidates, along with a run-down on the current political landscape in Wales.

(BW) announced the results of nominations for the London Mayoral & GLA Elections which closed on 06/11/20.

Dr Peter Gammons had been nominated by the London Region to stand as the party’s 2021 Mayoral Candidate. The NEC discussed this and resolved to ratify this decision/candidate, subject to some minor points which (BW) would speak to the candidate about. This was proposed by (EJ), seconded by (JS), and carried unanimously.

The following vetted candidates had also been nominated and would be organised by the London Regional Committee to stand on the UKIP GLA List.

- Dr Peter Gammons
- Ms Elizabeth Jones
- Mr Geoff Courtney
- Mr Hugo Lowe
- Mr Ziz Kakoulakis
- Ms Julie Carter

11, **Any Other Business**

(BW) advised the NEC that Richard Elvin would be invited to attend the next NEC as a non-voting member. This was warmly received by all NEC members.

(BW) will produce a 6-monthly meeting calendar to help NEC members plan their time around future meetings. This will be circulated by email.

The Meeting was closed at 15.33.

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Ben Walker  
National Party Chairman