UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

09/01/21 – 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 – Company Legal Advisor (AR), Richard Elvin (RE), Josh Radcliffe (JR)

Apologies

None

2, Approval of Minutes

Carried out by email prior to meeting

3, Matters Arising

(BW) advised the meeting that (JR) who had previously registered an interest in carrying out the role of Party Secretary was still willing to undertake the role. (JR) to be appointed by the NEC to the position of Party Secretary was proposed by (EJ), seconded by (IG), and supported unanimously. A vote of thanks was then given to (DM) who had carried out the role in recent months.

Following his appointment, (JR) was invited to join the meeting.

(BW) brought to the NEC’s attention that there was a need to fix a consistent date to carry out elections for the NEC. A month of the year should be chosen which NEC elections are always carried out electronically. A proposal to carry out the elections electronically on a day in October every year was tabled. (EJ) Proposed, (IG) seconded and the vote was carried unanimously.

(RS) the party’s National Nominating Officer was co-opted by the NEC. Proposed by (JS), seconded by (IG), and was carried unanimously.

(PM) brought up party spokes positions which was fully discussed by the NEC. It was agreed that (NH) would look at the list and make any necessary changes.
(PM) also opened discussion on the recently completed Veterans Group Constitution which had been circulated to members. She was thanked for all her efforts in getting the group to this point and it was decided to pass the document and organisation of the group to the new party Defence Spokesman.

(TH) had been in contact with (BW) to consider a reduced membership fee for members and veterans of the Armed Services. The NEC agreed and the following was proposed.

To have a £10.00 annual membership fee for members/veterans of the Armed Services and remove the 20/20 membership fee option. Proposed by (JS), seconded by (IG), and carried unanimously.

4, **UKIP Tech Group Update**

(RM) joined the meeting at 14.35 and brought the NEC up to date with rolling changes/updates to the main party website and update the NEC on the status of the London Mayoral Campaign tech items including the GLA Elections which were being managed by the Regional Committee. The NEC paid thanks to (RM) for his continued work on the website.

*(RM) left the meeting following his report.*

5, **Leaders Update**

(NH) updated the meeting on his work over the past few weeks and what he had planned for the immediate future. He was currently working in the re-formation of the party’s Policy Committee to help steer party policy.

There were party announcements due to be made which would start to demonstrate to members and voters alike that the party is here to stay and re-creating itself for the forthcoming elections delayed or not.

(BW) was working on a hard copy mail out to members, supporters and lapsed members which will hopefully be distributed in the next couple of weeks detailing the party’s shop front policies.

6, **Treasurer’s Report**

(IG) informed the meeting that the company was in good financial shape, spending no more than it generates on a monthly.

The “Amending Accounts” for 2019/20 required acceptance. They were proposed to be accepted by (NH), seconded by (PM), and accepted unanimously.

(IG) proposed a vote of thanks to (BW) and (NH) for all the work they did in reducing and re-organising the party’s finances so it could now operate in the way in which it does. This was fully supported by the NEC.

7, **General Secretary’s Report**

(TH) reported that there were no outstanding disciplinary matters.

8, **Party Secretary’s Report**

(DM) had no business to report to the NEC. (AR) reported on two small claim cases which were currently live and a third which had been successfully struck out. He also reported on personal actions which he had undertaken against former members, two of which had already been successful.
9, **Chairman’s Report**

(BW) reported on the imminent re-launch of the UKIP Shop on the main party website with new stock. He also discussed the potential of an online conference for members whilst the country faced COVID restrictions. Feeling were mixed so (BW) agreed to present a skeleton plan to NEC members at the next meeting for decision.

(BW) reiterated big party announcements were due to be made and ensured that the NEC would be made aware of them before official news broke.

Party membership currently stood at just below 4000.

10, **Local Elections & Campaign Manager**

(PM) reported to the NEC on a growing approved candidates list and that progress was slow but we need to get Regional Officers and Branch Chairs to assist with the process. She would look at the best ways of achieving this. Work on the re-organisation of branches continued and (PM) in partnership with Alun Elder-Brown has successfully begun work on Kent and the South East Region as a whole.

11, **Branch Structure Officer**

(PB) reported on her continued meetings with branches and regions across the country to re-organise the branch structure. Many changes were now being progressed coupled with many that had been enacted. It’s a huge piece of work and will take time. (BW) thanked (PB) for her continued efforts with this important work. (JS) also thanked (PB) & (PM) for inviting her to some of the recent meetings they have held.

12, **Party Director Report**

(JS) advised the NEC of communications she had been engaged with to members. Fundraising was still at the forefront of her thoughts and she was continuing to look at ways to do this. (RE) offered the use of a gambling licence his region holds to undertake monthly raffles. If ANY Branch Chair wanted details, they are more than welcome to contact him.

13, **Leaders Policy Report**

Policy had been briefly discussed earlier in the meeting. (BW) advised that this section of the meeting was now reserved for (NH) and any information from the new Policy Committee.

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.

15, Covered in (14)

16, Covered in (14)

17, Covered in (14)
18, **Branch Mergers**

(PM) Proposed the following which was seconded by (IG).

The Kent Region would be split into the following Branches.

**North Kent**
Canterbury, Faversham & Mid Kent, North Thanet, South Thanet,

**West Kent**
Dartford, Gravesham, Seven Oaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells,

**East Kent**
Ashford, Dover, Folkstone & Hythe

**Mid Kent & Medway**
Chatham & Aylesford, Gillingham & Rainham, Maidstone & The Weald, Rochester & Strood, Sittingbourne & Sheppey

The proposal was unanimously supported.

19, **Any Other Business**

None

20, **Date of Next Meeting**

The NEC would meet online via ZOOM on 13/02/21.

The Meeting was closed at 16.25

[Signature]

Ben Walker  
National Party Chairman