UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

14/07/23 – 12.00 to 16.00

Meeting held in London – ZOOM Link also in operation.

1. **Attendance**
   Ben Walker (BW), Janice Mackay (JM), Donald Mackay (DM), Jamie Baker (JB), John Poynton (JP), Gary Johnson (GJ), Jack Thomson (JT), Julie Carter (JC), Jordan Gaskell (JG).

   **Attendance via ZOOM**
   Rebecca Jane (RJ), Party Secretary (PS)

2. **Welcomes & Apologies**
   Apologies received from Neil Hamilton, Steve Hollis, Joanna Grzesiak, Ian Garbutt, Pat Mountain.

3. **Approval of minutes**
   Previous minutes to be approved by email.

4. **UKIP Tech Group Update**
   (BW) informed the meeting about engagement levels of the party website.
   (DM) tabled a motion to engage former members by post offering a discount on membership (£10.00). Former members will be written to each month (minimum 20) from August until Dec to monitor the result/engagement. (BW) would organise the offer and potential website advertising and Head Office actions. The motion was proposed by (DM), seconded by (GJ) and carried unanimously.

5. **Leaders Update**
   (BW) gave an update on the work of (NH) in his absence.
   (RJ) gave a brief update on her work to date which had mainly been involved with the ongoing parliamentary by-election in Uxbridge.

6. **Treasurers Update**
   (BW) gave a short rundown of accounts in the absence of (IG) and confirmed no issues with bank accounts. There was a general discussion about funding, cost savings and funding planning which (BW) would investigate where appropriate and report back.

7. **Party Secretary & General Secretary Reports**
   (PS) joined the meeting at 13.05. He gave a short report on the only live legal matter currently in hand which had made good progress. He will advise the NEC of further progress in due course. There were no questions.
8. **Chairman’s Report**

(BW) updated NEC members on the current situation in Llanelli and the success of the recent public meeting.

He also updated the meeting on the progress of the umbrella group to date which was now taking shape following a meeting with partners.

(BW) advised the NEC about the development of the current Campaign Strategy which was also drawing on the actions of current by-elections. If successful, these actions would be incorporated into the strategy and presented at the next NEC meeting.

9. **Local Elections & Campaign Manager Report**

(JM) Campaign Managers Report previously circulated to members. JM instigated a full discussion taking onboard all comments.

It was agreed that (JT) be adopted as the Mayoral Candidate for the new North-East Mayor. His adoption was proposed by (JM), seconded by (JC) and carried unanimously, with the exception of (JT) who did not take part in the vote.

(JM) also gave thanks to (RJ), Peter Richardson, Steve Grimes and Geoff Courtney who had all played integral parts in helping to run really effective by-election campaigns to date.

The NEC unanimously agreed.

9. **National Nominating Officer Report**

(JB) advised the meeting that he felt it better to return to 1-yearly DNO forms and continue making candidates temporary DNO’s for the area in which they stand when required. This was supported by (JM) and (BW). No resolution was required to enable the change.

10. **Branch Mergers.**

There were none. (BW) thanked (GJ) for the work he had been carrying out in his region in re-organising redundant branches and dormant bank accounts.

11. **Party Director Report**

Regional Officers report was previously circulated to members. There were no questions. Following her written report regarding NEC positions it was unanimously agreed to move the previously circulated proposal which covered changes to the NEC terms.

**NEC Elections 2022**

Elected to the NEC for 3 years until Oct. 2025

- Gary Johnson
- Janice Mackay
- Jordan Gaskell
- Julie Carter

**NEC members serving until Oct. 2024**

- Neil Hamilton
- John Poynton
- Peter Gammons
- Pat Bryant

*Resigned mid term*
NEC members serving until Oct. 2023
Donald Mackay
Ian Garbutt
Alun Elder-Brown
Resigned mid term
Jack Thomson

As a result of the mid term resignations it is proposed, as has been the case in the past, to move Donald Mackay and Ian Garbutt up the list to serve until Oct. 2024. Jack Thomson who came in behind Donald Mackay and Ian Garbutt will be up for election this year. The next election will advertise 4 vacancies.

This was proposed by (JM), Seconded by (JC) and carried unanimously.

(BW) stated for the record that he would no longer allow UKIP members to stand as independents, especially as the umbrella organisation gathers pace. His comments were made in direct response to a report given at the last Regional Officers meeting where a Regional Chair was preparing a paper on the benefits of members standing as independents. With one exception, the NEC flatly dismissed any such move during discussion.

12, Any Other Business

(JP) raised points/questions. Following discussion, it was agreed to introduce a period where NEC members were asked to make comments on policy before sign-off by the Party Leader and then subsequent ratification by the NEC. Following finalisation of new policy by the Policy Team, NEC members would be invited for comment. This would be a meeting that included the Party Leader and all NEC Members. This was proposed by (JP), seconded by (JG). 7 FOR, 0 Against, 1 Abstention. (BW) will reaffirm the process with the Policy Team and NEC for future guidance.

There was also discussion about Housing Policy. (JP) was asked to write a paper for presentation and consideration by the Policy Team.

(JP) also raised the point of the National Party Chairmans, chairmanship responsibilities of the Board of Directors. NEC members felt the status quo was acceptable and no vote to change was tabled. (BW) encouraged (JP) to incorporate any proposed changes in the ongoing constitution editing process of which he was leading.

(GJ) asked if it was possible to arrange an informal meet with umbrella group partnering governing bodies. (BW) would investigate and arrange in the future.

(JT) requested that one of the future centrally organised public meeting be help in the North-East. (BW) agreed to this and will plan said meeting into the schedule.

(BW) raised the email which had been circulated by Richard Fullerton and advised he had been unable to speak with him in relation to its contents to date. He would advise when they have managed to converse.

13, Date of Next Meeting

The NEC is scheduled to break for summer. It was discussed to hold a ZOOM meeting prior to the October conference. It was agreed that this would take place on the evening of 12/09/23.

The Meeting closed at 14.36.
Ben Walker
National Party Chairman