UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

15/04/23 – 12.00 to 16.00

Meeting held in London – ZOOM Link also in operation.

1. Attendance

Ben Walker (BW), Donald Mackay (DM), Pat Mountain (PM), John Poynton (JP), Janice Mackay (JM), Gary Johnson (GJ), Ian Garbutt (IG), Jordan Gaskell (JK), Neil Hamilton (NH), Treasure Okwu (TO),

Attendance via ZOOM

Jamie Baker (JB), Jack Thomson (JT)

2. Welcomes & Apologies

Apologies received from Rebecca Jane, Julie Carter.

3. Approval of minutes

Previous minutes approved by email.

4. UKIP Tech Group Update

(BW) presented the latest updates to the party website and visitor engagement numbers, along with changes to personnel carrying out website updates.

5. Leaders Update

(NH) gave an update on his recent media appearances and work reaching out to like-minded parties.

(BW) gave an update on the work of (RJ).

6. Treasurers Update

(IG) reported on the balances of party accounts and the importance of membership numbers and the Sovereign Draw. He will be working with (BW) soon to put together membership drives for both the party and draw.

7. Party Secretary & General Secretary Reports

Nothing to report.

8. Chairman's Report

(BW) gave an update on the status of the umbrella organisation and took questions from NEC members. This included a video of a new key member who had re-joined the party.

NEC members voted to appoint Anne Marie Waters as Justice Spokes. Proposed by (IG) and seconded by (GJ). The vote in favour was unanimous.
The following changes to the Party Rule Book & Joining Page were agreed.

**RULE BOOK**

I.6 Membership is not available to anyone who is or has previously been a member of Hope not Hate, Antifa, Communist League, Left Unity, Extinction Rebellion, Stop the Oil (or any other parties or organisations later added to the proscribed list). Any applications made from people who are or have been members of these organisations will be refused, and any subscriptions collected will be refunded. By making an application for membership, the applicant certifies that he is not and has never been a member of either of these parties. All other applications are welcomed from any person. Any previous political membership(s) or association(s) that an applicant is in doubt of should be listed on the application. Applications are assessed without prejudice and on their own merit. The UK Independence Party reserves the right to reject applications or terminate memberships if these criteria are not met.

**JOINING PAGE**

By applying for membership of UKIP, I agree:

To abide by the UKIP Constitution and the Terms and Conditions of Membership (available here).

I am not and have never been a member of Hope Not Hate, Antifa, Communist League, Left Unity, Extinction Rebellion or Stop the Oil.

I understand that applications are welcomed from any person, and I have listed previous association(s) or membership(s) which I may have doubts about as part of this application. I understand that this application will be assessed without prejudice and on its own merit. The UK Independence Party reserves the right to reject applications or terminate memberships if these criteria are not met.

These changes were proposed by (JT) and seconded by (IG) and carried unanimously.

(BW) would update pages and forms accordingly.

The meeting was also informed that the TAXI had been decommissioned.

*(TO) joining the meeting at 15.11*

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

(JM) submitted a full report on her work to date which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Local Elections campaign was now in full swing in areas where the party was contesting seats. She gave thanks to (JB) for his efforts and support.

(BW) thanked (JM) for her continued challenging work which was supported by NEC members.

NEC members discussed the need to simply the candidate selection process, making it a centralised function. This would apply for both local and parliamentary candidates. Any member wishing to stand is to be directed straight to the National Campaign Manager by branches, regions or activists who will oversee the process and include Branch/Regional Officers where applicable. The National Campaign Manager would also seek candidates in advance where one wasn’t present. This process was proposed by (GJ), Seconded by (JP) and carried unanimously.
Given the potential of a parliamentary by-election for Rutherglen & Hamilton West, the NEC discussed standing and allowing the National Campaign Manager to work in advance to seek candidates, carrying out a hustings or selection process if required. This was proposed by (IG) and seconded by (JG) and carried unanimously.

It’s important to note that the NEC agreed that the National Campaign Manager would now actively seek candidates for ALL parliamentary seats in preparation for the next General Election as part of these decisions. The new centralised process would be emailed to members, disseminated through regional meetings and (BW) would work with (JM) to update the party website accordingly.

9, National Nominating Officer Report

(JB) updated the NEC on his work to date which involved a new DNO certificate and the processes which had been used for candidates in the forthcoming May elections.

The NEC discussed DNO’s and agreed that existing process of issuing certificates to candidates should be continued. (JB) would issue a template to (BW) as Deputy NNO for use as a fall-back policy if (JB) is uncontacted at short notice.

The NEC thanked (JB) for his work.

10, Branch Mergers.

There were none.

11, Party Director Report

(PM) submitted a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting. (PM) thanked (JM) and (JB) for all their work in relation to the local elections and gave a short update on the work of the Policy Team.

There were no questions. Some discussions took place about the regional structure. (BW) agreed that he would work with (PM) and (JM) to investigate an updated and effective model.

12, Any Other Business

(JP) raised the issue of the government quietly harmonising taxes with the European Union and agreed to write a piece for the website.

13, Date of Next Meeting

The NEC is scheduled to meet in London – 10/06/23.

The Meeting closed at 16.25.

Ben Walker
National Party Chairman