UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

11/02/23 – 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), Jamie Baker (JB), John Poynton (JP), Janice Mackay (JM), Gary Johnson (GJ), Ian Garbutt (IG), Jordan Gaskell (JK), Alun Elder-Brown (AEB), Jack Thomson (JT), Treasure Okwu (TO)

Attendance via ZOOM

Neil Hamilton (NH), Rebecca Jane (RJ), Tom Wood (TW), Josh Radcliffe (JR)

2. Welcomes & Apologies

Apologies received from Pat Bryant & Julie Carter.

The NEC approved attendance of (TW).

3. Approval of minutes

Minutes circulated prior to the meeting were proposed to be accepted. (IG) proposed, (JP) seconded and the NEC voted unanimously in support.

4. UKIP Tech Group Update

(BW) presented the latest updates to the party website and visitor engagement numbers. Rob McWhirter was thanked for all his efforts in maintaining the party website to date as he is passing responsibility to Head Office for daily updates. He will remain the webmaster carrying out structural website changes and also as Deputy Returning Officer for internal elections.

5. Leaders Update

(NH) gave an update on his recent media appearances and his thoughts on recent political developments.

(RJ) also gave an update on her media appearances and work behind the scenes developing relationships with like-minded political parties as part of the work uniting the right.

6. Treasurers Update

(IG) reported on the balances of party accounts, membership figures and the Sovereign Draw.

(IG) also agreed to continue in his post at Party Treasurer to secure a further 2-year term. There were no other applicants. (GJ) proposed (IG) to continue, seconded by (JM) and supported unanimously by the NEC.

7. Party Secretary & General Secretary Reports

(BW) have a short update on behalf of the Party Secretary. There was no report from the General Secretary as there was nothing to report.
8. Chairman’s Report

(BW) gave a brief introduction on behalf of (TW) who followed with his own presentation. Following this, the NEC appointed (TW) as its Business Spokes and NEC Member with responsibility for Social Media Strategy. This was proposed by (IG) and seconded by (JP). The NEC voted unanimously.

(BW) advised that the Young Independence representative role should be shared by three key young members being Jack Thomson, Treasure Okwu and Cain Griffiths, along with (DM) being appointed as General Secretary to enable the release of (TO) to fulfil the role. This was agreed unanimously by the NEC, proposed by (IG) and seconded by (PM).

An update on the status of the umbrella organisation was given by (BW) and accepted by the NEC who asked questions.

The resignation of Dr Peter Gammons was noted and a vote of thanks to Peter for all his efforts was unanimously supported. It was agreed by the NEC that his position would remain vacant until the next set of NEC elections in October 2023.

9. Local Elections & Campaign Manager Report

(JM) submitted a full report on her work to date which had been circulated prior to the meeting and took questions.

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

9. National Nominating Officer Report

(JB) updated the NEC on his work to date.

10, Branch Structure Officer Report & Branch Mergers.

The following branch mergers were proposed by (JP), seconded by (IG), and agreed unanimously.

Surrey and The Northeast to become super branches along with Kent which will encapsulate the following branches.

Ashford, Canterbury, Chatham & Aylesford, Dartford
Dover, Faversham & Mid Kent, Folkestone & Hythe, Gillingham & Rainham
Gravesham, Midstone & Weald
North Thanet, Rochester & Strood, Sevenoaks, Sittingbourne & Sheppy, South Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, Tonbridge Wells

11, Regional Officers Meeting Report

(PM) reported on a successful Regional Meeting which had taken place in advance of the NEC Meeting via ZOOM.

12, Any Other Business

Nothing was raised.
13,  

**Date of Next Meeting**

The NEC is scheduled to meet in London – 15/04/23.

The Meeting closed at 15.45.

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**Ben Walker**  
National Party Chairman