UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

13/02/21 – 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), Richard Elvin (RE), Party Secretary (PS), Robert Stephenson (RS)

2, Apologies

Adam Richardson

3, Approval of Minutes

Carried out by email prior to meeting

4, Matters Arising

(PM) presented the updated list of DNO’s to the NEC which had been worked on with (RS) the National Nominating Officer. Once the list was finalised it would be circulated to NEC members.

4, Leaders Update

(NH) updated the meeting on his work over the past few weeks. He continues to produce videos and social media content.

He is continuing to recruit high profile members with skill sets and expertise which are of use to the party to help generate interest and offer credibility.

A successful online meeting had been held with UKIP Councillors and he had spent lots of time throughout the past month on ZOOM meetings and calls for the party.

(TH) updated the NEC on the Frontbench Restructure which was currently being worked on. Once finalised, the NEC would be given a list with contact details.

Work continues on the Policy & Communications Team which is obviously linked to the Frontbench Restructure.

(PB) joined the meeting at 13.28
5,  **Treasurer’s Report**

(IG) updated the NEC on the status of a legacy that is due to the party.  

(BW) informed the meeting that work to regain funds from dormant/defunct branches continued and a good level of progress had been achieved over the last month.  

(BW) also informed the meeting of the growing UKIP membership which was a direct result of the good work being undertaken by the Leadership Team and the NEC.  

(IG) will discuss an idea to run an incentivised competition to see if it can be developed further.

6,  **General Secretary’s Report**

(TH) reported that there was one live disciplinary matter which was currently being dealt with.

7,  **Party Secretary’s Report**

(PS) reported details of a successfully defended claim against the party in the County Court and another which is due to be heard at the beginning of March. He advised that any claim brought against the party from an individual would be robustly defended.

9,  **Chairman’s Report**

(BW) invited (RE) to work in partnership with (SH) to develop and build on the work that had been carried out by (TH) & (NH) to reinvigorate the UKIP Councillors Association. (RE) accepted and would contact (SH) outside of the meeting.

10,  **UKIP Tech Group Update**

(RM) joined the meeting at 14.10 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 along with the GLA & Scottish Election Lists. The NEC paid thanks to (RM) for his continued work on the website. (RM) left the meeting following his report.

11,  **Local Elections & Campaign Manager**

(PM) reported to the NEC on a growing approved candidates list. She would be organising meetings with Regional/Branch Chairs to increase the numbers of candidates.

There was some discussion about the importance of local councillors and (NH) reaffirmed his commitment to UKIP standing in local elections and getting councillors elected.

(IG) proposed a vote of thanks to (PM) for all the work she had been doing to organise candidates and campaigns for the nationwide local elections which was unanimously supported.

(PM) reminded NEC members that ALL councillors and candidates needed to be vetted to stand for the party.

(JM) joined the meeting at 14.52

12,  **Branch Structure Officer**

(PB) reported on her continued meetings with branches and regions across the country to reorganise the branch structure. She also gave a run-down of how the structure looked to date. She sought assistance concerning the Midlands so (EM) would speak to her outside of the meeting. (EM) thanked (PB) for her work on the restructuring to date which was unanimously supported.
13, **Party Director Report**
(JS) advised the NEC that she had been assisting in Wales with candidate selection. She had also taken over the Surrey Region on a temporary basis to help re-build it and continued to contact willing members to stand as candidates and take on regional positions.

14, **Leaders Policy Report**
(PB) led a discussion about the NHS to which (NH) offered his thinking. (EJ) raised some really points about fiscal campaigning which Neil would take forward. It was apparent that some of the NEC members had real-time information which campaigning points could be based around, so he welcomed members to contact him to develop these further.

14, **Campaigning Update**
(DM) reported on the current campaign preparations and the adoption of candidates in Scotland. UKIP Scotland will field as many candidates as possible and will focus on scrapping the Scottish Parliament in their campaign. A vote of thanks was proposed to both (DM) & Janice MacKay for the work they had undertaken in Scotland and the number of candidates they had so far.

(TH) & (NH) reported on the current campaign preparations and the adoption of candidates in Wales which was close to being finalised.

(BW) advised that the GLA elections will be discussed once the election is called.

15, **Covered in (14)**

16, **Covered in (14)**

17, **Branch Mergers**
The following branch mergers were presented then Proposed by (PM). This proposal was seconded by (IG) and unanimously supported.

**Brighton Kemptown** merged with **Brighton Pavilion** and **Hove & Portslade**.
There will be one committee and one bank account.

**Berkshire - The following branches merged into one "Super Branch"**
Bracknell, Maidenhead, Newbury, Reading East, Reading West, Slough, Windsor, Wokingham.
There will be one committee and one bank account.

**Buckinghamshire – The following branches merged into one "Super Branch"**
Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham & Amersham, Milton Keynes North, Milton Keynes South, Wycombe
There will be one committee and one bank account.
19, **Any Other Business**

None

20, **Date of Next Meeting**

The NEC would meet online via ZOOM on 13/03/21.

The Meeting was closed at 16.01

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**Ben Walker**
National Party Chairman