UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

15/05/21 – 13.30 to 16.30

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), Steve Hollis (SH), Joel McGuigan (JM), Pat Bryant (PB), Rob McWhirter (RM), Richard Elvin (RE), Robert Stephenson (RS), Adam Richardson (AS), Jon Holbrook (JH), Janice MacKay (JM), Peter Gammons (PG), Julie Carter (JC), Julia Searle (JS), Tom Harrison (TH)

Apologies

Party Secretary

2, Approval of Minutes

Carried out by email prior to meeting and published online.

3, A vote was unanimously passed to allow (JH), (PG) & (JM) to join and attend the meeting.

(JC) was welcomed to her first NEC meeting.

4, UKIP Tech Group Update

(RM) gave a report on website changes and updates. He highlighted work which had been completed on behalf of the Scottish Election Campaign along with other general updates/changes. He also requested that the NEC assist to find a permanent replacement to manage the Scottish Twitter Account. (RM) was thanked for his continued work with the party’s website.

(RM) left the meeting at 14.05

5, Leaders Update

(NH) updated the meeting the Welsh Elections and gave his thoughts on the election results overall for the party. where possible. He also paid thanks to Tom Harrison and George Pykov for their sterling work in Wales and assistance given nationally. The NEC fully supported this.
6, **Treasurer’s Report**

He reported that the party continued to operate well within its means and had a healthy bank balance.

7 & 8, **Local Elections & Campaign Manager INC English Elections**

(PM) reported to the NEC on the overall results for elections held in England and the campaign itself.

She would be working with (BW) in the coming weeks to roll-out improvements to the internal systems for candidates.

(PM) paid thanks to party offers for their support throughout the campaign.

9, **Scotland Update**

(JM) & (DM) updated the meeting on the campaign and results in Scotland. They gave thanks to party officers for support given throughout the campaign along with the candidates who stood.

10, **Wales Update**

(TH) updated the meeting on the campaign and results in Wales. He paid tribute to the candidates and activists in Wales saying they had been the best team to date and was confident that that team would remain to continue to build around.

11, **London Update**

(PG) updated the meeting on the campaign and results in London. Despite the results (PG) was already planning events to try and engage voters who voted for the party in particular areas.

The NEC thanked (PG) for his work throughout the campaign and the personal financial commitment he made to the London campaigns on behalf of the party.

12, **2021 Election Discussion**

(BW) introduced (JH) to the meeting who had prepared a paper analysing the election results as a whole which also looked at key data in specific areas. The paper also presented some structural change ideas which could benefit the party.

Following a vote, the NEC fully supported the appointment of (JH) made by (BW) to install (JH) as the party’s Electoral Analysis & Development Officer.

(BW) reported on website engagement figures supplied by (RM). The site has received 253K visits so far this year.

The NEC then had a full discussion about the election results and the party’s overall performance. ALL members were given the opportunity to speak openly.

Many ideas were tabled, along with feedback from candidates and members. (BW) working with (JH) & (PM) would develop some of these ideas further bringing them back to the next meeting.
(EJ) Left the meeting at 15.51
(JS) Left the meeting at 16.20
(JC) Left the meeting at 16.48

13, Any Other Business

(BW) advised the meeting that the former Gammons for London Taxi would be repurposed as a campaigning vehicle for the party, available to support campaigns across the country when required.

Following a short discussion, the NEC tasked (BW) to generate a press release targeting disaffected members/supporters of opposing parties.

14, Date of Next Meeting - The NEC would meet on 12/06/21, starting at 13.30. Given that current COVID-19 Regulations may ease, (BW) will advise if the meeting will be able to take place in person at the Union Jack Club or will be carried out via ZOOM in due course.

The Meeting was closed at 17.27

Ben Walker
National Party Chairman