UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

20/11/21 – 13.30 to 16.00

London – Online Meeting Link also in operation.

1, Attendance in Person

Julie Carter (JC), Ben Walker (BW) Party Chairman, Neil Hamilton (NH), Ian Garbutt (IG), Donald Mackay (DM), Pat Mountain (PM), Elizabeth Jones (EJ), Peter Gammons (PG), Peter Virgo (PV), Alun Elder-Brown (AEB), Steve Hollis (SH), Party Secretary & Legal Advisor

Attendance via ZOOM

Rob McWhirter (RM), Pat Bryant (PB), Jamie Baker (JB), Jack Thomson (JT), John Poynton (JP), Richard Elvin (RE)

Apologies

None

(BW) welcomed all new NEC Members to the meeting and reminded ALL members of the importance of NEC discussions and information being confidential unless otherwise advised.

2, Approval of Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting agreed by email.

3, UKIP Tech Group Update

(RM) presented the Leadership & NEC Election Report and took questions.

(RM) then gave a short report on website changes. (AEB) proposed a vote of thanks to (RM) for all his work which was unanimously supported.

(RM) left the meeting at 13.40

4, Leaders Report

(NH) updated the NEC on all his media engagements, key UKIP messaging and media plans following his election as the party’s elected Leader. He also updated the conference on the recent AfD Conference he and (BW) attended in Germany.
5,  **Party Treasurers Report**

(IG) updated the meeting on the party’s financial position. He advised members to encourage internal support from members for the Sovereign Draw which is a fantastic way to support the party and win a solid gold sovereign monthly.

6,  **Party Secretary & General Secretary Update**

The Party Secretary updated NEC Members on live legal matters and the party’s Legal Advisor informed NEC Members of their duties and responsibilities as Company Directors.

7,  **Party Chairman Report**

(BW) reported on the successful Worthing Conference which generated a good profit for the party.

(JP) lost internet connection and left the meeting.

The NEC discussed the existing Young Independence (YI) structure and the proposed structure which was circulated at conference. (IG) Proposed that the YI membership fee be changed to £10.00 annually to negate abuse and to accept the proposed new structure (attached to these minutes) with Jack Thomson being appointed by the NEC as its co-ordinator for one year. The proposal was seconded by (AEB) and supported unanimously by NEC Members.

Jordan Gaskell, the current Chairman of YI who is due for re-election in December was thanked by the NEC for his work in his year as its chair.

The NEC discussed the current Patrons Club structure, along with the proposed structure which was also circulated at conference. It was noted that legally there can be no Life-Time members of the Patrons Club, past or present. (IG) proposed that the circulated new structure (attached to these minutes) be adopted and that the new fee structure could be paid by instalments arranged by Head Office if required. The existing branch would be closed, and a new Patrons co-ordinator will be sought for appointment by the NEC. Remaining funds of the branch are to be returned to Head Office and Patron Club Members will also need to pay their standard membership fee in addition to their Patrons membership fee. The proposal was seconded by (PV) and unanimously supported by the NEC.

(BW) would advise both YI and the Patrons of the decisions and email the membership to update them on the changes.

(BW) requested that NEC Members devise new membership drive ideas ready for discussion at the next NEC meeting.

There was a general discussion about NEC decision making.

The party now had new video recording equipment and any member who is interested in appearing in a short video for social media talking about a specialist subject area or interest were welcomed to contact the National Party Chairman to organise.

(BW) reported on recent communication from Make Votes Matter.

8,  **Party Director & Campaign Manager Report**

(PM) took questions on her written report. (BW) advised the meeting that (PM) as Party Director will be taking control of the Regional Meetings of Regional Officers and managing them on behalf of him. Future meetings will be conducted using ZOOM and feedback will be reported to the NEC the usual manner.

(JC) Left the meeting.
9, **National Nominating Officer Report**

(JB) updated the meeting on recent communications with DNO’s. A brief discussion was held about the length of DNO Certificates. (AEB) proposed that certificates be increased in length to TWO years. This was seconded by (PM) and supported unanimously by the NEC.

(PG) left the meeting.

10, **Branch Re-structuring Officer Report**

(PB) informed the NEC members of her continued work across the branches. London will be one of the next focuses.

She would draft an email to be sent to all members in support of her continued work.

11, **Regional Meeting Report**

(BW) updated NEC Members with ideas and comments from the Regional Meeting which took place prior to this meeting.

12, **Any Other Business**

The NEC agreed the following changes to the Party Rule Book.

Sections referring to MEP’s will be deleted as per Deputy Officer’s Election Report (Attached) and the following text was to be inserted into the Discipline section found at AA, at the very bottom of the current section and under its own heading of “Litigation Against the Party”.

"Where any Member initiates any legal proceedings against the Party, or causes the same to be initiated, or threatens without good cause to issue legal proceedings and is unsuccessful in the bringing of said proceedings, or discontinues said proceedings or said proceedings are stayed, the Member shall be liable to pay the Party's costs on the indemnity basis. This provision shall be deemed a term of the contract of membership and shall apply with full force to proceedings allocated to the Small Claims Track as it does to any other proceedings. Any unpaid costs shall accrue simple interest at the rate of 10% per annum"

Proposed by (IG), Seconded by (SH), and supported unanimously by the NEC.

13, **Date of Next Meeting**

The next NEC meeting will take place via ZOOM on 14/12/21.

The Meeting was closed at 16.35

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Ben Walker
National Party Chairman