UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

15/01/22 – 13.00 to 16.00

Online ZOOM Meeting

1, Attendance

Julie Carter (JC), Ben Walker (BW) Party Chairman, Neil Hamilton (NH), Ian Garbutt (IG), Donald Mackay (DM), Pat Mountain (PM), Peter Gammons (PG), Peter Virgo (PV), Alun Elder-Brown (AEB), John Poynton (JP), Jamie Baker (JB), Richard Elvin (RE), Pat Bryant (PB), Jack Thomson (JT), Rob McWhirter (RM), Party Secretary

Apologies

Steve Hollis, Tom Harrison

2, Approval of Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting agreed by email.

3, UKIP Tech Group Update

(RM) gave a short report on the party website, Blogs, and site statistics.

(RM) left the meeting at 13.45

4, Leaders Report

(NH) updated the NEC on media engagements, by-elections and new a spokesman appointment. Campaign resources were discussed along with like minded parties who are campaigning on similar issues.

5, Party Treasurers Report

(IG) updated the meeting on the party’s financial position. He also advised the NEC on the development of the new patron’s club and its growth and annual return for the party.

During a brief discussion following the report from (IG), (PB) raised the idea of a new online petition in opposition to the COVID Bill. The NEC supported this and (PB) would organise with (BW) following the meeting.
6, **Party Secretary & General Secretary Update**

The Party Secretary updated NEC Members on live legal matters.

7, **Party Chairman Report**

(BW) informed the meeting that Elizabeth Jones (EJ) had resigned from the NEC for professional reasons. Both (NH) & (BW) had been in contact with to thank her for her long service and contribution to the party’s NEC. NEC members echoed this.

Following discussion by the NEC it was decided to carry the vacancy created by the resignation of (EJ) forward to October’s scheduled elections and not call on the NEC Candidate list. This was proposed by (PB), seconded by (PV), and unanimously supported. (BW) would contact the two reserve candidates on the NEC List.

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

(PM) took questions on her written report. She also reported on the Policy Teams work to date and the type/number of enquiries/ideas that had been submitted to them. The NEC thanked (PM) for her continued hard work along with the Policy Team.

The current organisation and forthcoming elections across the UK were discussed. (BW) was to contact Janice Mackay following the meeting in relation to Northern Ireland.

9, **National Nominating Officer Report**

(JB) updated the meeting on activities pertaining to the scope of the work as NNO.

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

There was no report as work had stalled due to the festive period. Work had been scheduled to resume and would be reported on at the next meeting.

11, **Regional Meeting Report**

(BW) advised that there had been no regional meeting and reminded members that (PM) the Party Director was now managing the regional meetings. A meeting was scheduled to take place in the week following this meeting and would be reported on to the NEC at the next NEC meeting.

12, **Any Other Business**

(AEB) presented his idea for UKIP to support a referendum on the re-introduction of capital punishment for premeditated murder, terrorism, child murder and multiple murders. Following robust discussion involving every member of the NEC the proposal was tabled by (AEB) and seconded by (DM). A vote was carried out. FOR – 4, AGAINST – 5, ABSTENTION – 1. The proposal fell. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Policy Team would carry out further research into the topic with the possibility of further discussion and a vote.

(JP) raised the idea of an honorary membership of the new patron’s club for three members of the former patron’s club who had made considerable donations to the party in the past as long as their party membership was maintained. This would be a one-off move by the NEC. The proposal was made by (IG) and seconded by (JP). FOR – 9, AGAINST – 1. The proposal was carried. (BW) would contact the three former patrons, ensure their membership was current and organise their new honorary patron status.
13, Date of Next Meeting

The next NEC meeting will take place via ZOOM on 15/02/22.

The Meeting was closed at 16.00

Ben Walker
National Party Chairman