UKIP NEC Meeting Minutes

09/07/22 – 13.00 to 16.00

London – Online Meeting Link also in operation.

Meeting commenced 1.20PM after technical problems solved.

1, In attendance

Ben Walker (BW) Pat Mountain (PM) Janice Mackay (JM) Donald Mackay (DM) Ian Garbutt (IG)
Stavroula Tomara (ST) Steve Hollis (SH) Alun Elder-Brown (AEB) Julie Carter (JC)

2, Zoom attendees

Neil Hamilton (NH) Jamie Baker (JB) Peter Gammons (PG) Pat Bryant (PB) Rob Mcwhirter (RM)

The Legal Team

3, Apologises for absence

Jack Thomson (JT) and John Poynton (JP)

4, Leaders Report

Recap on the Boris situation. Some success on GB news hopeful for further coverage/exposure. Little other to report on the Westminster game other than this could be a fantastic opportunity for UKIP. Thanks, given to UKIP candidates Jordan Gaskell and Ben Walker for standing in Wakefield and Tiverton, respectively. Congratulations to Spokesman for their excellent press releases. From comments on GB news, it is clear that the European movement continues. NH has received a call from Mike Hookem ADF party Action point NH confirms he will be meeting with him.

5, National Campaign Managers Report

Report on ‘wash up’ the recent Parliamentary By-Elections. No support at all from the local branch and region at the organised campaign day in Wakefield. Support from the Party Chairman and JB and JT from the Northeast and Scotland appreciated. JM reports that the UKIP taxi is our best canvassing tool. Work continues on the two-step initiative to identify all Town and Parish Councils and then investigate current vacancies. Scotland, the Southeast, and Southwest have completed step one Eastern, and the Northeast is a work in progress but disappointingly nothing received from the other regions. The Tamworth Parliamentary By-Election, there are several contenders, and the selection process continues. With the possibility of a GE, identifying PPCs is high on the agenda. JM already chasing regional and branch officers to give priority to this.

BW proposed a vote of thanks for JM for the brilliant work she is currently undertaking which members unanimously supported.
4, Tech Sub-Committee Report

Reported simplification of the Home Page on ukip.org. proceeded with a tour of the website. RM presented a logo mock up from suggestions previously received to the NEC. Opinions heard from all attendees regarding logo design and colours. Vote taken that we would have a corporate logo for use throughout the UK not separate ones for use in Scotland, Wales, and London etc. The logo refresh design concept would be further developed based on the meetings discussion with further options being presented to NEC members via email.

NEC candidates must be identified by mid Sept for the opening of the electronic application form. The deadline for any questions/points to be included is the 10th of Oct. Given the take-up and additional cost of a telephone option for voting, the NEC agreed to not offer it to the membership. Head Office will give support to members having difficulty with the online form.

The NEC election results (4 vacancies) to be announced at the National Party Conference. RM extended an opportunity for NEC members to join the Tech Sub Committee anyone interested to contact him.

5, Chairmans Report

The Party Director PM gave a report to NEC members on her feelings on a route map forward which also legally demonstrated the NEC’s ability to change the party’s name using the party’s constitution.

The Party Chairman BW gave a short presentational on his view of the current political situations and an in-depth discussion followed where party membership, party direction and corporate image were discussed by all NEC members being free to voice opinions and ideas.

Satisfied that the NEC could change the name of the party without balloting the membership the consensus was there was potential going forward but not at this time.

A new party name. Is it a good idea? Proposed PM, Seconded IG Failed

Change of colours? Proposed PM, Seconded IG Failed

PB added if we are not changing the party name what was the point of changing the party colours?

The Party Chairman BW gave a short update on the Sovereign Draw and informed the NEC its operation will be moving away from the Sterling Lotteries and operated by Head Office to increase the profitability of the draw.

It had been agreed by NH that AEB be appointed as Disability and Equality spokesperson, vote taken by NEC members present, no objections.

The BW umbrella movement previously presented was discussed again by NEC Members. Support of its launch was Proposed by PM, Seconded by IG - Passed (7 votes for and 1 abstention).

PB offered help to BW with a professional Risk Assessment BW thanked PB and would get in touch if necessary.

The Legal Team reported the latest position on a current litigation case.

NEC agreed to the merger of three counties and all constituency branches within them Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire. The new name to be Thames Valley Branch.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm

Date of next meeting 6th Sept (scheduled as a ZOOM meeting).
Ben Walker
National Party Chairman