

**U K Independence Party – Dorset North Constituency**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**  
**Held at the Pimperne Village Hall, Pimperne, Dorset.**

Committee members present:

John L. Baxter – Chairman and acting Secretary  
Charles Upton – Treasurer.                      Betty Dandridge – Committee  
Guest Speaker – Mr Malcolm Wood, Political Assistant to Graham Booth MEP.

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1. Meeting declared open at 11.15am by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all present including Mr Wood and introduced the committee.
2. Minutes of the AGM 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 had been sent to all members and copies were available in the hall. Proposed by Mr. Charles Upton and seconded by Mr. Alan Kewley, they were accepted and approved unanimously. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
3. Apologies for absence were received from: Alan Haines – Colehill West; Annette Hurst – Alderholt; Pat Gill – Motcombe; Sydney Lutz – Marnhull [moved away]; Alan Reynolds – Holt; out of courtesy John Whiffen – Christchurch.
4. The existing committee, John Baxter, Alan Haines, Charles Upton and Betty Dandridge had given notice that they would be happy to serve a further term, all four were proposed by Mr. Eric Styles, and seconded by Mr. Alan Kewley. All votes were unopposed and unanimous.
5. The voting for the Branch Officers was individual; with John Baxter proposed by Charles Upton & seconded by Douglas Williams; and Charles Upton proposed by Mr. John Baxter and seconded by Capt. John Myers. Both votes were unopposed and unanimous.
6. There were no other candidates for any other positions.
7. The Treasurer then gave his report.  
Membership was up from 59 to 82 including a small number awaiting confirmation of renewal from Regional Office, this increase due in most part to the Trevor Coleman Billboard Campaign and our leafleting throughout the year. The Balance Sheet is appended herewith, showing an opening balance of £117.15, income of £720.70, expenditure of £292.73 and a closing balance of £545.12. All in all, the branch was in a healthy and solvent state.
8. The Chairman then reported. Nationally news items include: immigration is recorded as increasing by 20,000 a month; Iraq; terrorism; EU regulation still a flood; Re UKIP: Alan Bown donation case was due in court; Roger Knapman had stood down as leader, replaced by Nigel Farage; 2 UKIP Lords; Trevor Coleman's Billboard scheme had produced to date 2,111 responders in Dorset alone, 172 of these in Dorset North, leading to 16 new members in Dorset North and 5 in the last month. The newsletter continues on a monthly basis, and enjoys being placed on the Bournemouth West website courtesy of their Chairman and IT wizard Rod Trelease.  
The First-Thursdays meetings at the Charlton Inn continue to flourish, with higher numbers due to becoming a joint event with Christchurch, Bournemouth West, Poole, & North Poole & Mid-Dorset, and even Salisbury branches, with thanks to their officers.

Other branch meetings include a Gawain Towler [UKIP/ID group Press Officer] evening, and a Graham Booth bonfire evening both at Greenacres, Longham were well attended, interesting, fun and raised funds for the branch. UKIP took a stand at the Great Dorset Steam Fair at Tarrant Hinton for 5 days which generated much interest. A national conference at Telford and a regional one in Exeter were preceded by a pleasant day spent at Maunsel House in Somerset addressed by Sir Richard Body.

The steep learning curve of the District Council elections would produce 13 candidates [out of possible 38] achieving a total of 1546 votes, averaging 10.36% of the votes cast. Thanks were given to all involved at branch and national level.

The need was stressed for further leafleting to keep up the momentum. Areas to be highlighted would be Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Blandford Forum, Wimborne Minster, Charlton Marshall, Iwerne Minster, Alderholt, Sixpenny Handley. Etc.

9 In any other business

a/ the Chairman made a plea for funds, and suggested setting up a system of Direct Debits as adopted in some other branches.

b/ An explanation of how the boundary changes would eventually affect the branch. Two officers, John Baxter and Alan Haines lived in areas that were changing. In detail: Wimborne Minster, Colehill East and West were now part of North Poole and Mid Dorset; Longham and Stapehill join Christchurch; Three Legged Cross, Verwood's Dewlands, Newton and Stephen's Castle become Dorset North. There is no requirement to live in the constituency to serve on the committee, although any that do would be unable to vote.

c/ A reminder was made to return election expenses forms on time to avoid fines.

d/ The suggestion to adopt a system of local representatives as the constituency covered some 1,000 square miles was muted. Perhaps considered a good idea no-one stepped forward to represent their domicile area.

9. Guest Speaker, Malcolm Wood opened by thanking the chairman for his efforts in taking over the branch at a difficult time and keeping the branch running over the last two years, by introducing regular meetings and newsletters. The recent local elections were addressed, as were boundary changes, amongst other topics. The way ahead was to be ready for future elections, with continued leafleting to sustain interest and awareness with the hopefully added bonus of an increase in membership at a time when other parties' membership was in decline.

11. The Chairman thanked Malcolm Wood and opened a question and answer session to the floor, which proved to be very lively, and covered a wide range of topics and suggestions, including UKIP's stance on ID cards.

12. Finally the Chairman curtailed the Q & A session, thanked all for participating and reminded everyone about the merchandise and free literature on offer behind the speakers, He thanked Shula Dacombe and Susie Baxter for their considerable help in organising and serving the teas, cakes etc and pointed out that the catering was still available. The meeting was closed at 12.10pm.

**Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**Signed**

**Acting Secretary.**

