

U K Independence Party – Dorset North Constituency
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Saturday 26th April 2008.
Held at the Pimperne Village Hall, Pimperne, Dorset.

Committee members present:

John L. Baxter – Chairman and acting Secretary

Charles Upton – Treasurer. Alan Haines.

Guest Speaker – Mr Gawain Towler, PPC for Dorset North, and ID Group press Officer

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- 1) Meeting declared open at 10.50am by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all present including Mr. Towler and introduced the committee.
- 2) Minutes of the AGM 19th May 2007 had been sent to all members and copies were available in the hall. Proposed by Mr. Charles Upton and seconded by David Maloney, they were accepted and approved unanimously. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 3) Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs. Betty Dandridge. Mr. Rob Pilkington. Mr. Eric Styles. Capt. John Myers, Mr. Roy Stevens.
- 4) Three existing committee members, John Baxter [JB], Charles Upton [CU] and Betty Dandridge [BD] had given notice that they would be happy to serve a further term, all three were proposed by Mr. Colin Howes [CH], and seconded by Mr. David Maloney [DM]. All votes were unopposed and unanimous. DM was then proposed for committee by JB, seconded by CH. Mr Alan Haines had stood down to take a sabbatical. The Chairman thanked him for his important contribution to the association.
- 5) The voting for the Branch Officers was individual; with JB proposed by CU & seconded by DM; and CU proposed by JB and seconded by CH. Both votes were unopposed and unanimous.
- 6) There were no candidates for any other office.
- 7) The Treasurer then gave his report.
Membership opened at 82 and now stood at 79, assuming 7 due to renew did so. The Balance Sheet is appended herewith, showing an opening balance of £545.12, income of £570.05, expenditure of £341.25 and a closing balance of £614.15. There were creditors of £202.25 making a net closing balance of £411.90. All in all, the branch was in a healthy and solvent state although more funds would be required to fight elections in the next year or so.
- 8) The Chairman then reported.
Biggest news within UKIP was the defection of Dr Bob Spink from the Conservatives. This made the MP for Castle Point [Essex not B'mouth!] our first in the House of Commons, to augment our 2 Lords and 9 MEPs. There were no scheduled elections in the coming year within Dorset North although a General Election could be called anytime by Mr. Brown. However Bournemouth had two council elections on 1st May: David Hughes was standing in Charminster with Queens Park, and Sam Whitt in Winton East. Both were wished every success. No one was standing in Poole's Branksome East.
The branch had experienced a quiet year overall, with the regular First Thursdays continuing with varying numbers at the Charlton Inn, which now had new management. The monthly newsletter continued with an increasing number being delivered by email. A short discussion was allowed which confirmed their relevance despite members having access to much information on the web. It was thought that many who had access might not have the time to glean the information

contained in the websites, some of which was incorporated in the newsletters. So they would continue with as much local relevance as possible.

Fundraising is difficult. Events were more limited this year within the branch, with only the November 5th Bonfire Party at Greenacres with Malcolm Wood; Branch library had reached 34 available books, although they were not being read by many members; No one had taken up the 'offer' to make donations by standing orders - Donations were the only other source of income, at £316,00 for the year. There being no new members the branch did not receive any income for membership. A number of fundraising suggestions were put forward.

It was pointed out that the next EU elections would result in a lower count of MEPs in UK, 87 to 72, with the SW down from 7 to 6. The electorate now included Gibraltar [21,124 voters] and totalled 3,947,772 in the SW. Much hard work was required to achieve good results.

If 50 members each delivered just 4 leaflets every day = 28 a week until the EUP elections, we would cover the entire constituency 3 times [est. 73,000].

Trevor Coleman's ideas for opposition to the proposed closure of 2,500 Post Offices was put forward with some latest information given from the floor. A leaflet explaining the Eu origin of the closures had been produced and leaflets with responder forms and return envelopes were available to be delivered to homes affected by the closures. Parish polls could also be used to fight the closures. A request was made for potential locations of these polls.

Finally the announcement was made that the Annual National UKIP Conference was to be held at the Bournemouth International Centre. This prestigious event was being organised by local branches and help was being sought to man it and help in other ways. Mostly however it was an excellent opportunity for members to travel only a little distance and meet all the 'names' of UKIP plus guest speakers.

- 9) As some discussion occurred during the Chairman's report any other business was curtailed there being no official points raised by advanced notice. There would be opportunity for discussion after the guest speaker.
- 10) The Chairman then closed the meeting, having pointed out the contents of the various stands around the room. He thanked all for attending and Susie Baxter for the excellent catering including home made biscuits and cakes.
- 11) The Chairman asked the guest speaker Mr Gawain Towler to address the meeting. This was followed by a considerable question and answer session on innumerable topics. After perfuse thanks to Gawain Towler for his full and frank presentation, the proceeding closed at approximately 12.15.

Dated: 28th March 2009

Signed



**John L Baxter.
Acting Secretary.**