

U K Independence Party – Dorset North Constituency
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 29th April 2006.
Held at the Town Hall, Market Place, Blandford Forum.

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.

X X X X X

1. Meeting declared open at 11.05am by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the committee.
2. Minutes of the AGM 23rd April 2005 and EGM of the 26th July 2005 were briefly read by Malcolm Wood. Proposed by Mr. Colin Howes and seconded by Mr Alan Haines. Both were accepted and approved unanimously.
3. No written apologies for absence were received, although several members had apologised by telephone in advance.
4. The existing committee had given notice that they would be happy to serve a further term. All three were proposed by Mr Andrew Page, with John Baxter seconded by Mr. Douglas Williams, Betty Dandridge being seconded by Mr. Robert Pilkington, and Charles Upton by Mr. Alan Haines. All three were elected unopposed and unanimously.
5. Mr. John Baxter was then re-elected Chairman by the same Proposer and Seconder, as was Charles Upton to the position of Treasurer.
6. Mr Alan Haines was then elected as fourth committee member, proposed by Mr. Andrew Page, seconded by Mr. John Baxter. There were no other candidates for any other positions.
7. The Treasurer then gave his report.
As at 26th July 2005 the balance inherited by the current committee was £198.30. Since then:
Expenses totalled £101.15, broken down as follows:
Newsletter expenses – Address Labels £9.99 + Postage £75.30
Room hire for the AGM 29th April 06 - £15.86
Receipts to date – New Membership: Mr. & Mrs D. Williams £20.00.
Final balance being £117.15.
Membership was down from 85 to 59 with in excess of an additional 20 awaiting confirmation of renewal from Regional Office. This slight reduction would be expected in the quiet period after a General Election. All in all, the branch was in a healthy and solvent state.
8. The Chairman then commented upon Prime Minister Mr Blair's singular lack of success as President of the EU, and the vast amount of EU legislation flowing from the EU since our previous meeting. The Dorset North branch, although relatively small, was viable, with a steady membership, and was ready and keen for expansion. Certain other branches were still in poor financial condition after the considerable expenses involved in the General Election, and would be for some time to come. Dorset North members had, he hoped, benefited from a regular newsletter and a regular monthly venue in Charlton Marshall, both innovations since the previous EGM. A third innovation was the UKIP branch lending

library held by the Chairman & launched at this meeting. Additionally, nationally, UKIP had introduced a lottery from which UKIP benefited in % terms.

The Chairman asked for fundraising ideas and volunteers for the Council Elections in 2007, having pointed out that Regional General Assemblies would effectively replace all councils in the next few years. Finally, a new initiative in the South West had been worked out by Trevor Coleman that promised great things for UKIP. He then asked guest speaker Mr Malcolm Wood to describe this briefly to the meeting.

9. Mr. Wood commended those present for attending on a busy Saturday morning. Double figures was a good turnout for such a meeting.

Mr. Trevor Coleman's scheme was to advertise UKIP on well-sited Billboards throughout the S.W. Region. This was to be backed up by leafleting at branch level, including application forms and S.A.E.s for further information. Each board costs £300 for two weeks. The scheme was not cheap, but with an initial cash injection from SW office, donations and then hopefully new memberships, it was hope to be cost effective. This scheme was being trialled in the South West, with other regions watching carefully who might adopt the same format if considered successful.

Mr Wood went on to inform us that there are 51 South West constituencies, and then gave a brief history of UKIP; through Enoch Powell on the platform in Newbury in 1992, to Sir James Goldsmith's injection of an estimated £22 million into the successful Referendum Party; through the days of Dr. Alan Sked & the right wing infiltration; up to the Kilroy effect and the EU elections in 2004 when UKIP achieved a massive 16.7% of UK votes cast, an amazing 2.7 Million votes, resulting in 12 out of 78 UK seats in Brussels. [South West: 3 Conservative, 1 Labour, 1 Lib/Dem, 2 UKIP].

As a result of UKIP's success, Blair was made to promise a referendum on the adoption of an EU Constitution, and France and Holland voted against it, having been helped and influenced in part by UKIP.

No mean feat for a minority party!

10. 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.
11. 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 and closed the meeting at 1.10pm.

Dated: 15th May 2007

Signed



Acting Secretary.