

U K Independence Party – Dorset North Constituency
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Saturday 21st March 2015
Held at the Village Hall, Pimperne, Dorset.

Dorset North Committee members present:

John L. Baxter [JB] – Chairman and acting Secretary: Steve Unwin [SU] PPC & Vice Chairman:
Charles Upton [CU] - Treasurer: Jo Evans [JE] Minutes and Membership Liaison; Alan Reynolds [AR];
David L. Baxter [DB] - IT.

Speakers – Steve Unwin and Lester Taylor.

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- 1) Meeting declared open: at 13.45 by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the committee.
- 2) Apologies for absence: were received from: Mr Henry Stevens; Barbara Pochin.
- 3) Copies of the Minutes of the AGM on 8th March 2014 had been made available to all members and copies were available in the hall. They were accepted and approved unanimously.
- 4) Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 5) Treasurer's report: a/ CU read out the details of the 2014 accounts. Opening balance of £688.98 less expenditure of £3329.25 and receipts of £6462.35 making a final balance of £3822.08, a surplus of £3133.10 during the year. [See end of the minutes for full details in Appendix 1].
The accounts were unanimously approved by the members having been proposed by and seconded by
- 6) Membership Report – Lester Taylor – opening membership 114, an amazing 83 new members, 28 leavers with a current membership of 172. New memberships paid directly to the branch stand at £780. Sadly Hugh Edward-Jones died during the year.
- 7) Chairman's report: Year started well with 24 seats in the EUP, largest UK group. With Tories in 2nd place. Sadly only 2 seats in the SW, with Gawain Towler not being elected – down to the existence of a spoiler party who achieved 235K votes nationally and 23K in the SW. G Towler needed only 6K more to be elected. UKIP had 32.29% [484,184] of SW vote, the Tories 28.9% [433,151]. Congratulations to Francis Drake for UKIP's first elected Borough Council seat in Dorset, in Weymouth & Portland.

The excellent Hog Roast at Mappowder, kindly hosted by the Woodhouses, and featuring Christine & Neil Hamilton. Around 100 people attended and £700 was aroused for branch funds.

Steve & Jane Unwin and friends produced an excellent dining experience in November - Come Dine with me – at the RBL in Shaftesbury and raised a staggering £1200 for funds. Acknowledgements also to Emma Unwin, Jules Farthing, Lynne Adcock and Robbie Drain.

Congratulations to Douglas Carswell and Mark Reckless on becoming UKIP MPs. Help given by Steve Unwin and his team.

Large number of speakers in Dorset including: Gawain Towler, Prof Tim Congden, William Dartmouth Dr Julia Reid, Neil & Christine Hamilton, Diane James, Patrick O'Flynn, Stuart Agnew, Mike Hookem, Ray Finch, Suzanne Evans, Steven Woolf, Alan Murad, Jonathan Boyd Hunt.

Newsletter still in production – Dorset Digest 357 electronically + 18 in paper; North Dorset Newsletters 176 electronically + 52 in paper. Total circulation 603 [up from 388 last year].

Steve Unwin + team had done considerable canvassing and leafletting. Need many more local council candidates for May.

- 8) Local Group reports:

a/ Shaftesbury & District: Lester Taylor – Regular bi monthly meetings in the Mitre. Keen local membership.

b/ Verwood & District: Andy Maw not present. Chair stated that the group had held a number of public and committee meetings.

9) Election of Committee:

a/ The Committee, John Baxter, Charles Upton, Steve Unwin, Jo Evans, Dave Baxter, and Alan Reynolds were elected enbloc, proposed by Bill Woodhouse and seconded by Jane Unwin, and all were re-elected unopposed.

b/ Election of any new committee members.

Lester Taylor [previously co-opted] Andy Maw was proposed by John Baxter, seconded by Steve Unwin and elected unopposed.

10) a/ Election of the Chairman: Charles Upton took the chair. Proposed by Alan Reynolds and seconded by Steve Unwin - John Baxter was re-elected unopposed and retook the chair.

b/ Election of Treasurer: proposed by Bill Woodhouse and seconded by Alan Reynolds - Charles Upton was re-elected unopposed.

c/ Election of Vice-Chairman: proposed by John George and seconded by Bill Woodhouse - Steve Unwin was re-elected unopposed.

d/ Election of the Membership Secretary: Proposed by Keith Derbyshire and seconded by Jane Unwin - Lester Taylor was re-elected unopposed.

11) Election of any new officers:

Jo Evans – continuing as Minutes Secretary and Membership Liaison; Dave Baxter continuing to assist with IT. Neither is a committee post.

12) Forthcoming Elections

a/ General Election: Candidate Steve Unwin working hard for last 18months. Canvassing 2x a wk increasing to 4x. Getting leafleters, Correx sites. Public meetings and schools & Church hustings to follow.

b/ District Election: Last time 37 candidates, so far only 5 + 2 possibles including John George; Terry Rance; Lester Taylor; Geoff Lambert; Peter Caulfield; Rory Herbert & Keith Mayo. Noone for Blandford, Gillingham, Sturminster Newton, Verwood, Handley Vale, Crane, Abbey, The beacon, Lower Tarrants, Motcombe & Bourton. More assistance with leafleting, poster sites and canvassing. Correx available 18x24inch, 2ftx4ft, 4ftx8ft.

c/ Town & Parish Elections: Two candidates for the first time: Christine Rae [Sturminster Newton) & Terry Rance [Child Okeford]. More needed.

13) AOB – There was no other business.

14) Close of Meeting: The Chairman pointed out the contents of the various stands around the room. He thanked all for attending and Susie Baxter for the excellent catering including homemade biscuits and cakes, aided by Shulah Dacambe. The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.05.pm

Appendix 1:**Basic accounts for the year to 31st Dec 2014 [plus 2013 for comparison]**

| RECEIPTS | To 31st Dec 2013 | To 31st Dec 2014 |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Donations in cash: | | |
| Reported to HO | £0 | £0.00 |
| Below reporting limit | £267.50 | £1530.21 |
| Donated goods and services (notional income) | £730.66* | £0* |
| Membership & subscription fees | £60.00 | £780.00 |
| Fundraising inc Sales of merchandise | £896.98 | £3917.14 |
| Other | £0 | £235.00 |
| Total Receipts | £1,955.14 | £6,462.35 |
| PAYMENTS | | |
| Notional expenditure | £730.66 | £0* |
| Running costs | £839.76 | £3.84.25 |
| Campaign expenditure | £757.55 | £35.00 |
| Interest Payable | £0 | £0 |
| Conferences | £0 | £0 |
| Other | £497.75 | £210.00 |
| Total Payments | £2825.72 | £3329.25 |
| (Deficit)/surplus | -£870.58 | £3133.10 |
| Cash & balances at start of year | £1559.56 | £688.98 |
| Cash and balances at end of year | £688.98 | £3822.08 |
| STATEMENT of ASSETS & LIABILITIES | | |
| | At 31st Dec 2013 | At 31st Dec 2014 |
| Balance at bank | £688.98 | £3822.08 |
| Cash | £0 | £0 |
| Creditors | £0 | £0 |
| Net Total of assets and liabilities | £688.98 | £3822.08 |
| Notes * these have to be equal | | |

Dated: 21st March 2015

Signed

John L Baxter - Acting Secretary.