**High Peak Liberal Democrats**

**Constituency Executive Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th March 2018**

**at**

**The Shady Oak, Fernilee**

1. **Present**

E. Atkins, R. Atkins, A. Forbes, D. Lomax, R. Lyon, B. Taylor, J, Simm and M. Smitham.

1. **Apologies**

A. Debes, D. Rayworth, A. Scott, M. Weaver and S Worrall.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Ray Atkins that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March, 2018 be accepted. This was carried.

1. **Matters Arising** 
   1. The residents’ survey was being progressed by Barrie Taylor who hoped to circulate a draft in ALDC format early in April. It was noted that the main value of the survey was as a canvassing vehicle and as a means of stimulating casework (**Action - Barrie Taylor).**
   2. Alistair Forbes reported that members’ survey had a response rate of about 14% and that both current and lapsed members had expressed a desire for greater involvement in policy setting and political debate. In order to provide a forum for such debate it was agreed that, as a trial the next few meetings would commence at 1915 with routine Executive Reports and then at 2000 the meeting would discuss a single issue, with non-Exec members invited to attend the open session. It was decided that for the April meeting, the discussion topic should be Brexit (**Action - Alistair Forbes**).
   3. The members’ newsletter due to be published in May was reported to be on track. Items suggested for inclusion in the newsletter included advertising for paper candidates and publicising the Two Hundred Club (**Action – Roy Lyon, Barrie Taylor and Margaret Weaver**).
   4. Barrie Taylor agreed to remind Edith Longden to renew her membership. (Post meeting note – Edith has rejoined the party. **Item closed**.)
   5. Barrie Taylor that the March Focus for Whaley Bridge had been delivered. **Item closed**.
   6. Alistair Forbes circulated copies of the HPBC wards and candidates grid. It was agreed that the grid should be kept in a cloud drive to which all Exec members should have remote access. Mark Smitham agreed to set up a googledrive account and place a copy of the grid there. (Post meeting note – the googledrive account has been set up and is now populated with the candidates grid and other documents at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eI2taKGB50q-SRvreARYYGQXH31pwHR6?usp=sharing> **Item closed**.)

* 1. Ray Atkins agreed to provide contact details for Hazel Grove Lib Dems so that High Peak members could support their Stockport MBC campaign in April and May this year. (Post meeting note – Ray provided details and Stephen Worrall circulated these to all members. **Item closed**.)
  2. Alistair Forbes agreed to organize an anti-Brexit stall in Buxton on 14 April. (Post meeting note – stall held as planned. **Item closed**.)

1. **Membership Report**
   1. The Membership Development Officer reported that membership had grown from 150 to 153. The increase was due to two existing members moving into the area, one new member and one lapsed member returning to the Lib Dem fold, partially offset by a single member cancelling their membership.
2. **HPBC 2019 Campaign Planning**
   1. Ray Atkins circulated copies of the campaign expenditure plan for each target ward and suggested cadence for Focus deliveries. Ray requested feedback and additional resolution for target ward plans from candidates. (**Action – David Lomax, Adam Scott, Edith Longden, Graham Hewitt)**
   2. It was noted that social media was likely to play in important role in the 2019 HPBC campaign and hence a Social Media Officer role should be created. Mark Smitham agreed to look into this and report back at the April Exec meeting (**Action – Mark Smitham**).
   3. It was suggested that the smaller auditorium in Buxton’s Pavilion Arts Centre could be hired for a film night for Liberal Democrat members and supporters. Suggested films were *I, Daniel Blake* and *Cathy Come Home,* both of which could be used to stimulate policy discussions. The Secretary agreed to investigate the feasibility of arranging such an evening (**Action – Alistair Forbes**)
   4. Jane Simm agreed to liaise with Sheffield Hallam Lib Dems to find out how they raise funds and see if there are any proven initiatives that they use that could be transferred across to High Peak (**Action – Jane Simm**).
   5. The following items were suggested as major themes for the HPBC 2019 campaign: bins and council housing. With winter a recent memory, it was suggested that cuts to the DCC snow clearing budget should be mentioned in leaflets sooner rather than later. Alistair Forbes mentioned that snow fences appear to be a more cost effective way of keeping roads and rail lines free from drifting snow than use of snow ploughs. Alistair agreed to research the matter and circulate details (**Action – Alistair Forbes**).
   6. Evidence of incompetence by the current council is always a useful item for inclusion in any Focus. David Lomax explained that due to human error, the Residents’ Parking Permits for 2019/20 would have an additional hour of free parking (11am to 12 noon) above that agreed by the council. Although this measure was likely to prove popular with residents, it will cost HPBC a significant sum in lost revenue.
   7. In order to make it easier to keep track of claims and issues raised by our political opponents it was agreed that a folder would be created on the googledrive mentioned earlier, into which copies of other political parties material could be placed. (Post meeting note – the folder has been created, with sub-folders for Buxton and Glossop. **Action – all**).
3. It was noted that High Peak Lib Dems need to choose their PPC. In addition the Selection Committee for HPBC 2019 candidates needs to be re-established (**Action – Roy Lyon**).
4. **AOB**
   1. The next meeting was arranged for 24th April at Rems, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

**Action Points**

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| **Action** | **Responsible** | **Time scale** |
| Residents’ survey | Barrie Taylor | April 2018 |
| Brexit open meeting | Alistair Forbes | April 2018 |
| Members’ newsletter | Roy Lyon, Barrie Taylor and Margaret Weaver | May 2018 |
| Clarify candidate donation rules | Margaret Weaver | April 2018 |
| Compose candidates spending/records guide | Margaret Weaver | April 2018 |
| Campaign strategy refinement | David Lomax, Adam Scott, Edith Longden, Graham Hewitt | April 2018 |
| Social media officer role investigation | Mark Smitham | April 2018 |
| Studio Theatre hire, Buxton Pavilion | Alistair Forbes | April 2018 |
| Liaise with Sheffield Lib Dems on funding ideas | Jane Simm | May 2018 |
| Snow fence research | Alistair Forbes | April 2018 |
| Post copies of other parties leaflets on googledrive | All | Standing item |
| Resurrect selection committee | Roy Lyon | May 2018 |
| Encourage potential members to join the party | All | 30 June 2018 |