**High Peak Liberal Democrats**

**Constituency Executive Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th March 2018**

**at**

**The Sycamore Inn, Birch Vale**

1. **Present**

R. Atkins, A. Forbes, D. Lomax, R. Lyon, B. Taylor, C. Weaver and M. Weaver.

1. **Apologies**

E. Atkins, Debes, D. Rayworth, A. Scott, and S Worrall.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Margaret Weaver that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January, 2018 be accepted. This was carried.

1. **Matters Arising** 
   1. The residents’ survey had been delayed due to prioritizing Focus leaflets and the recent Members’ Newsletter. Barrie Taylor agreed to distribute the residents’ survey later in the spring (**Action - Barrie Taylor).**
   2. Alistair Forbes reported that members’ survey had been sent to all members and lapsed members via Survey Monkey. About 10% of the audience had responded (which is well above the 3% response rate norm for unsolicited online surveys) and the survey had prompted one lapsed member to return to the Lib Dem fold. Alistair Forbes agreed to present a fuller report on the survey findings at the next Committee Meeting (**Action - Alistair Forbes**)
   3. Roy Lyon agreed to assist Barrie Taylor and Margaret Weaver with the composition of the next members’ newsletter due to be published in May (**Action – Roy Lyon, Barrie Taylor and Margaret Weaver**).
   4. The GPDR pre-audit return had been completed in February. **Item closed.**
   5. The Vice-Chair had composed a letter to the Glossop Chronicle and Buxton Advertiser outlining the Lib Dem’s opposition to Brexit. It was also noted that Margaret Weaver had had a letter published in the Buxton Advertiser. **Item closed.**
   6. It was reported that Frank Swallow had agreed to act as the High Peak Lib Dem’s Brexit spokesperson and Brexit coordinator. **Item closed.**
   7. The Membership Secretary reported that by gaining a new member in February (Mark Smitham in Glossop) the High Peak Lib Dems would retain 18% of membership subscriptions. If local party membership could be raised to 160 before the end of March, the portion retained would rise to 33%. Barrie Taylor noted that Edith Longden’s membership had lapsed but she was still willing to stand as a HPBC candidate and he agreed to remind her to renew her party membership (**Action – Barrie Taylor).**
2. **Treasurer’s Report**
   1. The Treasurer reported that the High Peak Lib Dem’s finances remained healthy with around £3500 in the current account once outstanding bills are paid. This is a balance approximately £2850 less than it had been a year earlier as a result of increased campaign expenditure (fighting both General and DCC Elections) yet having reduced Councillor contributions and membership receipts.
   2. The Police have given notice to end their lease of the old Liberal Hall car park, effective from the end of June. The future of the car park is to be kept under review.
   3. The rules for declaring expenditure made by candidates, in particular whether such expenditure should be declared as a donation to the party or merely recorded on the candidate’s individual Spending Return and Declaration, where queried. It was agreed that the Treasurer would provide clarification at the next meeting. (**Action – Margaret Weaver**).
3. **HPBC 2019 Campaign**
   1. It was reported that leaflets had been delivered in New Mills in January and Blackbrook in February. A Focus was planned for March in Whaley Bridge. (**Action – Barrie Taylor**)
   2. It was agreed that the target wards for 2019 would be New Mills West, Hayfield, Whaley Bridge, Blackbrook and Corbar. All other wards would have paper candidates. It was regarded as important that all wards should be contested, but in multi-member wards a full candidate slate was required. It was agreed that the Secretary would compile a table of wards with agreed and potential candidates (**Action – Alistair Forbes**).
   3. It was agreed that a budget of approximately £750 would be allocated to each target ward to cover the cost of leafletting. An updated campaign strategy would be provided at the next meeting (**Action – Ray Atkins**)
   4. The Treasurer reminded the meeting of the necessity of keeping accurate records of expenditure and campaign literature. Given that there were likely to be several inexperienced candidates she agreed to compose a candidate’s guide for records to be kept (**Action – Margaret Weaver**)
   5. The constrained nature of local government finances, mainly due to funding reductions from central government limit the range of ‘electoral promises’ that candidates can credibly make. It was agreed that the main elements of the Lib Dem campaign would be based upon increasing NHS and Social Care funding, education and standing up for the Local Plan.
   6. It was suggested that it might be motivating for new members to get involved in the 2018 campaigns being fought in Stockport. Ray Atkins agreed to provide the Secretary with contact details for the Hazel Grove Lib Dems (**Action – Ray Atkins**)
4. **AOB**
   1. David Lomax reported that he had been contacted by the Head of Politics at Aquinas College in Stockport seeking details of any Brexit-related meetings that he could pass details on to his students. It was agreed to arrange anti-Brexit events in New Mills and Buxton as soon as convenient (**Action – Alistair Forbes and Stephen Worrall**)
   2. The next meeting was arranged for 27th March at the Shady Oak, Fernilee near Whaley Bridge.

**Action Points**

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| **Action** | **Responsible** | **Time scale** |
| Residents’ survey | Barrie Taylor | ASAP |
| Members’ survey report | Alistair Forbes | March 2018 |
| Members’ newsletter | Roy Lyon, Barrie Taylor and Margaret Weaver | May 2018 |
| Remind Edith Longden to renew membership | Barrie Taylor | ASAP (NLT 31 March 2018) |
| Clarify candidate donation rules | Margaret Weaver | March 2018 |
| March Focus, Whaley Bridge | Barrie Taylor | March 2018 |
| Candidates grid for HPBC 2019 campaign | Alistair Forbes | March 2018 |
| Campaign strategy update | Ray Atkins | March 2018 |
| Compose candidates spending/records guide | Margaret Weaver | April 2018 |
| Provide Hazel Grove Lib Dem contact details | Ray Atkins | March 2018 |
| Anti-Brexit meetings for New Mills and Buxton | Alistair Forbes & Stephen Worrall | May 2018 |
| Encourage potential members to join the party | All | 31 March 2018 |