

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING High Peak Liberal Democrats

Date: Wednesday, 24th November 2010

Venue: The Royal Hotel, Hayfield

Minutes

1. Attendance

E Atkins, R Atkins, L Barlow, D Challand, M Harrison, S Holt, D Lomax, R Lyon, B Musgrave, B Taylor, J Simm, T Stroner, A Strudwick, G Strudwick, D Walker, L Walker.

2. Apologies

H Burfoot, A Debes, C Hannell, M Hargreaves, E Longden

3. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 18th November 2009

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Mike Harrison that the minutes of the AGM held on 18th November, 2009 be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Reports from:-

4.1. Chair

The chair thanked members for their work during what he felt had been an interesting year. In particular, he thanked the President for his ongoing support. He emphasised the need to move on from a number of local issues that had absorbed too much time during the year and suggested that a base had been created from which progress could be made to ensure that the High Peak Liberal Democrats made a positive contribution to the political agenda.

4.2. Treasurer

The Treasurer was not in attendance and no report had been submitted. It was noted that the constituency account was in credit to the sum of £1200. It was also noted that liabilities exceeded that sum. It was agreed that the current state of the constituency's finances was unsatisfactory and that a detailed discussion of how best to proceed was needed as a matter of urgency.

4.3. Membership Report

The membership secretary reported a current membership of 110. This represented an increase of 20% in membership over the past twelve months: this increase was in line with the national pattern.

Thanks were expressed to A and G Strudwick for their support of the website. The site had received 13,413 'visits' over the past twelve months. It was reported that a number of 'face book' sites had operated at key times over the year and the membership secretary thanked those involved.

Three fund raising events had been held over the year. The New Mills Carnival and the Hope Valley Show, both supported by the MEP, and the 'Fresher's Fair' at Derby University (Buxton Site) which had led to the recruitment of six new members. A number of planned social events had had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest.

4.4. Conference Representatives

The President reported that:

- The national conference had been an 'interesting and positive' experience.
- There was concern at attendance at regional conferences.

In general discussion, concern was expressed that the cost of conference was prohibitive for pensioners and others. It was agreed that the 'Executive Committee' would address this issue at a future meeting.

4.5. Liberal Democrat Groups

4.5.1. Derbyshire County Council

It was reported that:

- The constituency had been represented at two conferences, one on 'terrorism and threats' and one on 'Resilience'.
- County Councillors had completed a considerable amount of case work.
- By and large, cordial relationships existed with the Conservative group.
- There remained some uncertainty about the impact of budget reductions but that there were likely to be in the region of 2000 job losses.
- The Liberal Democrat group had opposed the planned reduction in the standard of cover available within social services provision.
- There was concern at the reduction in the attendance allowance.

4.5.2. High Peak Borough Council

It was reported that:

- There had been three by-elections and that the party had won two seats.
- The closure of the Chinley office was raising concerns about public access to the Council.

- Whilst the partnership with Staffordshire Moorlands DC had brought some savings, concern was expressed about some developments and a perceived lack of scrutiny of some decisions and the difficulty of eliciting a response from officers.
- An early briefing on the 2011 – 2012 budget had indicated a very constrained budget.
- The role of the 'area forum' was under review.
- There had been a 30% increase in complaints mostly relating to waste collection.
- The existing strategy on local development had been overturned in face of the government's decision to allow targets to be set locally. The core strategy consultation exercise had received a positive response particularly in relation to Chapel-en-le-Frith. It was noted that it was intended to develop a local development framework in 2013.
- The council's performance on environmental issues is an increasing cause of concern.
- The Liberal Democrat group operates as an effective opposition and does not operate as a formal coalition with the Conservative group.

5. Motions to AGM

None

6. Election of Honorary President

It was proposed by R Atkins and seconded by M Harrison that B Taylor be elected as honorary president. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Election of Officers, Executive Committee Members

7.1. Chair

It was proposed by D Lomax and seconded by B Taylor that M Harrison be elected as Chair. The motion was carried unanimously.

7.2. Secretary

It was proposed by B Taylor and seconded by R Atkins that R Lyon be elected as Secretary. The motion was carried unanimously.

7.3. Treasurer

It was proposed by D Lomax and seconded by R Atkins that L Barlow be elected as Treasurer. The motion was carried unanimously.

7.4. Membership Development Officer

It was proposed by B Taylor and seconded by J Simm that S Holt be elected as Membership Development Officer. The motion was carried unanimously

7.5. Data Officer

It was proposed by R Atkins and seconded by S Holt that B Taylor be elected as a data officer. The motion was carried unanimously

7.6. Executive Committee Members

It was noted that all county and borough councillors are ex officio members, that each ward is allowed 1.5 members, and that branches would determine their representation. The next Executive Committee meeting would consider approval.

8. Election of Federal and Regional Conference Representatives

8.1. Federal Conference Representatives

The following members were duly nominated as representatives: B Musgrave, B Taylor, R Atkins, B Atkins, M Harrison, and A Stevens.

8.2. Regional Conference Representatives

The following were duly nominated as representatives: All Federal and Regional representatives, T Stroner.

9. To note the Accounts for 2009

The 2009 accounts were duly noted.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2009 Local Party Accounts

It was proposed by G Strudwick and seconded by B Taylor that Margaret Weaver be asked to fulfil the role of independent examiner of all branch and constituency accounts. The proposal was carried unanimously.