

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING High Peak Liberal Democrats

Date: Tuesday, 4th December 2012

Venue: The Old Packhorse Hotel, Chapel-en-le-Frith

AGENDA

1. Attendance

A Debes, R Hobson, D Lomax, R Lyon, B Taylor and S Worrall.

2. Apologies

B Atkins, R Atkins, R Bickerton, G Hobson, S Holt, J Simm, A Strudwick, G Strudwick and A Taylor

3. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2011

It was proposed by Bob Hobson and seconded by Barrie Taylor that the minutes of the AGM held on 30th November, 2011 be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Reports from:-

4.1. Chair

The Chair thanked Stephen Worrall for his work in organising everything, Barrie Taylor and David Lomax for keeping the party going and Bob Hobson for agreeing to fulfil the thankless role of Treasurer.

The Chair stated that even as the Coalition reaches the halfway point the Liberal Democrats still haven't overcome the difficulties stemming from the tuition fee debate and that recent by-election results appear to indicate we are being pushed to the fringes. The worry is this could lead to an even sharper two party state and the next two years will be crucial with a lot of work at the local level to be done.

The Chair highlighted the major change needed at the local level is increased participation in party activity from members, particularly some elected representatives.

David Lomax added that thanks should be extended to Beth Atkins and Ray Atkins

4.2. Treasurer

The Treasurer was happy to inform the meeting that there had been a budget for the first time and whilst it had been unnecessarily pessimistic more fundraising was a major priority going forward and a summary for the year was provided.

For the upcoming year the Treasurer surmised that roughly there would be £700 of compulsory outgoings plus £2000 for the County Council Elections (which would be offset partially by the promised £600 from the ALDC).

The Treasurer intended to keep a minimum of £500 set away for security.

4.3. Membership Development Officer

The Membership Development Officer informed the meeting that membership currently stood at 59 but that the majority of the reduction from the previous year was unintentional lapses and some are currently being chased up.

Bob Hobson reported problems during the year with his membership and raised the concern that others who experienced similar problems may have just given up as a result.

4.4. Conference Representatives

Stephen Worrall reported that it was great to see that other local parties were very active in the East Midlands at Regional Conference and that they potentially provided a blueprint for how High Peak Liberal Democrats could increase activity.

Barrie Taylor spoke on how exhilarating Federal Conference is and encouraged anyone who could attend to do so.

4.5. Liberal Democrat Groups

4.5.1. Derbyshire County Council

Barrie Taylor reported that the Liberal Democrat group was down to 7 from 8 due to losing a Councillor to the Independents due to local issues. He stated his belief that the elections coming up would be difficult and announced that he would not be seeking re-election, retiring as a Councillor after 28 years.

The Chair thanked him for all the work he had done over the years and it was agreed that an announcement of Barrie Taylor's retirement should also be used as a publicity event for David Lomax.

4.5.2. High Peak Borough Council

David Lomax reported that he was now leader of the Liberal Democrat group having taken over from Ray Atkins.

Success had been achieved in reducing the Labour administrations target of 300 new houses per year in the Local Plan for housing development to 270 new houses per year.

Progress was being made on the issue of East Midlands Ambulance's plan to in future serve the majority of the High Peak(the Glossop area being served from Tameside) from Chesterfield. They have acknowledged that a mistake has been made and a joint motion from the Liberal Democrat group, Conservative group, Labour group and Independent group opposing the proposal is being agreed.

The Labour minority administration continues to be in control and so the other groups continue to be able to act as a check.

5. Election of Honorary President

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Alan Debes that Barrie Taylor be elected as honorary president. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Election of Officers, Executive Committee Members

6.1. Chair

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Alan Debes that Roy Lyon be elected as Chair. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.2. Vice Chair

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Bob Hobson that David Lomax be elected as Vice Chair. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.3. Secretary

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Alan Debes that Stephen Worrall be elected as Secretary. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.4. Treasurer

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Alan Debes that Bob Hobson be elected as Treasurer. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.5. Membership Development Officer

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Alan Debes that Barrie Taylor be elected as Membership Development Officer. The motion was carried unanimously

6.6. Data Officer

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Alan Debes that Barrie Taylor be elected as a data officer. The motion was carried unanimously

6.7. Executive Committee Members

It was noted that all county and borough councillors are ex officio members. Alan Debes, Graham Scott and Jane Simm were elected as Executive Committee members. Roy Lyon proposed and David Lomax seconded.

7. Election of Federal and Regional Conference Representatives

7.1. Federal Conference Representatives

The following members were duly nominated as representatives: S Holt, D Lomax, B Taylor, S Worrall. Bob Hobson proposed and Alan Debes seconded.

7.2. Regional Conference Representatives

The following were duly nominated as representatives: S Holt, D Lomax, B Taylor, S Worrall. Bob Hobson proposed and Alan Debes seconded.

8. To note the Accounts for 2011

The 2011 accounts were duly noted and approved, Stephen Worrall proposed and David Lomax seconded. Income had been £3609.72, outgoings had been £3282.75 and £812.41 was in the bank.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2012 Local Party Accounts

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Roy Lyon that Margaret Weaver be asked to fulfil the role of independent examiner of all accounts. The proposal was carried unanimously.

The meeting closed.