

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING High Peak Liberal Democrats**

***Date: Tuesday, 3rd December 2013***

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

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Attendance**

R Atkins, I Ghazni, G Hewitt, D Lomax, R Lyon, T Rodgers, A Stevens, T Stroner, B Taylor and S Worrall

### **2. Apologies**

A Debes, S Holt and B Musgrave

### **3. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Ray Atkins that the minutes of the AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

### **4. Reports from:-**

#### **4.1. Chair**

The Chair stated that there had been too few meetings and too few people at those meetings this year. However there had been good discussions at those meetings.

The Chair congratulated David Lomax and Beth Atkins on retaining the DCC seats held by High Peak Liberal Democrats, this was in stark contrast to the Liberal Democrat performance throughout the rest of Derbyshire.

The Chair thanked Barrie Taylor for his years of service as CC for Whaley Bridge and Blackbrook at this, the AGM after he stepped down. He has made a great contribution to DCC. Also thanked for his massive contribution to High Peak Liberal Democrats who owe him a lot. It is wished that an upcoming fundraising dinner should focus on his many contributions.

The Chair also thanked our Borough Councillors for their hard work, Stephen Worrall for his organisation and Bob Hobson for performing the thankless role of Treasurer. With finances better than expected and the potential sale of Liberal Hall things are looking up.

The Chair noted that whilst Membership had been increasing we had no more active members than before, it is hoped that the European elections will galvanise support.

#### **4.2. Treasurer**

The Treasurer was absent due to illness so a report will be given instead at the next Executive meeting.

Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that the current balance stood at £2114.10.

#### **4.3. Membership Development Officer**

The Membership Development Officer informed the meeting that membership currently stood at 64 and that the increase included 3 completely new members and 1 old SDP member returning.

Some members had also been lost however including 1 member to UKIP.

#### **4.4. Conference Representatives**

Barrie Taylor spoke on how the Federal conference in Glasgow was very positive and he encouraged anyone who could to go to the next one in York. He added that they are an opportunity to see the “real” side of our MPs and that Ed Davey MP in particular had seemed most impressive.

Stephen Worrall spoke on how, whilst not as attractive as Federal Conference, Regional Conferences were still most definitely worth attending if possible and that he had enjoyed the one in Nottingham. However he added that the location of the conferences, with poor public transport links, was often an issue as he had been unable to attend the most recent one in Oundle for this reason.

#### **4.5. Liberal Democrat Groups**

##### **4.5.1. Derbyshire County Council**

David Lomax stated that there were now only 3 Liberal Democrats on DCC, 2 of them coming from High Peak.

£150 million budget cuts looming and nothing really agreed yet, although Youth Services could again be targeted.

Reviews are underway on recycling (which DCC are poor at) and property (some of which will be sold).

#### **4.5.2. High Peak Borough Council**

Ray Atkins stated that Housing had been taken back in house which will hopefully lead to provision of a better service. Additionally New Builds were being considered to increase stock but at the same time 1 room bedsits are to be disposed of.

David Lomax added that despite this change repairs were still a problem and significant cost savings are going to be needed.

He added that the Local Plan now had a target date of February 2015 for completion and in the resulting "lull" time speculative planning applications were being made. Additionally other Local Plans from other Local Authorities were being sent back which could end up leaving High Peak with no Local Plan for even longer.

Additionally Planning Officers are now targeting 460 new houses whereas 260 was the previously agreed figure and as a result site meetings are going to occur to consider previously rejected sites. New houses will put greater demand on our transport network (as there isn't enough jobs in the local area already) so transport must be improved.

Finally the upcoming Boundary Review is going to change little so it was noted that High Peak Liberal Democrats are going to have to find a large number (30+) candidates.

#### **5. Election of Honorary President**

It was proposed by Stephen Worrall and seconded by Alistair Stevens 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 Barrie Taylor and seconded by Alistair Stevens that Roy Lyon be elected as Chair. The motion was carried unanimously.

##### **6.2. Vice Chair**

It was proposed by Ray Atkins and seconded by Tobias Stroner that David Lomax be elected as Vice Chair. The motion was carried unanimously.

##### **6.3. Secretary**

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Alistair Stevens that Stephen Worrall be elected as Secretary. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **6.4. Treasurer**

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Alistair Stevens that Bob Hobson be elected as Treasurer. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **6.5. Membership Development Officer**

It was proposed by Alistair Stevens and seconded by Tobias Stroner that Barrie Taylor be elected as Membership Development Officer. The motion was carried unanimously

#### **6.6. Data Officer**

It was proposed by Alistair Stevens and seconded by Tobias Stroner 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 Hewitt, Alistair Stevens, Jane Simm and Tobias Stroner were elected as Executive Committee members. Stephen Worrall proposed and Barrie Taylor seconded.

### **7. Election of Federal and Regional Conference Representatives**

#### **7.1. Federal Conference Representatives**

The following members were duly nominated as representatives: R Atkins, S Holt, D Lomax, B Taylor, S Worrall. Alistair Stevens proposed and Tobias Stroner seconded.

#### **7.2. Regional Conference Representatives**

The following members were duly nominated as representatives: R Atkins, S Holt, D Lomax, B Taylor, S Worrall. Alistair Stevens proposed and Tobias Stroner seconded.

### **8. To note the Accounts for 2012**

The 2012 accounts were duly noted.

### **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2013 Local Party Accounts**

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

The meeting closed.