

**High Peak Liberal Democrats**  
**Constituency Executive Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**at**

**New Inn, Chapel-en-le-Frith**

**PART ONE**

**1. Present**

Beth Atkins, Ray Atkins, Brian Hallsworth, Shirley Holt, Glynn Jennings, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Hazel Perry, Alistair Stevens, Ann Strudwick, Geoff Strudwick, Barrie Taylor.

**2. Apologies**

Mike Harrison, Bob Hobson, Brian Musgrave, Steve Sharp, Jane Simm.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was proposed by Glyn Jennings and seconded by Geoff Strudwick that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

**4. Matters Arising**

- i. Hazel Perry was thanked for completing the minutes of the previous meeting in the Secretary's absence
- ii. There were no other matters arising

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- i. The Treasurer had sent his apologies and no report was presented.
- ii. There was a general discussion of the development of the '200 Club'. The importance of promoting the Club and establishing a mailing list that ensures that all members are informed was agreed.

## **6. County Council Report**

County Councillors Atkins and Taylor reported as follows:

- i. Cllr Atkins has been elected to the CC 'Scrutiny Sub Committee'.
- ii. Cllr Atkins chairs the Central Area Children's Centre which is due to open shortly.
- iii. Details of the explosion at the Birch Vale Industrial Estate were noted as was the fact that the event is now subject to a Health and Safety and Environmental Enquiry. Cllrs. are seeking to establish a liaison group with members of the Birch Vale community to explore general concerns about the site. It was noted that a previous attempt to establish a 'Community Response Group' had been rejected by the Town Council.

## **7. Borough Council Report**

Borough Councillor Lomax reported as follows:

- i. The Borough Council is facing a £639,000 budget deficit in the 2010 – 2011 budget, and a much constrained budget over the three year budget cycle. The deficit has, in part, been generated by investments in Iceland.
- ii. Council Tax is to be held at 2.5%
- iii. The anticipated 'regeneration funds' will not be part of the 2010 – 2011 budget.
- iv. Planning committee meetings are, from November 2009, to be scheduled on a four, rather than three, weekly cycle.
- v. The waste collection contract is being analyzed by the 'Waste and Recycling' sub committee
- vi. The pilot 'Joint Scrutiny Panel' has now met.
- vii. By-elections are pending in Tintwistle and Blackbrook.

## **8. HPBC/SMBC Link**

- i. It was noted that Borough Councillors had met with the Chief Executive to express their concerns and that the Staffordshire Moorland Rate Payers were opposed to the Alliance.
- ii. Whilst it was recognised that the forming of an alliance brought a short term cost benefit, concerns exist. These include the apparent embedding of the system by stealth; procurement procedures; the salary costs

attaching to the staff restructuring exercise and the sustainability of the model.

- iii. Considerable disquiet was expressed that the process of forming the Alliance had not properly involved the communities concerned; that the question of democratic accountability had not been addressed and that 'Officers' rather than elected Councillors were effectively driving the issue.
- iv. There was a strong feeling that the development of the Alliance should be subject to rigorous public scrutiny.

## **9. A.O.B.**

- i. The by-elections pending in Tintwiste and Blackbrook were discussed. B Taylor is to co-ordinate 'helpers'; D Lomax is to act as agent and R Atkins will co-ordinate the team involved in promoting the campaigns.
- ii. Shirley Holt outlined developments relating to the Constituency website. Concern was expressed about the security of the site
- iii. It was noted that considerable funds need to be raised and that this should be an item on the next agenda
- iv. It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

## **10. Date of the Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the New Inn, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

## **PART TWO**

### **11. PPC**

- i. In the light of the vacancy, the desire for a local candidate was noted.
- ii. It was proposed by B Taylor and seconded by R Atkins that the process of selection be commenced. This was passed unanimously and it was agreed that B Taylor should contact the 'Returning Officer'.

## Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
'Funding' to be agenda item	Roy Lyon	18 <sup>th</sup> November, 2009
HPBC/SMBC Link – consideration of action	All	18 <sup>th</sup> November, 2009
Send Liberal Hall Plans	Brian Musgrave	a.s.a.p.
Contact 'Cowley Street' re. PPC selection	Barrie Taylor	a.s.a.p.