

**High Peak Liberal Democrats**  
**Constituency Executive Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**September 2010**  
**at**  
**Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith**

**I. Present**

Beth Atkins, Ray Atkins, Mike Harrison, Shirley Holt, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Alistair Macdonald, Brian Musgrave, Graham Scott, Alistair Stevens, Barrie Taylor

**II. Apologies**

Bob Hobson, Edith Longden, Ann Strudwick, Geoff Strudwick

**III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was proposed by Mike Harrison, and seconded by David Lomax that the minutes be accepted. This was carried.

**IV. Matters Arising**

**Item ix** – The successful fund raising at the Hope Valley Carnival was noted. The Chair thanked all those who had helped at the event.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no report. The Secretary reported receipt of a letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010, in which the Treasurer had resigned his post 'with immediate effect'. The letter was made available to the meeting.

In his letter, the Treasurer indicated that he would reconcile the accounts and the '200 Club' early in October, and make the accounts available to his replacement.

Concern was expressed at the absence of regular reports on the party's accounts, and opinion was divided as to the impact of the Treasurer's resignation.

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Beth Atkins that a 'vote of thanks' be passed for the Treasurer's work over many years. The proposal was carried.

It was further proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Beth Atkins that the Treasurer be asked to reconsider his position and to withdraw his resignation. The proposal was carried.

It was proposed by Shirley Holt and seconded by Brian Musgrave that future Treasurers be required to submit a statement of account up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month proceeding each Executive meeting, and that the Secretary issue the statement with the agenda. The proposal was carried.

The President presented an unofficial statement of account.

## **VI. Membership**

- i. The membership secretary reported a total membership of 109.
- ii. It was noted that the Party would have a presence at the 'Freshers' event at Buxton University on the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## **VII. County Council Report**

County Councillors Atkins and Taylor reported that the main issues being discussed were:

- i. The proposed changes to social care;
- ii. Preparations for the winter;
- iii. The development of 'scrutiny' procedures;
- iv. The development of local health care provision.

They reported, also, that as yet there was no clarity on the likely size of reductions required by the national CSR, and that further information on all issues was available on the Council website.

## **VIII. Borough Council Report**

Councillor Lomax reported on:

- i. The level of savings that have to be found from the current budget;
- ii. The scrutiny panel's examination of current levels of 'value for money': the Council is said to be providing value for money;
- iii. The ending of the work of the joint scrutiny panel with Staffordshire Moorlands;
- iv. The challenge being made to the transfer of the 'Development Control Meeting' to a Monday afternoon;
- v. The delays and lack of public information on the on-going development of Buxton swimming pool.

## **IX. Councillors' Levy**

- i. The document circulated by Shirley Holt was noted, as were the exemptions applying to members on benefits, those holding the basic state pension or students.
- ii. It was proposed by Alistair Macdonald and seconded by Brian Musgrave that the levy be set at 5%. This was carried.
- iii. The candidates' application form that will make reference to the levy is to be circulated for comment. It was agreed that the actual form of words would be set at the next meeting.

#### **X. Riso Printer**

- i. It was noted that Brian Musgrave had set out the current position in a series of emails, that no contact had been made with Steve Sharp, that a plan to allow the Constituency party to operate the printer in a financially viable manner had been formulated and that a further demand had been received by the Treasurer.
- ii. It was proposed by Brian Musgrave and seconded by Barrie Taylor that; the Executive Committee of the High Peak Liberal Democrats does not accept any responsibility for, or liability in relation to, the Riso Printer lease taken out in his personal capacity by Steve Sharp, and that any future correspondence relating to the lease be forwarded to Steve Sharp. This was carried.
- iii. Brian Musgrave will communicate accordingly with the relevant parties and will handle any future correspondence.

#### **XI. Liberal Democrat Hall**

- i. It was reported that the new Trust will be established in the near future, and that once established some £2000 will be transferred to it.
- ii. A planning consultant, Louise Dowd, has been appointed to advise on the development of the site.
- iii. It is recognized that general repairs are currently required.

#### **XII. A.O.B.**

- i. It was agreed that immediate action was needed on the candidate approval process. Barrie Taylor is to circulate a paper for consultation and will then take the necessary action.
- ii. In relation to future local elections it was agreed that there was a need to discuss and identify potentially winnable seats.
- iii. It was noted that a meeting on the topic of 'How to Lobby' was to be held at New Mills Cricket Club on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October.
- iv. It was agreed to include 'Christmas Draw' tickets with the AGM materials.
- v. It was noted that there is a need for a '200 Club' draw.
- vi. It was agreed that an annual dinner be an agenda item at the next meeting

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

- i. 27<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 p.m.
- ii. Future meetings:- 24<sup>th</sup> November (AGM)

### Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Write to the Treasurer	Roy Lyon	a.s.a.p
Local election candidate approval panel	Barrie Taylor	27 <sup>th</sup> October
Riso Printer action	Brian Musgrave	a.s.a.p.
Annual Dinner agenda item	Roy Lyon	27 <sup>th</sup> October