

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th October
2010
at
Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith

I. Present

Shirley Holt, Roy Lyon, Brian Musgrave, Graham Scott, Alistair Stevens, Barrie Taylor

II. Apologies

Laurie Barlow, David Lomax, Jane Simm, Tobias Stoner, John Storey, Ann Strudwick, Geoff Strudwick

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The following amendments to the minutes were accepted:

- **I Present** - Mike Harrison left the meeting during item v.
- **V Treasurer's Report** - The proposal that the Treasurer be asked to reconsider his position had been proposed by Beth Atkins and seconded by Barrie Taylor.

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor, and seconded by Shirley Holt that the minutes be accepted with the amendments noted above. This was carried.

IV. Matters Arising

Item Vlii -The successful participation in the Derby University 'Freshers' event in Buxton was noted. The Chair thanked all those who had helped at the event.

Item Xliiii – It was noted that the 'How to Lobby' event had had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. It was agreed that careful thought needed to be given as to topics likely to attract strong participation.

Item Xlliv – It was noted that it had proved too late to include 'Christmas Draw' tickets with the papers for the AGM.

Action Points – Roy Lyon reported that he had written to Bob Hobson as requested at the previous meeting. Barrie Taylor reported that he had issued the draft 'candidates' approval form' and that he would follow that up with further information.

V. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of a Treasurer, there was no report. It was noted that activity was continuing and that invoices had to be paid, for example, S Holt's relating to various fund raising events. The meeting was reminded that the President had, at the previous meeting, presented an unofficial statement of account. He agreed to contact the ex Treasurer to arrange a handover of the accounts and the final 'full bank reconciliation' as promised by the then Treasurer in his resignation letter.

VI. Membership

- i. The membership secretary reported a total membership of 111. There has been one resignation (Alistair MacDonald) from the Party, and four new members. It was also noted that there are between 40 and 50 'lapsed' members.
- ii. Strategies to engage members were discussed. It was agreed that after the AGM on 24th November a discussion of the coalition's operation to date should be held. It was agreed that, if available, the AGM would be held at The Royal in Hayfield.

VII. County Council Report

County Councillor Taylor reported that:

- i. There remained a lack of clarity as to the impact of the 'cuts';
- ii. Consideration was being given to reducing the Council's administration centres;
- iii. The size of the CC PR department and the use of 'Derbyshire First' remains an issue.

VIII. Borough Council Report

There were no Borough Councillors present to make a report. B Taylor reported on the issue of housing in Chapel en le Frith and on a meeting chaired by BC Mike Harrison.

It was noted that BC Mike Harrison had resigned his post as Vice Chair of the High Peak Liberal Democrat Constituency Party.

IX. Riso Printer

- i. Brian Musgrave provided an update on correspondence with Steve Sharp (letter dated 5th October 2010) and with the Bank of Scotland (letter dated 5th October 2010). He noted that the next payment to the leasing company was overdue.
- ii. Steve Sharp's letter (dated 11th October 2010) rejected any personal responsibility for the lease.

- iii. Steve Sharp's version of the events leading to the taking out of the lease, as expressed in his letter of 11th October 2010, was vigorously repudiated.
- iv. Whilst noting the resolution passed at the previous meeting and without prejudice to the position stated in that resolution, it was agreed to seek an amicable resolution to the issue.
- v. It was proposed by Roy Lyon and seconded by Shirley Holt that Brian Musgrave be asked to approach Steve Sharp with the offer that the Executive take over responsibility for the Riso printer lease. The offer is conditional upon the printer and all associated computer software being handed to the Constituency President in full operating order. The offer is without prejudice to the Executive's position expressed at the previous meeting and explained to Steve Sharp in Brian Musgrave's letter of 5th October 2010. The proposal was carried.

X. Local Elections

- i. A discussion of where to focus the local campaign recognized the importance of targeting constituencies in New Mills, Whaley Bridge, Sett, Blackbrook. The need for branches to become active in preparing for the campaign and in the process of candidate approval was emphasized.
- ii. It was suggested that the local campaign be organized by Alistair Stevens, Barrie Taylor and Ray Action.
- iii. It was noted that local parties need to engage with the referendum and agreed that Shirley Holt would organize that campaign.

XI. Annual Dinner

- i. It was agreed that the annual dinner should be held in late February or early March dependent upon the availability of an appropriate speaker. The Secretary was asked to contact The Royal in Hayfield to determine their capacity to host the event.

XII. A.O.B.

- i. The 'Chair' indicated his intention to step down at the AGM and emphasized the need to recruit people to the Executive posts.
- ii. Shirley Holt emphasized the benefit of supporting the MEP in local literature and the wide spread nature of the practice.
- iii. In relation to the Liberal Hall, Brian Musgrave reported on the creation of the new Trust. The Trust deed has been approved by the party's recommended lawyer, and Brian recommended that potential Trustees read the deed and discuss it with Edith Longden. Potential trustees were noted as being Barrie Taylor, Alistair Stevens, Mike Harrison and Ray Atkins. The first two of these stated their willingness to act as Trustee. It was agreed that the other two named members and other members should be approached as to their willingness to act as Trustee. It was reported that the original Trust would continue until the Liberal Hall had been disposed of. Brian Musgrave was thanked for his work on this issue.

XIII. Date of the Next Meeting

- i. 24th November at 8.00 p.m. (AGM)

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Circulate candidates' approval list	B Taylor	a.s.a.p.
Contact ex Treasurer to secure final accounts	B Taylor	24 th November
Contact The Royal as a potential venue for the AGM and Annual Dinner	R Lyon	a.s.a.p.
Riso Printer action the proposal noted above.	Brian Musgrave	a.s.a.p.
Prompt action on the local elections	B Taylor, A Stevens, R Acton	1 st January 2011
Organize referendum campaign	S Holt	1 st January 2011
Identify Trustees for the new Trust	Executive	24 th November