

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 28th July 2010
at
Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith

I. Present

Mike Harrison, Shirley Holt, Glyn Jennings, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Alistair Macdonald, Brian Musgrave, Alistair Stevens, Ann Strudwick, Geoff Strudwick

II. Apologies

Beth Atkins, Ray Atkins, Laurie Barlow, Alan Debes, Bob Hobson, Barrie Taylor,

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Ann Strudwick, and seconded by Geoff Strudwick that the minutes be accepted. This was carried.

IV. Matters Arising

- i. **Collection of councillors' levies (IV i)** – an extended discussion took place during which the following points were made:
 - The Executive Committee had not managed the process of responding to the national requirement for a levy effectively.
 - Concern was expressed that a levy took no account of other financial contributions made by councillors.
 - The national requirement for a levy will become operational at the time of the next Borough Council election.
 - All potential candidates for election should be made aware of the levy as part of the approval process.
 - There is a need to clarify the position of prospective candidates who are 'unwaged'.
 - The levy may be paid directly into constituency funds.
 - It was agreed that there exists a need to clarify the Executive's position, and to ensure that the candidate approval process includes specific details of any levy.
 - It was proposed by Glynn Jennings and seconded by Mike Harrison that the issue be an agenda item at the next Executive Committee meeting and

that all interested parties be encouraged to attend to ensure that all points of view are considered. This was carried unanimously.

- ii. **Local election candidate approval panel (IV ii)** – It was agreed that the panel should meet immediately after the next Executive meeting.

iii. **Fund raising (X)**

- It was noted that participation in the Chinley fete had been cancelled, but that the Constituency would participate in the Glossop car boot sale on 15th August
- It was reported that participation in the Hope Carnival on 30th and 31st August could be secured by the payment of a fee of £145. It was proposed by Brian Musgrave and seconded by Alistair Macdonald that this commitment be made. This was carried.

iv. **'Riso Printer' (IX)**

- Brian Musgrave indicated that he had written to the leasing company outlining the position of the High Peak Liberal Democrats. The position being that, as the agreement had been entered into with Steve Sharp in his personal capacity as 'High Peak Print', the Liberal Democrats accepted no responsibility for the lease agreement. Brian had requested that all future correspondence be directed to Steve Sharp personally.
- Alistair Macdonald reported a conversation with the debt collector.
- It was noted that the lease is due to run to November 2011 with a total current liability of £2068.17.
- It was noted that £384.63 is owed to High Peak Print in relation to General Election printing, and that £340 is owed for the maintenance contract taken out at the time of the General Election.
- A lengthy discussion resulted in the proposal that:
 - The High Peak Print invoice to be paid immediately, with the amount owed to the leasing company being paid direct and the balance being paid to High Peak Print.
 - The payment to the leasing company to be made through Brian Musgrave and 'without prejudice'
 - Funds permitting, the Treasurer to pay the cost of the printer maintenance agreement.
- The proposal was made by Alistair Macdonald, seconded by Glynn Jennings and carried.
- It being agreed that the action taken did not provide a permanent solution to the Riso printer issue, it was agreed that a permanent solution to the problem be identified at the next Executive meeting.
- Concern was expressed that the Presidents' comments on the issue had not been copied to all Executive Committee members.

V. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no report.

VI. Membership

- i. The membership secretary reported a total membership of 108.

- ii. It was agreed that the membership secretary would forward the discrete North and South Branch membership lists to officers of the respective branches.
- iii. It was proposed by Glynn Jennings and seconded by Alistair Macdonald that Emma Jones be approved as a member of the constituency party: the proposal was carried unanimously.

VII. County Council Report

In the absence of County Councillors, there was no report.

VIII. Borough Council Report

Councillors Harrison and Lomax reported:

- i. On the financial constraint currently being experienced by the Borough Council and the mechanisms being explored to generate funds.
- ii. That the position of the High Peak in regional government structures is currently subject to discussion.
- iii. That the Joint Core Strategy consultation had been concluded but that the change of government may lead to a further consultation exercise with a focus upon housing targets. The major issue is the potential development of Chapel-en-le-Frith. The Development Plan Select Committee is to discuss the issue in September when there will be a public meeting.
- iv. That the sale of the Chinley site is to proceed.
- v. That the development of land in Whaley Bridge to create a second bridge is not to proceed.
- vi. That the timing of Development Control Meetings is being discussed.
- vii. It was noted that food waste may be placed in either the green or grey bin and that there need be no concerns about food waste rotting and causing a health hazard.
- viii. That against the criteria used to evaluate Borough Council performance, High Peak is largely performing well.

IX. Fund Raising

- i. It was reported that the Whaley Bridge coffee morning had been a success and agreed that the Constituency should participate in the Hope Valley Carnival.
- ii. It was agreed to research smaller local venues for 'table top' sales.

X. A.O.B.

- i. It was agreed that the Riso printer lease should be a separate agenda item at the next meeting with the aim of determining the Constituency Party's definitive position on the issue.
- ii. It was agreed that the Treasurer be asked to provide a detailed account of the Constituency's current financial position at the next meeting.

- iii. It was noted that the roof of the Liberal Democrat Hall in New Mills is leaking, and agreed that the Hall should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

XI. Date of the Next Meeting

- i. 22nd September at 8.00 p.m.
- ii. Future meetings:- 27th October, 24th November (AGM)

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Councillors' Levy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda item • Circulation of papers 	Roy Lyon Shirley Holt	22 nd September
Local election candidate approval panel	Barrie Taylor	22 nd September
Hope Carnival booking	Shirley Holt	a.s.a.p.
Riso Printer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay High Peak Print Invoice • Pay leasing company • Pay balance to High peak Print • Pay maintenance agreement • Agenda item 	Brian Musgrave/ Bob Hobson Bob Hobson/Roy Lyon Alistair Stevens/Bob Hobson Roy Lyon	a.s.a.p. 22 nd September
High Peak Constituency Accounts	Bob Hobson	22 nd September
Liberal Hall – agenda item	Roy Lyon	22 nd September