

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th February 2011
at
The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith
PART ONE

1. Present

Beth Atkins, Ray Atkins, Alan Debes, Mike Harrison, Shirley Holt, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Alistair Stevens, Barrie Taylor.

2. Apologies

Linda Leather, Joyce MacGillivray, Brian Musgrave, Jane Simm, Ann Strudwick, Geoff Strudwick.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Alistair Stevens and seconded by Barrie Taylor that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January, 2011 be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

- i. **Item 9** – It was agreed that the initiative to send birthday cards to those constituents reaching their 18th birthday between now and the end of November, 2011 (667) should be actioned. The cards, which will be delivered by post, will carry Nick Clegg's signature and that of the constituency chair. The cost of the initiative will be £1150 funded from MEP resources.

5. Treasurer's Report

- i. The treasurer, Laurie Barlow, has resigned.
- ii. No report was available.
- iii. Barrie Taylor agreed to arrange for the Riso printer payment to be made.
- iv. The Chair agreed to contact the last treasurer but one to clarify the position of the '200 Club'.
- v. It was suggested that the resigning treasurer would, despite having held the post for a very short period and having sanctioned no transactions, have to make a report to the electoral commission.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

- i. It was reported that there are currently 106 members. A list was circulated to Executive Committee Officers.
- ii. The Membership Secretary reported that the website has been redesigned and that the log in procedure had changed. Members were urged to log in, update their details and add their membership number. Concern was expressed that members resigning might retain access to the site.

7. County Council Report

County Councillors Taylor and Atkins reported that substantial 'cuts' in spending have impacted on the County Council's 2011 - 2012 budget. The Liberal Democrat group had opposed the budget in light of the reductions in the social care budget.

8. Borough Council Report

Borough Councillors Harrison and Lomax reported as follows:

- i. The 2011 – 2012 budget has not yet been submitted;
- ii. The Buxton swimming pool is to open at the end of April, 2011;
- iii. The select committees have been reduced to three from five;
- iv. A motion had been put to the full Council opposing the sale of forests;
- v. The development planning select committee is to meet to consider the submissions made in relation to the interim plan;
- vi. Delegation to the town and parish councils is under discussion;
- vii. Meetings are to be held in March to discuss a 'vision for Chapel-en-le-Frith';
- viii. It was reported that borough council staff redundancies are likely. It was noted that the Chief Executives salary is in the public domain.

9. Local Election Campaign

- i. The High Peak Liberal Democrat manifesto for the borough elections 2011 was received.
- ii. It was noted that the target seats are: all currently 'held' seats, Padfield, the New Mills seats, Blackbrook, Whaley Bridge and Hope Valley.
- iii. All but one of the sitting candidates had undergone the candidates' approval process. All undergoing the process have been approved.
- iv. In light of John Storey's withdrawal as a potential candidate for Padfield, Barrie Taylor is meeting a potential candidate who lives in the ward.
- v. Barrie Taylor is seeking to identify potential candidates for the remaining wards.
- vi. Final arrangements for the production and delivery of 'Focus' leaflets are being made. Shirley Holt asked that final editions be submitted to her electronically to assist the extraction of articles for the website.
- vii. All details are to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Executive.

10. Liberal Hall

- i. The chair and Brian Musgrave met with a property agent who advised that the most feasible future use of the building was as a single dwelling with attached studio/workshop.
- ii. Advice suggested that the potential asking price might be in the region of £100,000.
- iii. The Liberal Hall account currently stands at £7000. It would be possible to release £2000 for appropriate use.
- iv. There is a need for a consultant to be appointed to produce a plan for submission to the planning committee.
- v. It was agreed that the aim is to sell the Hall with planning consent for development as indicated above.
- vi. The Chair agreed to speak to Brian Musgrave to confirm the new Trustees and to ensure that indemnity is in place.

11.Branch and Executive Meetings

- i. It was agreed, in principle, that the two branch structure should be abandoned in favour of a single High Peak Branch with the executive committee conducting constituency business.
- ii. It was agreed that the constitutional implications of the suggestion should be considered and that formal discussion should take place in summer 2011 for discussion at the autumn 2011 AGM.

12.Fund raising programme and budget

- i. The question was raised as to whether the Executive is to promote any events such as participation in the Derby University Fresher's Fair. Suggestions were requested for events that might be promoted after the election.
- ii. The Coffee Morning in Chinley on 19th March was noted.

13.A.O.B.

- i. Members were asked to inform Shirley Holt should they wish to attend the regional conference.
- ii. A walk in memory of Glynn Jennings and in support of the MacMillan Nurses was reported as being planned for 20th February.

14.Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday, 8th March 2011 at the Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

PART TWO

There were no part two items

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Arrange Riso printer payment	B Taylor	asap
Clarify the '200 Club' arrangements	M Harrison	8 th March
Election arrangements	B Taylor et al	8 th March
Liberal Hall – Trustees/indemnity	M Harrison	8 th March