

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th October 2011
at
The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith

PART ONE

1. Present

Ray Atkins, Mike Harrison, Roy Lyon, Barrie Taylor.

2. Apologies

Beth Atkins, Shirley Holt, David Lomax.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Ray Atkins and seconded by Barrie Taylor that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June, 2011 be accepted. This was carried.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

The membership secretary had sent her apologies and no report was presented at this meeting.

6. Liberal Hall

- i. The chair reported on a letter dated 23rd September 2011 from Brian Musgrave. The letter indicated that 'first registration' had been effected and enclosed copies of: the official copy of register of title, the title plan and the plan from the conveyance dated 16th July 1964.
- ii. Brian had indicated that he would be in touch again once the outcome of the planning application was known.
- iii. A fee will be due to Booth, Ince and Knowles in relation to the work undertaken by Brian Musgrave.
- iv. The chair indicated that he continues to monitor potential interest in the purchase of the hall.
- v. In relation to the hall's sale and potential funds becoming available, Ray Atkins stated his belief that most of the funds should be invested, but that an allocation should be made available to defend the two county council seats currently held.

7. Current financial position

- i. A sheet indicating the constituency's financial position as at 11th September 2011 was presented by Barrie Taylor.
- ii. The information indicated an available balance of £889.36 and a projected balance at 31st December 2011 of £828.60 less any further expenditure on stationery.
- iii. It was noted that borough councilors were required to pay a levy of 5% of their gross allowance. Ray Atkins agreed to pursue that matter with one borough councilor who had not yet paid.
- iv. It was noted that the '200 Club' was not up to date, that £46 had been received from membership donations and that a fee of £61 was owing for the website.
- v. Ray Atkins informed the meeting of spending on a 'New Mills Focus' and asked that consideration be given to the reimbursement of the funds spent. £111 had been spent on paper, and £160 on the delivery of the 'Focus' to approximately 3000 homes.

The chair indicated the need to follow procedures and to avoid retrospective authorization of payment. It was agreed that once the post of Treasurer had been filled a budget could be formulated and spending agreed within that budget.

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Mike Harrison that both the £111 and £160 payments be reimbursed. The proposal was carried.

- vi. The chair thanked the President, Barrie Taylor, for his input in overseeing the constituency's accounts during the period without a Treasurer.

8. Council Reports

- i. **County Councillor Taylor reported that:**
 - i. There was concern at a reduction in adult care and that the budget for gritting roads had been reduced by £1 million.
 - ii. The chair noted his concern that budget reductions were damaging groups such as RNIB and agreed to pursue the matter with the local MP.
- ii. **Borough Councillor Atkins reported that:**
 - i. An 'emergency' (Labour) budget had been passed that included a fund of £1000 for each borough councillor and that involved changes to refuse collections.
 - ii. In relation to winter gritting of the roads, it had been recommended that parish councils establish self help schemes although Glossop and Buxton are to receive £5000 each. Concern was expressed at this and clarification requested.
 - iii. There had been the reintroduction of funds for regeneration in Chapel-en-le-Frith, Whaley Bridge and New Mills. Positive activity

in Chapel, not least in relation to the work of the 'Chapel Vision' exercise, was noted.

9. Derbyshire Constituencies Meeting

- i. The Boundary Commission report suggesting that the High Peak Constituency be extended to include Hathersage was noted.
- ii. It was suggested that a case could be made to challenge the recommendation and to suggest that the extension be taken in Tideswell and Foolow and not Hathersage.
- iii. It was agreed that, as she has been central to discussions, the membership secretary be contacted to clarify the current position.
- iv. It was reported that the County Council's review of boundaries which is due for completion by the time of the next county council election in 2013 is suggesting some change to High Peak but the same number of county councilors. It was agreed that there would be a need to respond to the proposals made.

10. Development strategy

- i. It was noted that a suggested change to the branch structure is to be debated at the forthcoming AGM. It was agreed that the development of a strategy to galvanise local interest would take place in light of the decision made on branches at the AGM.

11.A.O.B.

- i. It was reported that a Derbyshire Constituencies meeting is to take place on 12th November. There will be a requirement to establish a Derbyshire group and to establish a candidate approval system to cover the whole of Derbyshire.
- ii. The timing of the forthcoming AGM was discussed.

12.Date of the Next Meeting

To be decided.

PART TWO

There were no part two items

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Arrange AGM.	Secretary	December, 2011
Contact the borough councilor who has not yet	Ray Atkins	A.S.A.P.

paid the levy.		
Contact the membership secretary re. boundary commission suggestions	Secretary	A.S.A.P.