

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th April 2012
at
The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith

PART ONE

1. Present

Ray Atkins, Bob Hobson, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Jane Simm, Barrie Taylor and Stephen Worrall.

2. Apologies

Alan Debes, Alistair Stevens and Maeve Serby.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Bob Hobson that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January, 2012 be accepted. This was carried.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that the Borough Councillor in question had now paid the levy.
- ii. Stephen Worrall informed the meeting that he had managed to contact two lapsed members, John Haggart and Emma Jones. John Haggart had intentionally allowed his membership to lapse and was “watching and waiting” to see where the party went next. Emma Jones had not intended to allow her membership to lapse and had promised to renew it.

Other executive members were continuing to “chase” lapsed members.

- iii. Beth Atkins was not present. As a result no report on developments on road safety in Charlesworth at Derbyshire County Council was available.
- iv. Ray Atkins informed the meeting that New Mills Police Station is only closing to the public and will continue to be used by the Derbyshire Constabulary. As a result the sale of Liberal Hall is unaffected.

- v. **Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that printer had been purchased.**
- vi. **Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that he was continuing to look into the production of a newsletter.**
- vii. **Ray Atkins informed the meeting that he was continuing to look into the possibility of hosting a fund raising dinner with Andrew Stunnell MP.**
- viii. **Roy Lyon informed the meeting that he had checked the constitution and believed that there were some necessary changes. He agreed to have a new draft constitution ready before the next AGM.**
- ix. **The Secretary informed the meeting that he had contacted the Sir Winston Churchill Foundation and had given permission for them to use the information they had requested. Free access, for 3 months, to the digital publication to be created using the information was offered by the Sir Winston Churchill Foundation and the Secretary had requested this.**

5. Reports

i. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that membership currently stood at 63. This was a 14% drop on the previous figure and this drop was due to lapsed memberships.

The Membership Secretary stated the belief that a number of those members lapsed since January should be "chased".

Stephen Worrall agreed to assist the Membership Secretary in this.

ii. County Councillor's Report

Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that the Liberal Democrat group on Derbyshire County Council had obtained one more place on the Committee and one more place on the Fire Authority.

The Labour group had created a petition and motion opposing the planned cuts to the Youth Service and the Liberal Democrat group was supporting them.

Derbyshire County Council is planning to close all but 4 "Old People's Homes" in High Peak and replace with things like Whitfield House and Whitestones. They predict that the drive to keep people in their own homes will reduce demand for "Old

People's Homes" and the remaining ones will be able to focus on care for dementia patients.

iii. Borough Councillor's Report

Ray Atkins informed the meeting that all of the Liberal Democrat group on High Peak Borough Council's demands, in exchange for their support of the budget, had been met. This guaranteed a 0% Council Tax rise, a freeze on parking charges, the maintenance of the Parish Grant, 100% rate relief for community amateur sports clubs, increased street cleaning, £50,000 for new allotments and the extension of the free insulation grant to the over 65's. In addition the funding for a Youth Sports Liaison Officer was guaranteed, but was dependent upon Derbyshire County Council's proposed Youth Service cuts.

It was likely a similar budget situation would arise next year as the Labour group will continue as a minority administration.

6. Business Matters

i. Liberal Hall

David Lomax and Bob Hobson informed the meeting that the state of Liberal Hall means that it is now unsafe.

Whilst the arts group is no longer using the facility other groups continue to do so and the executive raised its concern over the safety of those groups.

The Secretary agreed to contact Brian Musgrave directly to request his presence at the next executive meeting to update the executive on where the sale of Liberal Hall stands.

The Secretary agreed to contact the trustees (Dorothy Challand, Hazel Perry and Geoff Strudwick) directly to request their presence at the next executive meeting to discuss the current state of the Liberal Hall with regards to the safety of those groups using the facility.

ii. Website Future

David Lomax raised his concerns over the future of the website, as currently no one was responsible within the party for running it.

Stephen Worrall informed the meeting that he had agreed to take on the responsibility of running the website and was to meet Shirley Holt soon in order to be trained in how to do so.

Barrie Taylor agreed to organize Membership Data and Connect website access for Stephen Worrall.

7. Current financial position

- i. The Treasurer provided the meeting with the requested summary of budget against expenditure.**

He highlighted that 200 Club and Head Quarters funding was down versus the budget whilst Euro funding was up versus the budget and that the Printer Purchase and Maintenance Contract had come in below budget.

- ii. The Treasurer stated the belief that the printer should be run as a business and outlined a plan and format for doing so (to be refined at a later date). The proposed outline format and plan was approved.**
- iii. Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that the Euro funding had been confirmed as the money from the Christmas Cards and that Margaret Weaver had examined and approved the accounts/**
- iv. Barrie Taylor requested the Branch information from Bob Hobson to enable him to complete the 2011 accounts and requested whether the accounts for 2010 (which were never submitted) could be included with the 2011 accounts. This was approved.**

8. Review of Election Result

- i. David Lomax thanked Bob Hobson, Stephen Worrall, Geoff Strudwick, Peter Ashenden and Ray Atkins for their help during the campaign.**
- ii. Ray Atkins stated the belief that the party should concentrate funds on New Mills and Whaley Bridge in future elections.**

If the party thinks it could win a given election then it should go “all out” and generate a large number of leaflets but that if it thinks it can’t then it should instead just produce one leaflet and attempt to gain new members.

A candidate in place well before the election would be useful.

9. Review of Discussion Meeting

- i. Bob Hobson requested that the format agreed upon be perpetuated, this was agreed.**

- ii. Ray Atkins stated the belief that a provocative topic was necessary to generate more interest and that rotating the location may also help.
- iii. Bob Hobson suggested a summary of the discussion meeting should be created, Stephen Worrall agreed to do this.
- iv. A provisional date for the next meeting (which would be a General Discussion meeting) was set to be within the 2nd week of June, the topics of discussion were to be decided after the elections in May.

10. A.O.B.

- i. Barrie Taylor requested that anyone available help Stockport Liberal Democrats in their upcoming elections.
- ii. Ray Atkins requested that anyone available help deliver Focus in New Mills.
- iii. Ray Atkins informed the meeting that the folding machine was malfunctioning. The price to service the machine was £50 and this was approved.

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Contact lapsed members	All	ASAP
Monitor developments on Charlesworth road safety	Beth Atkins	Ongoing
Look into the production of a newsletter	Barrie Taylor	Next meeting
Look into hosting a fund raising dinner, with Andrew Stunnell MP	Ray Atkins	Next meeting
Draft changes to constitution	Roy Lyon	Next AGM
Contact Brian Musgrave to request his presence at the next executive meeting to update the executive on the ongoing sale of Liberal Hall	Secretary	Next meeting

Contact the trustees of Liberal Hall to request their presence at the next executive meeting to discuss the executives concerns about the safety of groups using the facility	Secretary	Next meeting
Meet Shirley Holt to be trained on the running of the website	Stephen Worrall	ASAP
Organise Membership Data and Connect access for Stephen Worrall	Barrie Taylor	ASAP