

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th July 2013
at
The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith
PART ONE

1. Present

Ray Atkins, Bob Hobson, Roy Lyon, Barrie Taylor and Stephen Worrall.

2. Apologies

Beth Atkins, Louise Clements, Alan Debes, Shirley Holt, David Lomax, Brian Musgrave and Jane Simm.

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 19th March, 2013 be accepted. This was carried.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Press and public requests

The Secretary has responded to and will continue to respond to all press and public requests immediately, directing them to the relevant Local Party member when necessary. A good rapport has seemingly been built up with the Glossop Gazette as a result.

5. Derbyshire County Council Elections

- i. Thanks

The Chair thanked all candidates who had stood for the Local Party in the County Council Elections on behalf of the Executive. The Chair on behalf of the Executive also congratulated Beth Atkins on retaining the New Mills Division and David Lomax on successfully taking over from Barrie Taylor in the Whaley Bridge Division.

The Chair on behalf of the Executive also thanked Barrie Taylor for his many years of service as a County Councillor.

ii. Review

Ray Atkins summarized that the Local Party had met its objectives as two divisions (New Mills and Whaley Bridge) had been targeted and both had been retained. However he also stated that poor performances elsewhere within High Peak and Derbyshire overall had left High Peak as the Local Party in Derbyshire with the most Liberal Democrat County Councillors.

Barrie Taylor stated that it was of vital importance to secure more deliverers for future elections, particularly in Whaley Bridge where the result had been much closer than it should have been due to David Lomax having to spend too much time delivering and not enough time speaking to residents.

Stephen Worrall stated that despite the Local Party's poor showing in the seats we did not target that there was still a noticeable difference between "making an effort" even with no financial resources and making no effort whatsoever.

6. Reports

i. **Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that Membership now stood at 63, a 3.3% increase on the last official figure of 61.

ii. **County Councillor's Report**

No County Councillors were present (both had given their apologies) but Stephen Worrall questioned whether what had been reported in the Glossop Gazette (with regards to whether the new Labour Executive had reduced democracy by preventing Councillors from asking questions at Full Council meetings and raised their own expenses).

The meeting was unsure of whether this was true or not but it was resolved to question the County Councillors on this (as well as reports that the previous Chief Executive had been fired at considerable cost) at the next meeting. Additionally it was resolved to consider "Authoritarian Labour" as a potential source for discussion at a future discussion meeting.

Stephen Worrall additionally questioned whether as a result of the change in control at the County Council Highways Agency decisions may be changed. Again the meeting was unsure but resolved to question the County Councillors at the next meeting.

iii. **Borough Councillor's Report**

Ray Atkins informed the meeting that Housing had been taken back "in house" by the Borough Council and that changes were already being made, but that this was no guarantee of improvement.

Additionally he informed the meeting that there had been a vote of no confidence in the Councillor responsible for the Local Plan due to a series of issues culminating in there currently being no Local Plan. The vote of no confidence was defeated but this leaves the Borough effectively in "limbo" until a new Local Plan can be agreed.

7. Business Matters

i. Liberal Hall

Brian Musgrave was unable to attend the meeting (apologies were given) but he provided an update. The previously submitted appeal had been rejected but only on the grounds that the proposal had an unacceptable element of overlooking the back of houses on Hurst Lea Road. It was his belief that this issue can be addressed and then a fresh application can be submitted.

ii. Education Reform Concerns

As the member (Louise Clements) who had raised this issue was unable to attend it was decided to defer this agenda item to a subsequent meeting.

8. Current Financial Position

i. The Treasurer provided a summary of the Current Financial Position and the need to collect Councillor contributions was noted.

The Treasurer stated that the bottom line was that things were better than expected financially after the election.

It was noted that Ray Atkins and Stephen Worrall would both submit a claim for the cost of postage.

ii. The need for fundraising was noted. The 200 Club needs further pushing and both another Fund Raising Dinner and a Race night were considered as options.

The possibility of a newsletter to advertise any decided upon fundraising ideas as well as a potential discussion meeting on Education Reform and "Authoritarian Labour" was noted.

- iii. The need for a new folding machine and a new home for the printer in the near future was noted.

9. AOB

It was noted that there was a possibility of an upcoming Borough Council By-election due to the poor attendance record of a current Councillor. This situation would be reviewed at the next meeting.

A discussion was held on potential target wards for the next Borough Council Elections and a preliminary list of wards was given as; Blackbrook, Chapel East, Hayfield, New Mills West, Saint Johns and Whaley Bridge.

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Questions for County Councillors	All	Next meeting