

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th March 2013
at
The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith
PART ONE

1. Present

Ray Atkins, Alan Debes, Bob Hobson, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Graham Scott, Jane Simm, Barrie Taylor and Stephen Worrall

2. Apologies

Brian Musgrave.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Alan Debes that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2012 be accepted. This was carried.

4. Matters Arising

- i. The Chair stated that the Fund Raising Dinner had been held and was a relative success. He apologized for not being able to attend and thanked Stephen Worrall for organizing it and Ray Atkins for organizing the speaker. It was agreed that similar events should definitely be held in the future. The Treasurer confirmed that £175 had been made.
- ii. A sufficient number of candidates have now but their names forward for the Derbyshire County Council Elections.
- iii. Glossop Gazette had been contacted to inform them that there was not a Glossop Branch of the High Peak Liberal Democrats that met.
- iv. The General Discussion Meeting had been held.

5. Reports

i. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that membership currently stood at 61 but that there was an additional member who had rejoined who was not yet showing up on the website thus giving 62. This was a 5.1% increase on the previous figure.

ii. **County Councillor's Report**

Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that the budget meeting had been held and that a 0% increase in the Derbyshire County Council portion of the council tax had been agreed upon. The Labour group on the Council had voted for a 1.5% increase.

iii. **Borough Councillor's Report**

Ray Atkins informed the meeting that the budget meeting had been held and that a 0% increase in the High Peak Borough Council portion of the council tax had been agreed upon unanimously.

Council housing was to be brought back under the direct control of the Council.

Local plan put out to consultation again. Whaley Bridge and Blackbrook no real problems but problems exist in New Mills and Hayfield.

New Ambulance provision proposals much improved as rather than having to go back to Chesterfield everyday a new hub would be built between Chapel-en-le-Frith and Dove Holes. Buxton and New Mills ambulance stations maintained, but New Mills would be moved. Ambulances would have to go to Alfreton once a month for servicing. Ambulance service will also be trying to improve response times by retraining phone operators to better prioritise situations

6. Business Matters

i. **Additional Conference Representative**

Stephen Worrall informed the meeting that High Peak Liberal Democrats were entitled to one more English Regional and Federal Conference Representative.

Ray Atkins was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Stephen Worrall for both roles. This was carried.

ii. **Liberal Hall**

Stephen Worrall informed the meeting that Brian Musgrave had informed him that the Appeal had been lodged, the Council had responded and a reply had been submitted to that response. He is awaiting confirmation of an inspection date with the appointed Inspector and also pointed out that shortly the band will be relocating and no one will be hiring Liberal Hall after that.

7. Current financial position

- i. The Treasurer informed the meeting that the accounts currently held approximately £2650 and that he wished to keep at least £500 in reserve.

In regard to this the Executive agreed that:

Of the £2650 currently held £2000 would be allotted to the Derbyshire County Council Election campaign. In addition any donations specific to the election would be allotted fully to the campaign, with any residual monies returning to the overall funds after the campaign.

8. Derbyshire County Council Elections

Ray Atkins spoke to say that he believed post the Eastleigh by-election victory we had more hope and that any potential swing to UKIP would probably help the Liberal Democrats in the High Peak rather than hinder them.

It is his belief that UKIP will contest these elections strongly with Buxton West being their target and that they could be of particular benefit in New Mills where they would presumably soak up any protest vote.

Four more candidates were approved by the Selection Committee; Alan Debes, Brian Hallsworth, George Kuppen and Chris Weaver.

The Executive confirmed that the following candidates would stand in the following wards:

- Buxton North and East – Graham Scott
- Buxton West – Chris Weaver
- Chapel and Hope Valley – Brian Hallsworth
- Etherow – Alan Debes
- Glossop and Charlesworth – George Kuppen and Stephen Worrall
- New Mills and Hayfield – Beth Atkins
- Whaley Bridge and Blackbrook – David Lomax

An information and biography sheet would be circulated to all candidates to be returned to Barrie Taylor or Stephen Worrall with Stephen Worrall to pass on to Shirley Holt.

It was noted that a rough idea of envelope and poster numbers needed to be generated and provided to the Treasurer.

It was also noted that better and more use of Connect and the Internet was needed in campaigning.

9. Press Request

It was agreed that Stephen Worrall would take up for offer from Glossop Gazette of column space and that he would be most happy to receive ideas for content from all members.

10. Enquiries from the Public

It was agreed that Stephen Worrall would be permitted to respond to public enquiries to direct them to the relevant member for response without bringing them individually to the executive.

11.AOB

Date of next meeting agreed would be after the elections in May.

Action Points

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Circulate Information and Biography Sheet	Stephen Worrall	ASAP