

High Peak Liberal Democrats
Constituency Executive Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th January 2014
at
The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith
PART ONE

1. Present

Beth Atkins, Ray Atkins, David Lomax, Roy Lyon, Tobias Stroner, Barrie Taylor and Stephen Worrall.

2. Apologies

Alan Debes, Graham Hewitt, Bob Hobson, Brian Musgrave

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Stephen Worrall and seconded by Tobias Stroner that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September, 2013 be accepted. This was carried.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Reports

i. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that Membership now stood at 64, a 1.5% increase on the last official figure of 63.

Some members who were close to lapsing were being chased.

ii. County Councillor's Report

Beth Atkins informed the meeting that DCC was looking to sell a variety of assets including land currently earmarked for road widening in some areas.

Additionally she confirmed to the meeting that at full DCC meetings it was now only possible to ask questions if the questions had been submitted in advance but that at all other meetings she was raising as many issues as possible.

Furthermore she informed the meeting that the New Mills/Hayfield Food Bank was being used more heavily as expected and whilst some potential issues as to how it was being used had arisen it was vitally important to ensure children do not go hungry.

Grants were being obtained for both the Visit New Mills website and for improving the entrance to Hayfield.

David Lomax informed the meeting of a consultation to scrap DCC mobile libraries but that data showed there was a surprisingly high usage of this facility.

He also informed the meeting that DCC tax would probably be increasing by 2%, that a decision on the Fire Service consultation is due in February and that Youth Services could again be targeted in cuts.

iii. **Borough Councillor's Report**

Ray Atkins informed the meeting that the consultation on the revised Local Plan was now underway and that sites previously dismissed were now being reconsidered, including contentious sites in both New Mills and Whaley Bridge.

Barrie Taylor added that with the lack of a Local Plan speculative planning applications were already being submitted that the Local Authority would have difficulty turning down due to the absence of a Local Plan.

6. Business Matters

i. **Treasurer**

Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that due to illness Bob Hobson has had to resign from the position of Treasurer.

The Chair put on record the Executives best wishes to Bob Hobson in what will hopefully be a speedy recovery.

It was noted that a sufficient number of the members of the Executive are still signatories on the Bank Account.

It was decided that the Chair would attempt to contact Bob Hobson to obtain the Cheque Book, Online banking Login details and details to be able to complete the submission of the accounts for the last financial year.

It was decided that Ray Atkins would contact the Co-operative Bank about the matter.

The Secretary is to seek nominations for a new Treasurer.

ii. Fund Raising Dinner

It was decided to attempt the organization of a Fund Raising Dinner in March hosted by David Lomax.

It was decided that Bill Newton-Dunn would be approached as a potential speaker and that Barrie Taylor would contact him.

The date would be a Friday or Saturday in March dependent upon both David Lomax's and Bill Newton-Dunn's availability.

iii. Liberal Hall

The Secretary read out an email from Brian Musgrave informing the meeting that the new planning application had been submitted on 14/12/13 and that a decision is expected by 12/02/2014/

Ray Atkins informed the meeting that New Mills Town Council had opposed the application but that he didn't foresee it being a problem.

The Secretary was instructed to thank Brian Musgrave on behalf of the Executive for all of the hard work he has put in on this issue and to ask him of and how he would wish to proceed going forward if the planning application is successful.

7. Current Financial Position

With the resignation of the Treasurer there was no summary of the accounts but Barrie Taylor informed the meeting that there had been no change.

The request by Tony Rodgers (Chair of East Midlands Liberal Democrats Executive) for a donation of £1000 towards the 2014 European Parliament election fund was discussed.

It was proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Stephen Worrall that the Secretary contact Tony Rodgers and offer £500. £250 as a straight donation and the other £250 allocated to a targeted leaflet campaign in New Mills and Whaley Bridge. This campaign would be using the template East Midlands intends to use for the European Elections but that High Peak would then modify to make more locally relevant. This was carried.

8. Selection of candidates

i. PPC

The Secretary was instructed to contact the relevant officer at East Midlands to inform them we wish to commence the selection process and to ask them how to proceed.

ii. Borough

The Secretary was instructed to request for volunteers to join the selection committee and to advertise for nominations.

It was noted that provisionally the target seats would be Blackbrook (2), Chapel East (1), Hayfield (1), New Mills West (2), Sett (1), Saint Johns (1) and Whaley Bridge (3).

9. AOB

It was noted that New Mills Town Council is still facing issues and that currently two employees are suspended pending a decision by the Appeals Committee.

Action	Responsible	Time scale
Chase lapsed members	Membership Secretary	Next meeting
Contact Bob Hobson to obtain Cheque Book, Online banking details and details for Accounts Submission	Roy Lyon	Next meeting
Contact Co-operative bank about issues	Ray Atkins	Next meeting
Obtain nominations for Treasurer	Secretary	Next meeting
Contact Bill Newton-Dunn about Fund Raising Dinner	Barrie Taylor	Next meeting
Contact Brian Musgrave	Secretary	Next meeting
Contact Tony Rodgers	Secretary	Next meeting
Contact PPC selection committee Chair	Secretary	Next meeting

Request volunteers to join selection committee	Secretary	Next meeting
Request nominations to stand for Borough Elections	Secretary	Next meeting