

**High Peak Liberal Democrats**  
**Constituency Executive Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
**at**  
**The Old Pack Horse, Chapel-en-le-Frith**  
**PART ONE**

**1. Present**

Roy Lyon, David Lomax, Ray Atkins, Alan Debes, Jane Simm, Barrie Taylor.

**2. Apologies**

Stephen Worrall, Beth Atkins, Shirley Holt and Bob Hobson.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 were accepted.

**4. Matters Arising**

Glossop Gazette - The Secretary had reported that he had responded to a request for a comment about the new County Council executive having reduced democracy by restricting questions at meetings but increasing allowances to cabinet members. David Lomax commented that it was difficult to make a big issue of this as the number of cabinet posts had been reduced so there was no significant cost increase. Questions for full Council now had to be in writing in advance, which reduced the length of meetings. However under the Cabinet system full Council Meetings have little real power, as cabinet decisions could not be changed except by a very limited 'Call In' procedure.

**5. Reports**

**i. Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that membership remained at 63.

**ii. Borough Council**

Boundary Review - All ward boundaries will be reviewed, but it has been agreed to keep the number of councillors at 43. David Lomax is chairing the committee on the changes, but these are not likely to be very significant.

Local Plan - all proposed housing sites are being reconsidered to check if development is viable. The target number of dwellings to be built is very likely to increase.

Council Buildings - these are being reassessed as several are expensive but do not meet needs.

### **iii County Councillor Report**

The council is consulting on the level of Council Tax increase. Small parcels of land owned by the council are to be sold off.

Fire Service - there is a public consultation on the size and location of the services. There have been significantly fewer fires recently, partly attributed to installation of smoke alarms.

## **6. Business Matters**

Liberal Hall - a revised design is being investigated which it is believed should meet the inspector's one concern.

Fundraising - the Whaley Bridge coffee morning raised about £80. It is hoped to have a coffee morning in Chinley before Christmas. It was agreed in principle that a constituency dinner should be arranged for the new year.

## **7. Financial Position**

In the absence of the Treasurer on holiday a detailed report was not available.

## **8. AOB**

Parish By-elections - The region had notified the secretary of one vacancy in Hayfield and two in New Mills. Ray Atkins reported that Hayfield was always non-political and in the absence of a member keen to stand no action was recommended. In New Mills there have been Conservative and Labour resignations because of an internal issue. He would not recommend that we put up a candidate in the present circumstances, and it is believed that the deadline for calling an election has past.

Next Meetings -The next meeting should be a discussion to which all members would be invited, probably on Education, as the previously planned discussion had been cancelled.

It was agreed that at the next executive meeting the timetable for PPC selection should be considered, and the process of selecting candidates for the next Borough elections, expected on the same day as the General Election, should begin.