

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

High Peak Liberal Democrats

7.30pm on Wednesday 4 December 2024

**Venue: The Old Hall Inn and Paper Mill Inn, Whitehough,
Chinley, High Peak
SK23 6EJ**

Tel: 01663 750529



NB Drinks, tea and coffee can be purchased from the bar from 6.00pm. Bar meals are also available before the AGM. Wednesdays are pie nights, and pizzas will also be available.

**If you want something more fancy
you can order from The Old Hall Inn itself.**

<https://www.old-hall-inn.co.uk/papermill>

NB If driving to the venue parking is available on the road and at the sister pub opposite, The Old Hall Inn. Please note The Paper Mill doesn't have its own car park - it shares with The Old Hall Inn or, alternatively, customers can choose to park on the road or nearby bridge.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Approval of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 28th November 2023
3. Reports from:
 - 3.1. Chair
 - 3.2. Membership Secretary
 - 3.3. Liberal Democrat Groups of:
 - Derbyshire County Council
 - High Peak Borough Council
4. Treasurer's report and to note the Accounts for 2023
Appointment of Auditor for the 2023 Local Party Accounts
5. Election of Honorary President (See note 1)
6. Receive nominations for Election of Officers, and Executive Committee Members
 - 3.1. Chair – Charles Jevon prepared to stand again
 - 3.2. Vice Chair – Vacancy
 - 3.3. Secretary – Jane Simm prepared to stand again
 - 3.4. Treasurer – Margaret Weaver prepared to stand again
 - 3.5. Membership Development Officer
 - 3.6. Data Officer
 - 3.7. Youth Officer
 - 3.8. Communications Officer – Louise Glasscoe prepared to stand again
 - 3.9. Diversity Officer
 - 3.10. Executive Committee Members

Note 1 Section 5.2 of the Local Party Constitution allows for the election of an Honorary President.

The formal agenda will be followed by a chance to meet members of the Constituency Executive and other local party members.

Donations will also be made to the High Peak Women's Aid

Minutes of the last High Peak Liberal Democrats' AGM held on 28 November 2023

High Peak Liberal Democrats Annual General Meeting and Social November 28th, 2023

Venue: The Navigation Inn, Buxworth Basin

Present: Ray Atkins (Chair), Charles Jevon, Jane Simm, Barrie Taylor, Louise Glasscoe, Margaret and Chris Weaver, Anthony Berent, Martin Heazell, Beth Atkins

Apologies: David Lomax, Stephen Worrall, Kallen McColl, Stan Heptinstall, Paul Adrio, Mike Whorrall, Ann Shaw

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

a. The minutes of the AGM held on November 2nd, 2022, were approved.

2. Reports were received from:

a. Chair

The Chair welcomed the members including two new members, Anthony Berent and Martin Heazell from Buxton. During the past year we have made strong attempts to keep in touch via online meetings, whilst recognising the importance of other means of communication such as newsletters to all members, and delivery of Focus in New Mills in support of residents. The importance of maintaining a group of regular deliverers was emphasised. Our use of Zoom meetings has also supported our commitment to green issues in a Constituency as large and diverse as the High Peak.

The Chair highlighted the success of the party nationally in bi-elections such as Somerton and Frome, and other local elections. Several officers went along to canvass and leaflet in

bi-elections. We are actively supporting the launch of Lisa Smart's campaign in Hazel Grove with members from the Local Party attending her election launch in September.

The last four years has been a challenge for the Local Party losing a key seat in New Mills, despite a hard-fought campaign.

Thanks must go to our Communications Officer, Louise Glasscoe who has managed to support the changes to our website despite the complexities of the new system. It is hoped that we will be able to communicate more effectively with our members. She will be sending out an online newsletter before Christmas. This will also highlight how members can get involved with volunteering for Lisa Smart's candidacy in Hazel Grove.

We would like to record our thanks to our Chair, Ray Atkins for four years of invaluable service to the Executive Committee and the Local Party through his work as a HPBC Councillor.

b. Treasurer

The Treasurer presented account details for 2022. Proposed by Charles Jevon and seconded by Barrie Taylor.

Contributions received from Councillors, and donations to the High Peak Liberal Democrat Trust.

c. Membership Officer

It was reported that there were 76 members.

The importance of following up membership lapses was noted. There was a fall out of members since Brexit.

We looked at the importance of a developing more of a team effort to membership activities and we continue to support local representatives in the High Peak.

d. Liberal Democrat Groups of: Derbyshire County Council (DCC): Ed Fordham continues to represent the Lib Dem group of County Councillors.

Derbyshire Coordinating Group: The Local Party has been meeting up online with this informal group to discuss what is happening in Derbyshire from a Lib Dem point of view. In May the election for the first Combined Mayor covering Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, as well as for our next Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner will take place. It is hoped that these elections could give us a platform for the General Election and prepare for the Derbyshire County Council elections in 2025.

e. High Peak Borough Council (HPBC):

Councillor David Lomax has provided informative monthly updates on HPBC. We had very disappointing election results in May. The implication for the Local Party now means we no longer constitute a group on the HPBC and means we have very few committee places.

HPBC failed to get levelling up money for Glossop leisure facilities.

HPBC has bought the Springs in Buxton. The Future High Streets and the redevelopment of the Springs in Buxton will be long term projects in Buxton which will hopefully make the town centre more attractive.

The first stages of developing a new Local Plan continue. The consultation process commenced in January.

Fortunately, only a few areas of High Peak were devastated by the recent storm. A Recovery Grant of up to £500 is available for household.

As part of levelling up a regional set up for Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Derbyshire with an elected Mayor will be created. All groups on HPBC are concerned about being linked to Nottingham and remain to be convinced that the leveling up money will make it to the northwest of Derbyshire.

On the national scene, Cllr Lomax urged High Peak's Conservative MP to back GP and dentists rescue plan in King's Speech amendment. The Liberal Democrat amendment would give a patient a legal right to see their GP within a week, and 24-hours if in urgent need. It also calls on the government to publish a dental recovery plan as promised seven months after a shocking rise in the number of 'dental deserts' leaving people struggling to see an NHS dentist when they need to.

3.To note the Accounts for 2023 and Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2023 Local Party Accounts

- a) The accounts for 2022 were noted and approved
- b) Andrew Garner was re-appointed as the independent examiner of the 2023 accounts.

4.Election of Honorary President

Barrie Taylor was proposed by Margaret Weaver and seconded by Jane Simm and duly elected.

5.Election of Officers, Executive Committee Members

The following were duly elected:

Chair – Charles Jevon: proposed by Jane Simm seconded by Barrie Taylor.

Vice Chair – Ray Atkins was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Margaret Weaver

Secretary – Jane Simm was proposed by Barrie Taylor and seconded by Ray Atkins.

Treasurer – Margaret Weaver was proposed by Ray Atkins and seconded by Charles Jevon

Membership Officer/Data Officer - Barrie Taylor agreed to hold this position with support from all members of the Executive in membership activities.

Communications Officer – Louise Glasscoe was proposed by Ray Atkins and seconded by Jane Simm

Youth Officer - No appointment made.

Diversity Officer (new position)– Beth Atkins was proposed by Louise Glasscoe and seconded by Chris Weaver.

Executive Committee Members, in addition to Officers the following were proposed, seconded, and duly elected: Beth Atkins, Chris Weaver, Stephen Worrall, Kallen McColl, Paul Adrio, Anthony Berent, Martin Heazell

Stan Heptinstall will be stepping down due to his main base being Nottingham but has agreed to help the Local Party if required. We also wish to record our thanks to Stan for his support to the Executive Committee and willingness to step up as a candidate for the Police and Crime Commissioner four years ago.

AOB

Update on selection of Parliamentary Political Candidate (PPC)

The English Candidates' Committee has taken the following decisions:

* Any selection which is under way (and has already advertised) may continue.

* No new selections will begin from 1st December.

* Regional Candidates' Chairs (RCCs) will appoint candidates to all other seats which do not yet have a PPC in place. The Diversity statement produced by the Local Party has been accepted by the East Midlands Regional Candidates Officer. We will be informed which candidate will be offered to the High Peak

* The intention is to complete most appointments by mid-January.

We requested that a donation to a local charity should be supported. This was **Crossroads Derbyshire** which supports people experiencing domestic abuse in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales.