

Minutes of the Humanists UK Annual General Meeting 2018

held 24 June 2018, 14.00 - 16.00 at Northumbria Students Union, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8SB

Present: Asad Abbas, John Adams, Muha Ali, Peter Atkins, Jenny Bartle, Barrie Berkley, Jean Berkley, Dermot Bolton, Tony Brewer, Mal Bride, Michael Browne, Neil Camp, Lara Celini, Helen Chamberlain, Helen Cherry, Steve Clapman, Jenny Coleman, Thomas Collier, Alan Conn, Margaret Cooper, James Craig-Gray, Iain Deboys, Leigh Derbyshire, Stella Dessoy, Helen Duffy, Blaise Egan, Philip Evans, John Farrar, Anna Foster, Lynda Foy, Howard Gardner, Christopher Geake, Tamar Ghosh, Ed Gibney, Alex Greer, Chris Grey, Dawn Gyles, John Hanger, Susan Haydock, John Hayes, Roy Heaps, Grant Higginson, Kate Hinton, Brian Hodgson, Paul Hughes, Adam Hughes-Buchanan, Elaine Hutton, Richard Jacques, Paul Jenkins, Briony Kapoor, Andy King, Gill Kirkup, Maureen Kvebekk, Christine Lawrence, Jessica Layfield, Janet Lopacki, Lucy Luke, Ewan Main, Clare Marsh, Stephen McBride, Mark McCleery, David Milne, Margaret Mulholland, Malcolm Niekirk, Simon Nightingale, Barbara Noble, Martin Nunn, Ann O'Connell, Guy Otten, Alan Palmer, Gordon Peckham, Brian Penfold, Naomi Phillips, Maggie Platts, Joe Platts, David Pollock, Simon Qadri, Brian Quinn, Mike Reynolds, Glenda Reynolds, John Ricketts, Michael Rickwood, Sarah Robbins, Jeremy Rodell, George Rodger, Patricia Rogers, Andrew Russell, David Savage, Alice Severs, Imtiaz Shams, Sue Shaw, Ebou Sohna, Alan Tear, Carrie Thomas, Moira Turner, Mike Turner, Amy Walden, Phil Walder, Stuart Walker, Graeme Ward, Werner Wiethage, Irene Wilkinson, David Williams, Anthony Keith Wilson.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson (Company Secretary), Matthew Brandwood, Luke Donnellan, Al Ghaff, William Gordon, Jay Harman, Connie Hodgkinson Lahiff (minutes), Miry Mayer, Catriona McLellan, Simon O'Donoghue, Iyabo Ojo, Tony Pinkney, Teddy Prout, Edward Robinson, Isabel Russo, Ian Scott, Boyd Sleator, Rachel Taggart-Ryan, Richy Thompson, Andrew West, Liam Whitton.

Apologies for Absence: John Allen, Lindsay Allen, David Benest OBE, David Browning, John Catt, Graham Cooper, Julia Copson, Lord Dubs, Angela Eagle MP, Baroness Hayter, Richard Hewitt, John Garton Jones, Patrick McKeown, Mary McKeown, Diana Naumann, Alom Shaha, Ariadne Tampion, Brian Walker, Mark Wardrop, Alexander Williams.

Adoption of Standing Orders: On the proposal of Tamar Ghosh (Chair of the Board of Trustees and the AGM), the Standing Orders were adopted by the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: The chair reminded those present that members speaking should declare any potential conflict of interest in relation to any item. Noone declared an interest.

Tellers: The meeting appointed Andrew Copson as Timekeeper and Guy Otten and David Milne as tellers.

Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 8 July 2017: On the proposal of the Board, the minutes were approved *nem con*.

Matters arising from the previous minutes: There were no matters arising.

Chair and Chief Executive's address: Tamar Ghosh (Chair) reported on the Board's governance activities in the past year. Andrew Copson reported on Humanist UK's work and many successes in the past year. Members were thanked for giving time, money, energy, and enthusiasm.

Election to the Board of Trustees: The following candidates were elected *nem con* by a show of hands:

Egan, Blaise
O'Connell, Anne
Rodell, Jeremy
Walden, Amy

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017: John Adams (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. The Treasurer noted that this was the first year our income had exceeded £2 million and that the growth in income reflected the generosity of supporters for which the Board thanked them. The report and accounts were approved *nem con*.

Re-appointment of Auditor: Knox Cropper were reappointed as auditor *nem con*.

Remuneration of Auditor: The trustees were authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditor *nem con*.

Any other Business:

Tamar Ghosh and Andrew Copson extended the thanks of the whole Board and staff to Guy Otten for his time as Trustee.

On behalf of the South East London Humanist Group, Tony Brewer raised two points. Firstly, he informed the meeting of the groups' campaign to persuade the BBC to include humanist speakers on Thought for the Day and invited members to support it. Secondly, he suggested that Humanists UK should form a working party to come to an official point of view on the future of artificial intelligence, and informed the meeting he would be writing to the Board in order to suggest to do so.