

11 May 2019

Humanists UK
39, Moreland Street
London EC1V 8BB
020 7079 3060
chiefexec@humanism.org.uk

To all members of Humanists UK

Dear Member,

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 23 June 2019 14:00 - 16:00
Athena Theatre, Queen Street, Leicester, LE1 1QD

These papers contain the agenda for this year's AGM, the formal notice of the AGM, and the minutes of last year's AGM. Please bring them with you to the AGM. Our current Articles of Association and Byelaws will be available on arrival and can be downloaded at www.humanism.org.uk/members.

Registration for the formal AGM will begin at 13:00. The AGM will begin at 14:00
You are invited to join Trustees and staff for a glass of wine or soft drink from 16:30 to 17:00.

2018 Report and Accounts

The 2018 Report and Accounts are available online at www.humanism.org.uk/members. A copy is also available for inspection at the Humanists UK office and copies will be available at the AGM. You can request a paper copy in advance of the AGM by emailing, telephoning, or writing to us.

In order to ensure that members who have questions concerning the accounts can have them answered without taking up too much time at the AGM, the Board will take written questions on the accounts in advance of the AGM and provide written answers to members attending the meeting. If you have any questions on the accounts, please submit them by email (agm@humanism.org.uk) or post by **17.00 on 14 June 2019**.

Resolutions and Motions

As part of the formal business of the AGM, the members will be asked to consider and pass the resolutions which are set out in the notice of the AGM. The resolutions are: to receive the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018; the re-appointment of the auditor; and to authorise the trustees to determine their remuneration.

The following motion has also been received and will be discussed at the AGM:

According to 97% of climate change scientists, our climate and environment are facing catastrophe. Humanists UK needs to respond to this impending disaster. I propose that this conference ask our trustees to hold a ballot of all members on the proposition the Humanists UK should change its definition of humanism to explicitly state that the preservation and maintenance of the natural world are integral to the core definition of what we are. The ballot proposal should state that we challenge the dominant western perspective, prevailing over several centuries, that human beings are our primary concern, and that it is acceptable for the rest of the Earth's flora and fauna to be plundered for our

benefit. The ballot should ask members to vote on changing the basic definition of what Humanists UK stands for: to explicitly state that the natural world and humans are inseparable, and that actively respecting and caring for the Earth's fauna, flora and environment are as important as any other ethical responsibility. This change would mean that this statement of humanist principles is not just tucked away in our 'Articles of Association'. Rather, our responsibilities to the environment would be explicit in all Humanists UK websites, magazines and publicity. Accordingly, we should consider changing the Humanists UK strapline to something like "For the one life we have and the one world we live in" and "Think for yourself, act for everyone and for our Earth"

Proposed by Cath Sutherland and seconded by Laurie Cohen

If you wish to submit any amendments to motions, you must do so by email (agm@humanism.org.uk) or post by **17:00 on 14 June 2019**.

Any **Emergency Motions** (i.e. motions relating to matters of importance to Humanists UK that have arisen after the closing date for ordinary resolutions of **1 May 2019**) must be submitted to me or to the Chair before the start of the AGM. Emergency Motions may be proposed by Partner groups of Humanists UK or individual members and must also be seconded.

It should be noted that any motions passed are in law not resolutions of Humanists UK but only express the opinion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at the AGM. **Apologies for absence** can be made by email (agm@humanism.org.uk), post or telephone.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Copson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Copson
Company Secretary, Humanists UK

Humanists UK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 23 June 2019 14.00 (registration from 13.00)
Athena Theatre, Queen Street, Leicester, LE1 1QD

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
which are given in the Byelaws
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Election of one Timekeeper and two Tellers
5. Minutes of the 2018 AGM
which are attached to this agenda
6. Matters arising from those minutes
which are not covered separately on this agenda
7. Chair's address
8. Announcement of the results of the elections to the Board of Trustees
9. Formal part of the Business of the AGM as set out in the attached Notice
10. Motions received:

According to 97% of climate change scientists, our climate and environment are facing catastrophe. Humanists UK needs to respond to this impending disaster. I propose that this conference ask our trustees to hold a ballot of all members on the proposition the Humanists UK should change its definition of humanism to explicitly state that the preservation and maintenance of the natural world are integral to the core definition of what we are. The ballot proposal should state that we challenge the dominant western perspective, prevailing over several centuries, that human beings are our primary concern, and that it is acceptable for the rest of the Earth's flora and fauna to be plundered for our benefit. The ballot should ask members to vote on changing the basic definition of what Humanists UK stands for: to explicitly state that the natural world and humans are inseparable, and that actively respecting and caring for the Earth's fauna, flora and environment are as important as any other ethical responsibility. This change would mean that this statement of humanist principles is not just tucked away in our 'Articles of Association'. Rather, our responsibilities to the environment would be explicit in all Humanists UK websites, magazines and publicity. Accordingly, we should consider changing the Humanists UK strapline to something like "For the one life we have and the one world we live in" and "Think for yourself, act for everyone and for our Earth"

Proposed by Cath Sutherland, seconded by Laurie Cohen.

11. Emergency Motions

which must relate directly to core areas of our operation or existence, and be related to issues which have newly arisen since 1 May 2019, and must be presented to the Chair or Company Secretary before the start of the meeting

12. Any other business

which must be notified to the Company Secretary in advance of the AGM

Company Secretary
11 May 2019

Minutes of the previous AGM

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 Desso, 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 re-appointed 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.

**BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
(‘Humanists UK’)
Company Number: 228781**

Notice of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held at Athena Theatre, Leicester 23 June 2019 at 14.00 to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions:

As Ordinary Resolutions:

1. To receive the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018.
2. To re-appoint Knox Cropper as auditor to Humanists UK to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting where accounts are laid before the members.
3. To authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Date: 11 May 2019

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:
39 Moreland Street
London
EC1V 8BB



COMPANY SECRETARY

Notes:

1. A member entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend, speak and vote in his or her place on a show of hands or on a poll provided. Such proxy need not be a member of Humanists UK.
2. To be valid, the completed and signed form of proxy must be returned to Humanists UK's registered office no later than 14.30 on 21 June 2019. Lodging a form of proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting at the meeting.
3. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of Humanists UK at 17.00 on 22 June 2019 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.

Humanists UK Form of Proxy

I, _____ of _____ being a member
of the Humanists UK hereby appoint the Chair of the meeting or
_____ of _____ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf, as
indicated below, at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 23 June 2019 and at any adjournment
thereof.

Resolution	Resolution Summary	For	Against	Discretionary	Vote Withheld
1	Receive annual report and accounts for 31 December 2018				
2	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as auditor				
3	Authorise the trustees to determine the auditor's remuneration				

Please indicate with an 'X' in the space above how you wish your votes to be cast.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2019

.....
Signature

Explanatory Notes:

1. Every member has the right to appoint some other person of his or her choice, who need not be a member, as his or her proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights, to attend, speak and vote on his or her behalf at the meeting. To appoint a person other than the Chair please insert the name and address of your chosen proxy in the space provided.
2. To be valid this form of proxy must be signed by the member or his or her attorney and be sent to Humanists UK's registered office (39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB) no later than 14.30 on 21 June 2019. Any Power of Attorney or any other authority under which the proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form.
3. The 'Vote Withheld' box is provided to enable you to abstain on the resolution. However, it should be noted that a vote withheld is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of votes 'for' and 'against' a resolution.
4. If you do not indicate as to how your proxy should vote or you tick the discretion box, your proxy will have discretion to vote on the resolution as they see fit. Your proxy will also have the discretion to vote as they see fit on any other business which may properly come before the meeting, including amendments to the resolution, and at any adjournment of the meeting.
5. The completion and return of this form will not preclude a member from attending the meeting and voting in person.
6. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members at 17.00 on 22 June 2019 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.