

British Humanist Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 13 July 2013, 14.30 – 16.00 at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

Present: Asad Abbas, Mike Adams, Deborah Ainger, Brendan Armstrong, Hilary Ash, Robert Ashby, Zelda Bailey, Charles Baily, Tom Beaton, David Bernstein, John Blakey, Rhian Blakey, David Bothwell, David Brewin, Alan Brownjohn, Angela Burns, John Catt, John Chadwick, John Chalmers, Tony Charlesworth, Steve Clapman, Denis Cobell, Pamela Cole, Thomas Collier, Les Collins, Tom Copley, Jim Craig-Gray, Clare Delderfield, Keith Denby, Stella Desso, R Dourmashkin, Sydnee Dourmashkin, Christine Duffin, Harry Duffin, Cedric Duncan, Blaise Egan, Lucy Ferman-Moore, Cathryn Fraser, Anna Gray, Bernard Halter, Martin Hamilton, Alan Henness, Paul Hoggart, Willemien Hoogendoorn, Rob Hughes, Jill Hughes, Ruth Hunter, Nigel Jordan, Paul Kaufman, Benjamin Kerr, Toby Keynes, Audrey King, Lenka Klementova, Adam Knowles, Joshua Kutchinsky, Maureen Kvebekk, Christopher Lynch, Derek Marcus, Louisa McGeehan, Trevor Moore, Warren Newman, L Newton, Richard Norman, Ian Oakins, Marie Oatham, Ronald Oatham, Mr O'Kelly, Chris Paddock, Alan Palmer, Paula Palmer, Iain Paterson, Rafael Pepiol, Naomi Phillips, Mike Pictor, Maggie Platts, David Pollock, Boris Pomerantz, Mary Porter, Matthew Power, William Quinn, Dave Ramm, Martin Ricketts, Gulraj Rijhwani, Christine Riley Moger, Anne Rindl, Jeremy Rodell, Patricia Rogers, Seoirse Ropaigealach, Kenneth Rudd, Kevin Saldanha, David Savage, Wafaa Schiefler, Christine Seymour, Alom Shaha, Barbara Smoker, Bill Stephenson, Anna Tagliaferro, Ariadne Tampion, Darrell Thomas, Brian Tolman, Richard Unwin, Philip Vince, Ray Ward, Mark Wardrop, Deborah Waters, Raymond White, Simon Whitlock, Nicholas Winkfield, Royston Woodward, John Woolhouse, Carol Woolley, Jane Wynne-Willson.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson, Pavan Dhaliwal, Catriona McLellan, Blakeley Nixon, Iyabo Ojo, Sara Passmore, Isabel Russo, Richy Thompson, Tamsin Van Dyken, Andrew West.

Apologies for Absence: John Allen, Abe Alpren, Susan Antrobus, Peter Bagshaw, Barrie Berkley, Jean Berkley, Paul Blanchard, Hilary Blumer, George Broadhead, John Brown, Raymond Carlisle, Barbara Chandler, Roger Chapman, Amal Chaudhuri, Graham Cooper, Julia Copson, Julie Crow, Gordon J Davies, John Davies, Diana Eldaly-Rookledge, Mike Flood, Maxine Formaggi, Stephen Frankiss, Alice Fuller, Lesley Geach, Stephen Goldby, John Gregory, Marion Gregory, Christine Hacklett, Gerda Hanko, Felicity Harvest, Baroness Hayter, Ramon Henson, Pamela Hinett, Irene Jackson, Bob Jelley, Billy Jenkins, Michael Jenkins, Linda Karlsen, Elisabeth Kean, Kay Kirkham, Gordon Lever, David Light, Vince Maple, Marilyn Mason, Ian McLaughlin, Raymond Mellor, Christopher Moore, Elizabeth Morton, Sandra Norburn, Guy Otten, David Pack, Patsy Paine, Richard Paterson, Simon Pears, Colin Pearson, Elio Pennisi, Susan Rankin, Liz Reason, Alison Redcastle, Delyth Rennie, Dave Root, Martin Rowson, Joan Ruddock MP, Mike Savage, Dr John Sellers, Don Sharpe, Chris Smith, Keith Steadman, Alison Stein, Richard Stein, Shaun Steiner-Goldberg, Colin Stevenson, Carolyn Sugden, Brenda Swindells, Robert Swindells, Neil The-Hippy, Polly Toynbee, D K Watson, Michael Whincup, Barbara White, Richard White, Tony Wilson, James Wolsey.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM, mentioning in particular staff, trustees, Vice Presidents and the President.

Adoption of Standing Orders: On the proposal of Robert Ashby (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.

Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 23 July 2012: On the proposal of the Board, the minutes were approved *nem con*.

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

Chair's address: The chair reported on the past year's activities, highlighting the BHA's many successes and the hard work ahead. In relation to the Board's responsibilities for governance, he emphasized that new governance procedures were in place following an excellent review led by Vice Chair Tricia Rogers; that the term of the President had been extended from two years to three years; that members of the HSS could now join UKAFHA; that work was beginning to link up Distinguished Supporters in a way that would bring them together more as BHA supporters. He drew attention to the huge growth in the number of volunteers working for the BHA.

Election to the Board of Trustees: An election of trustees was reported. In a postal ballot in which 2081 valid votes were cast, the following candidates were elected (in order of election): ASHBY, Robert; COPLEY, Tom; SHAHA, Alom; PORTER, Mary; POLLOCK, David. Thanks were expressed by all present to Alice Fuller and Allan Hayes, both of whom were leaving the Board this year.

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012: John Woolhouse (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. He drew attention to the revised reserves policy, which introduced greater financial flexibility for the BHA; and the need for fundraising was heavily underlined. The Report and Accounts for 2012 were accepted *nem con*.

Re-appointment of Auditor: The firm of Knox Cropper was reappointed as auditor *nem con*.

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

Emergency Motions: No motions had been received.

Any other Business: There was none.