

South East London Humanist Group
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
4th July 2019 at 7.30pm at New Cross Learning

Chair: Hester Brown

The Chair declared the meeting quorate with 11 (later 12) members present

Apologies

Received from our President Barbara Smoker, Tony Brewer, Denis Cobell and Colin Swinburn

Minutes of previous AGM

Having received no comments on the previous minutes, which are available on the website, these were declared final.

Chair's Report

Hester first thanked the staff at New Cross Learning for having been so welcoming and helpful since we began having our regular meetings there.

Hester showed slides of some of the events that had happened in our 2017-18 year, before mentioning some highlights from this year, including our best-attended talk in March by Dr Oliver Scott Curry on Morality as Cooperation; and Sonia Sceats of Freedom from Torture, Jane Kinninmont on International Conflicts and how to solve them, Teddy Prout from Humanists UK on the future of community services for the non-religious and Libby Oakden on food and ethics.

We had continued our social events – walks and visits, notably our June visit to Crossness Pumping Station, as well as drinks at the Catford Constitutional.

We had also celebrated the first anniversary of our Thought for the Day campaign at the BBC in June, topped off by Hester being invited to speak on the Today programme.

Hester will be meeting the local MP for Lewisham Deptford, Vicky Foxcroft, in August, to let her know of our interest in engaging with the community. Others interested in attending should let her know.

A vote of thanks was offered and resoundingly supported for Sam Becker's continuing efforts in managing the group's digital media including producing the excellent newsletter.

Treasurer's report

Libby Oakden talked the meeting through the figures shown in the accounts summary she distributed (appended to these minutes).

We have maintained cash at bank close to £600. We have not however made a payment of £100 to Uganda Humanist Schools Trust, as approved last year. It was unanimously agreed that that payment should be made and also that a similar payment be made this coming group year 2019-20.

The annual subscription will be maintained at £10.

Election of Officers

The following stand to continue in their roles, although the Chair and Treasurer can only continue as such for one more year, in accordance with the constitution requirement for retirement after three years (but this would not stop them remaining as a committee member without specific role:

Chair – Hester Brown

Treasurer – Libby Oakden

Secretary – Tony Brewer

Other committee members:

David Smart

Trevor Moore

Denis Cobell

Sam Becker

Barbara Chandler

Anna Tagliaferro

There being no other nominees, this slate is confirmed for the coming group year.

Programme of events and other actions for 2019-20

All ideas are welcome. Provisional items so far are:

- Jenny Pearce, Professor of Young People and Public Policy at the University of Bedfordshire, to speak on child sexual exploitation.
- Elaine Kasket on 'illusions of immortality in the digital age' – she is author of *All the Ghosts in the Machine*, about how our digital footprint continues after we die.
- Human rights cases currently being raised by Amnesty International, followed by group letter-writing.
- A film about end of life and how British people today manage their final days, with a talk from the film-makers.

More broadly, in relation to our continuing Thought for the Day campaign, Anna suggested we try to log all of the religious programmes in a typical week, so that we can highlight the religious bias. However, it was pointed out that the BBC speciously argue that programmes that aren't specifically religious fall into the non-religious category, so they might take some persuading.

We should perhaps do our own 'Vox Pop' of people speaking about humanism – just shorts we could post. Sam said it would be straightforward to set up a YouTube platform.

It was unanimously agreed that we would support **AFRIL** as part of our community engagement.

Amendments to the constitution

7a Under paragraph 3 - referring to the annual general meeting - This is a public meeting, anyone may attend and speak but only members of the Group will have voting rights.

It was concluded that amendment 7a was not necessary because the constitution already made it clear that only members of the group have voting rights

7b Under paragraph 3 - referring to the annual general meeting - Any member unable to attend the meeting may request the Secretary to exercise a proxy vote on their behalf. Details of their request must be received by the Secretary not later than 24 hours before the meeting.

The principle of proxies is accepted but a member should be able to appoint a specific or general proxy, so that s/he could choose just one particular item, or give the proxy the ability to vote generally.

7c Under paragraph 6 - Partnership - The Group shall be a Partner of the British Humanist Association (BHA, but now known as Humanists UK).

Agreed.

Close

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair for all of her work over the year.

2016/19 SELHuG accounts summary			
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
INCOME			
Membership subscriptions	£220.00	£162.00	£186.00
Monthly attendance subs	£317.80	£306.61	£345.45
Christmas booksale	£18.90	£28.50	£35.70
Nunhead booksale	£90.00	£102.91	£61.25
Donations	£191.00	£123.00	£129.00
Other eg Hesters's Celebrant work		£200.00	
Subs from social outings	£22.00	£28.00	£10.00
Total income	£859.70	£951.02	£767.40
EXPENDITURE			
Rent	£400.00	£345.00	£220.00
Meetup: social networking portal	£183.69	£136.33	£145.02
Affiliation fees: HUK £60, NSS: £34	£94.00	£94.00	£94.00

Donations: Action for Refugees in Lew.: £100 (*Uganda Humanist Sc. Trust: £100)	£100.00	£200.00	£200.00
Stand at Nunhead Cemetery Open Day	£25.00	£20.00	£20.00
Web upkeep	£88.00		
Expenses		£12.00	
Total expenditure	£890.69	£807.33	£679.02
Transfer of funds (+/-)	£30.99	£143.69	£88.38
BALANCE SHEET			
Brought forward	£421.00	£277.40	£189.02
Movement in year	-£30.99	£143.69	£88.38
	£0.00	£390.01	£277.40

* Pending discussion

**£75 -plus international SWIFT payment fee £13

Bank Balance	£801.49		
Accounted (Web tool**, Jun subs, May&June rent, Hum UK)	(-88+22-40-40-60)		
Cash at bank end period	£595.49		

A Big, Thank you..... to all those who made donations in cash and in kind including:

- Your donations for the group.
- Books for the Christmas and Nunhead book sales.
- Lending equipment for the Nunhead special thanks to David and Elly Lewis.
- Time – Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help at events such as Nunhead and outings, and leading walks like the Thames path walk and other trips such as
- Refreshments at socials such as the Mythmas meeting and for David Smart and others for organising tea and coffees at the monthly group meetings.

Highlights

- We are in the black the income keeping above £500 in the bank
- We've continued to donate £100 Lewisham refugee's group AFRIL (there was an opportunity for them to get match funding during week of 10th April) .
I propose we continue to donate to Uganda Humanist Schools.
- A fabulous £90 was raised from Nunhead book sale contributed to our good financial health.