

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Farnham Humanists

Held on February 18th 2024 in the Hop Blossom Pub, Long Garden Walk, Farnham GU9 7HX

12 Attendees - The AGM was quorate

Apologies: Linda Montgomery, Mike Steed, Lindsey Harris

Attending included: Belinda Schwehr - Chair, Keith Hayward, David Savage, David Hepper, Jennie Johnson, Oksana Grushkovska, Christine Hayward, Alan Montgomery, Simon Johnson, Susan Smyth, Sue Shaw

1. Approval of minutes of the last AGM

The minutes were approved nem. con.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report on the previous year's activities including community service and outreach and the book club - see AGM 2024 Powerpoint on website [Chairs AGM report 2024](#). She reported on the survey of members' views and suggestions for the group's activities as per the Powerpoint [Chairs AGM report 2024](#). The survey findings will be used for future planning.

3. Treasurer's Report and Approval of accounts

The Treasurer unfortunately was unable to attend due to sickness. Her report was presented on the previous year's finances (see [Chairs AGM report 2024](#)). Copies of the accounts had been provided to attendees at the meeting. The accounts had been agreed by an independent examiner (see below). The accounts were approved nem. con.

4. Set the Subscription Rate for the year

It was proposed to increase the membership subscription rate from £12.50 to £15.00 per person per year, starting with the next year February 2024 to February 2025. Non-members will be charged £3 for each meeting to cover guest speaker and other expenses. Both of these proposals were agreed nem.con.

5. Election of officers and committee

The Chair, Belinda Schwehr, was warmly thanked for all her work during her 3-year term as chair. Linda Montgomery who has been acting as both Treasurer and Secretary was also recognised and much appreciated by the meeting. According to the constitution the chair may only serve up to three consecutive years and then a new chair must be elected. Following a request for any other nominations, the meeting approved nem.con the following way forward:

Co -Chair: Jennie Johnson and David Hepper

Treasurer: Linda Montgomery

Agenda and Minutes secretary: Belinda Schwehr

Members secretary and walkmaster: Mike Steed

Quartermaster: Keith Hayward

Outreach and press advice: David Savage
Social secretary: Oksana Grushkovskaya

In addition

- Jennie Johnson will continue as webmaster and to advertise events through local Magazines and Meetup
- David Hepper will continue to provide web and other IT support
- Sue Shaw, who is not on the committee, kindly offered to continue to advertise in Farnham library and to provide support to our meetings

Due to moving away from the area, David Smith who has been responsible for Facebook and Jokes has resigned from the committee. No one present at the meeting felt sufficiently knowledgeable or wished to take on the Facebook role. It was decided that the Facebook group would either be put in abeyance with a referral onwards auto responding to requests to join, highlighting that before members are admitted to this group, they might like to come to a meeting and referencing the meet-up or website. Or if this is too difficult then it would be closed with current participants being signposted to the Farnham Humanist website and Meetup group.

Sue Shaw kindly thanked the whole committee for all their efforts over the past year.

6. Appointment of a member to review the accounts

John Cregan was thanked for acting as independent examiner this year, and agreed to serve again. This was accepted nem. con.

7. Approval of subs to Humanists UK, NSS and SCEHN.

It was agreed nem. con. that the group would continue to pay for affiliation to all these organisations.

In the past Humanists UK has requested £75 but they have not made any requests for the past few years. The NSS requested £34 last year and SCEHN £25. Alan Montgomery representing SCEHN indicated that there may be no fee for 2024/5.

8. AOB

The outgoing Chair Belinda Schwehr outlined the committee's current plans for future meetings.

David Savage raised the issue of a General Election coming up in the near future with new candidates standing in the local constituency. It is an opportunity to highlight to them specific issues of concern to most humanists such as Assisted Dying, mandatory collective worship in state schools and Anglican bishops in the House of Lords by right, David proposed that we encourage members to write to the different candidates to ask what their views are on these issues. The attendees concurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:15.