

## HUMANIST & SECULARIST LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

**MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE OXFORD ROOM OF THE  
HILTON METROPOLE, KINGS ROAD, BRIGHTON, BN1 2FU  
SUNDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 13:00HOURS  
(Draft, for approval at 2013 AGM)**

Dr Evan Harris was our speaker at HSLD's last meeting in Brighton just over 6 years ago. And he was with us again during our 2012 AGM – but this time as one of our joint Presidents. Paid up membership six years ago was already over 90, though we had yet to invite members to sign up by Standing Order.

*NB All votes were approved, nem con, and all nominations for election were duly proposed and seconded by paid up members.*

### **1. Apologies for absence**

The Chair reported apologies from Nick Hollinghurst and Jenny Shorten, but no other apologies were reported. Pavan Dhaliwal and Richy Thompson from the British Humanist Association, and Keith Porteous Wood from the National Secular Society, were welcomed as guests.

### **2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were available to members before the meeting. They were approved by those members present, after this was proposed by Vera Head and seconded by Sue Vincent.

### **3. Reports from the Group's 2011-2012 Officers**

Events over the past 12 months were summarised, by our 2011-12 Chair, Toby Keynes. We have markedly improved the accuracy of our members' and supporters' listings and, *en passant*, become rather more pro-active as far as our members are concerned, particularly regionally.

### **4. Consideration of Annual Accounts**

Membership subs are now collected almost entirely by Standing Orders and our funds are around £200 higher than a year ago, despite conference-related expenditure increasing markedly. The meeting also approved the accounts for calendar year 2011.

### **5. Determination of the annual subscription for 2012-13**

The committee recommended that subscriptions should remain at £10 p.a. – and members agreed (*nem con*).

### **6. Close of nominations for election to the Executive Committee**

Two members of the 2011-2 Executive Committee [Mike Pictor and Peter Kunzmann] had announced that they were not standing for re-election. A third [John White] was happy to stay on the Executive (if members wanted this) but no longer as secretary. This was a role he first took on within 6 months of our first ever meeting (which was held during the Bournemouth Federal Conference of 2004).

In the event, the current holders of the following executive positions were re-nominated and seconded by other HSLD members, whilst no one was nominated for the now vacant post of **Secretary**:

**Chair - Toby Keynes**

**Vice-chair - Vera Head**

**Treasurer - Arnie Gibbons**

**Membership Secretary – Richard Church.**

The under-named were then nominated and seconded as ordinary members of the committee:

**Sarah Green**

**Kay Kirkham**

**Jenny Shorten**

**John White.**

And members expressed their thanks to Mike Pictor and Peter Kunzmann for all their service to HSLD throughout most of its existence.

**7. Election of Executive and Ordinary Committee members to non-contested positions**

As none of the vacancies for officers were contested, and there were four candidates for the four "ordinary member" positions, the meeting elected all the above candidates, nem con.

**8. Appointment of examiner of the accounts for Calendar Year 2012**

As the re-elected Treasurer, Arnie Gibbons nominated his predecessor, Peter Dunphy as formal examiner of our accounts. This too was approved, nem con.

**9. Discussion of group activities**

There was a brief discussion of the group's activities.

**10. Nomination and Election of two Honorary Co-Presidents**

Dr Evan Harris and Paul Holmes had been nominated by the outgoing committee for re-election as our Co-Presidents.

The meeting duly re-elected both candidates nem con - though, in his absence, Paul Holmes' re-election remained subject to his consent.

**11. Any Other Business**

It was noted that the new executive committee should let the party's current executive know the names and contact details of HSLD's newly elected officers for 2012-3.

**Formal business was then closed.**

*John J. White*

**John D White, Secretary, HSLD, 2005-12**

**24 November, 2012**