

HUMANIST AND SECULARIST LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Annual General Meeting

Online Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 7 pm

MINUTES

Attendance: 26 people logged in.

1 Apologies for absence: JF, JR, JS, CL, AB

2 Minutes of the 2020 AGM: These were agreed as a true record.

3 Reports from the Executive Committee:

The Chair: The Chair reported that the organisation had had a successful year, which included responding to the party's consultation on Principles and Values, and making a submission to the Law Commission's consultation on Marriage Law. We held successful fringe meetings at the two on-line party conferences. The Autumn conference also voted to update the party's constitution so that now explicitly commits the party to opposing prejudice and discrimination based on non-religious belief, due to an amendment submitted by this organisation.

The Secretary: The Secretary, Kay Kirkham, reported that she has decided to stand down, after 8 years, as her hearing is making it difficult to continue. The Committee thanked Kay for her service.

Membership Secretary: Membership has remained steady this year. The Membership Secretary will contact the members whose standing orders have lapsed due to HSBC closing our bank account with them, to ask those members to set up new payment arrangements.

The Treasurer: The finances of the organisation remain stable with slightly reduced expenditure as online conferences are cheaper to participate in than in-person ones. Some income was lost because of our HSBC bank account being closed, resulting in the failure of affected members' standing orders. However, in the long term, having one bank account with online banking will make the finances of the organisation easier to manage.

4 Constitutional Amendment: The amendment, allowing online banking, was carried by a two thirds majority.

5 Consideration of Annual Accounts for 2019 and 2020.

The 2019 accounts had been finalised and examined since the 2020 AGM; these were represented and approved by the meeting.

The 2020 Accounts had not yet been examined. These were presented in draft form, but not voted on.

6 Determination of the annual subscription for 2022/23.

The outgoing executive recommends that the subscription remains at £10.

This proposal was passed unanimously.

7 Close of Nominations for Election of the Executive Committee

[There's no need to record when the nominations were received. In fact, at least one nomination WAS received during the meeting, from Jennie Rigg]

8 Election of Executive Committee Officers and Members to non-contested positions.

At the close of nominations, there were no contested positions and the following were each elected by a simple majority.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair: | Toby Keynes |
| Vice-Chair: | Vera Head |
| Secretary: | Sue Vincent |
| Treasurer: | Kay Kirkham |
| Membership Secretary: | Sharon Hartley |
| Four Ordinary Members: | Richard Flowers, Alistair Lichten, Jennie Rigg. (1 vacancy) |

9 Nomination and Approval of Honorary Co-Presidents

Each of the nominated candidates were approved by a two thirds majority:

Baroness Lorely Burt
Dr Julian Huppert
Christine Jardine MP

10 Honorary Co-Presidents' Comments (if any)

Julian and Lorely sent their apologies for being unable to attend; Christine, as guest speaker, saved her remarks for after the close of formal business.

11 Appointment of the examiner of the accounts for 2021.

Ed Moore was appointed.

The formal part of the meeting closed and Christine Jardine MP then gave an informative and interesting speech about her work in Parliament and, in particular, on the Assisted Dying Bill that was working its way through the parliamentary system. She then answered questions from the floor.