



MINUTES

Members present: David Cryer (Chair)(DC)

Angus Bell	Roger Borman	Eileen Bostle (EB)	Julie Crow (JC)
Brian Hodgson	Maureen Lilley	Terry Lilley (TL)	Ina McVean
John Ratcliff (JR)	Charles Rudd (CR)	Tony Thorne (TT)	

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mohamed Ali, Chris Geake and Roger Knight.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 May 2017

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

A correction has been made to the Annual Report for 2016-17, following a request from Patrick O'Dwyer (Divisional Director of Education Services) in relation to the SACRE and the new locally approved syllabus for RE.

Members approved the correction.

4. Annual Report 2017-18

This was written by JC and DC, approved by the committee meeting on 6 April 2018 and precirculated to members. The report was accepted by those present and will be shown on the website.

5. Chairman's Report

DC reported on our activities over the past year and made some proposals for future activities.

i) School visits

The number of requests for visits to schools to talk about Humanism has increased noticeably and DC, TL and JC between them have addressed nearly 1000 children over the year.

ii) Harrow SACRE

Now that the new local syllabus is being used SACRE activities are focusing on monitoring how local schools are dealing with RE in practice. It was noted that although many include some study of Humanism during the course, for the GCSE syllabus schools cover only Christianity and one other religion. An RE Commission report is to be published later this year in which there will be an expectation of "a national entitlement for RE to be normative, although non-statutory for all schools". It was noted that humanists generally are in favour of there being a National Curriculum for RE in all schools.

iii) Harrow Interfaith

This year's Holocaust Memorial has raised some ideological and organisational issues. It had a £1000 grant from Harrow Council but had also raised other amounts of money and had become difficult to control.

iv) Future plans

The monthly Wednesday meetings would continue with meetings alternately having a speaker or a discussion based around a topic. The next meeting (13 June) will feature TL on “An Introduction to Humanism” designed to attract a wider audience than just our members. The possibility of a similar event to be held in a larger venue was also considered and DC mentioned that 21 June is World Humanist Day which would be good to mark in some way. CR agreed to write a letter to the local paper about this. There is also going to be an event in the Headstone Museum for which local groups are invited to produce a crafted artefact to represent their organisation.

v) Summer outing

EB and JR are in the process of organising an outing to Oxford for 11 July.

vii) Longer term plans

DC is keen to find out more about religious courts and illegal schools in the Harrow area. It was suggested that a speaker from “One Law for All” might give us some ideas about how to approach such an investigation.

6. Treasurer’s Report

CR presented his report (see Appendix) and the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 1 April 2018. The current balance is a healthy £419.60 with a cash float of £26.00. Harrow Council have recently raised the meeting room hire charge from £8.00 an hour to £9.00 an hour so from £24.00 to £27.00 for our evening meeting. However, in view of the current balance, the Treasurer felt there was no need to raise the membership fee from the current £10.00 per annum. There was discussion of possible upcoming expenditures such as a banner and books on Humanism for schools.

7. Membership

There were 22 paid-up members at the end of the financial year. Subscriptions for 2018-19 are now due.

8. Elections of committee and officers

The current officers and committee member are willing to stand for re-election although TL would prefer not to be designated as Education Officer. The committee member (TT) who stood down for a year is also now willing to be re-elected. No other members expressed an interest in standing.

Committee for 2018-19

David Cryer: Chairman and IT Officer
Terry Lilley: Deputy Chairman
Julie Crow: Secretary
Charles Rudd: Treasurer, Membership Sec.
Eileen Bostle
Tony Thorne

9. Re-election of representatives

Humanists UK (DC and TL) but with any two members being eligible to attend the Group Representatives Annual Meeting (GRAM).

Harrow SACRE (DC)
Harrow Interfaith (DC)

10. Any other business

- i) On 22 May there will be a demonstration against the BBC policy of only allowing religious contributions to Thought for the Day.
- ii) On 24 May there is a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group on Humanist Marriages.
- iii) TL and ML are offering to host a garden party on 8 August with the proviso of being able to change the date if the weather is inclement.

11. Date of next meeting

The next AGM will be on Wednesday 8 May 2019.

JC/May 2018

Appendix

HARROW HUMANISTS: TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9 MAY 2018

Since my previous report last May, I have continued to pay monies in by Internet banking, and to pay monies out by cheque. The balance at 1 April 2018 was £419.60, and at the time of writing is £441.60. There is also a cash float of £26.

We are once again grateful to Naveen Thakur for his donation of £100.

I append my statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018. The only assets the Association holds, so far as I know, are the projector and screen purchased in October 2013 at a cost of £587.83. Assuming depreciation of 20% p.a., these assets are now worth approx. £224.

Foreseeable liabilities or commitments are the affiliation fee to Humanists UK (£25), and chairman's expenses of £92.40.

We hired the room for 7 meetings (no meetings in July, August, December, and January 2018), at a cost of £24 a time. Also, the October 2017 meeting was cancelled, and that incurred a charge of £15. We were recently informed by Harrow Council that the room hire will be increased to £27. I believe we can manage this.

I see no need to raise the subscription from the present £10.

By the end of 2017/18, we had 22 paid-up members. Since then, five members have renewed for 2018/19.

Charles Rudd,

8 May 2018