

Ely Humanists Constitution

1. NAME

The group shall be called 'Ely Humanists' (herein 'the Group').

2. STATUS

The Group shall be a Partner of Humanists UK, as defined by the Partnership Agreement between Humanists UK and the Group, of November 2017.

3. AIMS

The Group aims to:

- 3.1. Make a positive contribution to humanism locally by providing a forum for humanists to meet, to develop their knowledge and thinking, and to develop the sense of a local community of humanists within the wider community.
- 3.2. Act locally to promote and increase the understanding of humanism as a positive world view.
- 3.3. Represent atheist, humanist and secularist people in the area, and provide a balance to religious groups' influence in local affairs.

4. MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

- 4.1. The Group shall welcome anyone, regardless of ability, age, gender, race, or sexual orientation, and who has an interest in atheism, humanism or secularism.
- 4.2. Anyone who takes part in the Group's activities, or who signs up to one of the Group's mailing lists, shall be defined as a 'Supporter' of the Group. Anyone who has paid the Group's membership fee, (see point 7.2), shall be defined as a 'Member' of the Group.
- 4.3. The Group will safeguard the confidentiality of membership information, and any other information communicated in confidence by Humanists UK.
- 4.4. The Group retains the right to refuse or withdraw membership from any member who fails to support its constitution or Partnership Agreement, or who brings Humanists UK or the Group in- to disrepute.

5. MANAGEMENT

- 5.1. An executive committee ('the Committee') shall manage the Group and ensure that it:
 - 5.1.1. Pursues the Group's Aims referred to in point 3;
 - 5.1.2. Fulfils the requirements of the Humanists UK Partnership Agreement referred to in point 2.
- 5.2. The Committee shall have three elected officers ('the Officers'), including the following position below, and may co-opt up to two further committee members (CMs).
 - 5.2.1. The Chair, who shall act as chief executive officer, and as chair of the Committee and any general meetings (unless otherwise delegated);
 - 5.2.2. The Treasurer, who shall act as chief financial officer, and who shall be responsible for ensuring that the Group fulfils its financial requirements (see point 7);
 - 5.2.3. The Secretary, who shall act as the chief administrative officer, and service all committee and general meetings.
- 5.3. The Officers shall be individually elected every year at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.4. The committee is in quorum if at least three CMs are present.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1. The group shall hold an Annual General Meeting ('the AGM') in September each year, which will:
 - 6.1.1. Receive the financial accounts, which will have been scrutinised by a non-CM, and reports from the Committee for the period ending the 31st August of the same year as the AGM;
 - 6.1.2. Elect the Officers who will serve from 1st October following the AGM;
 - 6.1.3. Discuss and vote on any resolutions that have been proposed;
 - 6.1.4. Discuss and vote on any policy or constitutional items requiring ratification.
- 6.2. The Members shall be given at least six weeks' notice of AGMS.

- 6.3. Only Members as defined in point 4.2 shall have voting-rights at general meetings.
- 6.4. In any dispute concerning the affairs of the Group, a general meeting shall be the final authority.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1. As a Partner of Humanists UK, the Group is expected to:
 - 7.1.1. Maintain the financial viability of the Group;
 - 7.1.2. Decide whether or not to have a membership fee;
 - 7.1.3. Pay the annual Humanists UK Partnership fee on time.
- 7.2. There shall be an annual membership fee and a concessionary rate. A voluntary contribution will be requested at each meeting. These shall be agreed at the AGM, based on a proposal made by the Treasurer.
- 7.3. The Group may hold events explicitly for the purpose of raising funds, either for the Group or an appropriate charitable cause.
- 7.4. The income and property of the Group shall be devoted to the promotion of the Aims of the Group.
- 7.5. Any bank accounts opened for the Group shall be in the name of the Group.
- 7.6. Any payment over £15 must be approved by at least three CMs.
- 7.7. The CMs may not receive payment for their services to the Group.
- 7.8. In the event of the Group being dissolved, all remaining funds after payment of liabilities shall go to Humanists UK.

8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- 8.1 The Group may affiliate to any appropriate body, subject to approval at a general meeting.
- 8.2 The Group may not affiliate to, or publicly support, any political party.
- 8.3 Within the Group's resources and capabilities, and taking into account local circumstances, when engaging in external activities and dealing with third-parties the Group shall support Humanists UK's aims, strategy, policies and values, and will not take any action that brings humanism or Humanists UK into dispute.
- 8.4 If there is a conflict between activities in support of any other organisations the Group is affiliated or associated with, and those in support of Humanist UK's aims, values and policies, the Group will give priority to the latter.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by at least two-thirds of the Members present at a general meeting. Notice of resolutions to change the constitution must be included in the notice of the general meeting.