

Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Draft Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held at 13pm on Saturday 20th April 2013, at Lumen URC, London

Members Present: Albone; Alker, A; Anderson; Avis; Barnett, J; Barnett, W; Baxter; Bick; Bolton; Burgess; Burrell; Coaker; Cobb; Collins; Conder; Couch; Dawson; Elsbury, D; Elsbury, E; Finlayson; Goater; Goodwin, J; Goodwin, P; Goodyer; Graham; Griffiths, C; Griffiths, S; Hack; Hall; Harrison; Hell; Henstock; Hill; Hogan; Jagessar; Jerram; Jones, J; Jones, M; Leck, I; Lee; Lynds, J; Lynds, M; Marshall, C; Marshall, P; Massey; McDonald; McNeil Scott; Miller, J; Miller, J; Morley; Onslow; Playfair; Race; Reidy; Rutherford, J; Rutherford, T; Saunders, E; Saunders, R; Simmonds, C; Simmonds, J; Slater, B; Slater, J; Smith, A; Sowerbutts; Stacy, G; Stacy, M; Stein; Story, J; Story, R; Stribblehill, J; Stribblehill, P; Tanner, J; Tanner, M; Tetlow; Vivian; Vizard; Walton; Wills; Wilson; Wright; Wynn, C; Wynn, W; Yeomans (83). **The meeting was quorate.**

1. Appointment of a chair for the Annual General Meeting

In the absence of the chair, John Churcher, Paul Onslow, the honorary secretary, opened the meeting, thanking those present for their attendance. He nominated the vice chair, Angela Smith to chair the meeting. The proposal was accepted by members.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Angela Smith asked for four members to volunteer to be tellers. Mike Bick, Elaine Cobb, Iain Macdonald & Alison Morley were appointed.

3. Apologies

The following list of apologies was read out.: Acklam; Ayerst; Blount; Brown; Burchell; Carrick; Churcher; Conn; Dawes, Dawson; Evans, M; Everett; Foxall, C; Foxall, M; Gladwell; Gobledale, A; Gobledale, T; Gregory; Griffiths; Harrington, P; Harrington, S; Howe; Jones, A; Kennedy; Kraffe; Leck, A; Longbottom; MacQueen; McCulloch; Mead; Miles; Reddaway; Rees; Rominger; Slater, P; Suttle; Thomas; Ugbo; Vaughan; Webb; Wilkinson; Wilson, B; Wilson, S (43).

4. Minutes of the ninth Annual General Meeting held on 19th May 2012 at St Columba's URC, York

The minutes had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Angela Smith invited comment on the minutes from the floor. Nothing was raised. Acceptance of the minutes for the 2012 AGM was agreed by a show of hands.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. The Annual Report of PCN – Britain 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011

In the absence of the Chair, John Churcher, Angela Smith asked whether his Chair's report which had been circulated in the Annual Report prior to the meeting, could be taken as read. There was no dissent and the report was accepted overwhelmingly by a show of hands.

7. The Financial Statements of PCN – Britain 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011

Introducing his Treasurer's report, Andrew Burrell appealed to all PCN members present to try to recruit one more member. The lifeblood of an organisation like PCN is its membership, he said. He also encouraged all who could to make sure they signed a Gift Aid statement. A trustee, Richard Tetlow, urged those who attended affiliated groups but had not joined PCN Britain to consider becoming a member. Someone in the audience asked if an agnostic could join PCN. The chair replied affirmatively. Questions were asked about the size of membership and whether groups were asked to pay a subscription to PCN Britain. The Administrator said at the end of 2012 membership had stood at 573. Since then there had been over 30 new members but renewal fees were still awaited from over a hundred 2012 members. The current paid up membership was therefore about 500. The Administrator explained that PCN has a policy of asking for no financial contribution from groups since it was PCN's intention to do everything possible to promote the expansion of the group network. He said that some groups do make a small charge to those attending which is usually intended to cover refreshments and the petty expenses of the group.

The financial report was put to the membership and accepted by a show of hands.

8. Vote on a revised set of PCN “Aims”.

The proposed new wording for the PCN “Aims” had been drafted by a joint subcommittee of trustees and members and been published in Progressive Voices with an invitation to comment. Since there had been no comment, the same Aims were now reprinted on the Agenda. On the advice of the Charities Commission these Aims would not be part of the constitution, but would be regarded officially as ‘Furtherances’. This ensures that the organisation can make changes to its Aims or Furtherances from time to time without the need to rewrite the constitution.

Angela Smith thanked the members of the subcommittee for their hard work. (They were Hugh Dawes, Paul Dawson, Richard Tetlow, Maureen Foxall, Paul Onslow and Angela Smith with ex officio contributions from John Churcher as chair). She drew members’ attention to the Aims printed on the agenda and took a vote on whether to accept them. There was an overwhelming vote in favour of accepting the new Aims. There were no votes against.

9. Vote on new quorum rule to replace the current constitution clause 17.2

Paul Onslow, Hon Sec, explained that the need to change the quorum from 10% of membership to 5% was due to the increasing difficulty of getting 10% of members to a given venue, since membership had grown considerably. The matter had been referred to the Charities Commission. They had no objection to PCN switching to the lower figure. The proposal was put to the members present and there was an overwhelming vote in favour and none against.

14. Confirmation of the four candidates nominated for the Management Committee

As Angela Smith was one of the nominees this item was chaired by Paul Onslow. The names of the four candidates and their nominators and seconders were read out. The candidates were Adrian Alker, Angela Smith, Robin Story and Richard Tetlow. As there were six places available on the committee, there was no election. The appointment of the candidates were affirmed by an overwhelming show of hands.

Angela Smith thanked members for their participation and the meeting was concluded.

Signed

Hon Sec PCN Britain

Date