

Minutes for the meeting of the Human Givens Institute (HGI) Board

Meeting Location: Via Zoom

Date: Thursday 21st May 2026

Start Time: 3pm

Chair: Denise Winn (DW)

Minutes: Shelley Walker (SW)

1. **Attendees:** Ivan Tyrrell (IT), Jennifer Broadley (JB), Michelle Buckles (MB), Abigail Darling (AD), Elizabeth Nihan (EN), Graeme Layzell (GL)

2. **Apologies:**
Jane Tyrrell (JT)

3. **Declarations of Interest:**

Human Givens Foundation	IT
Human Givens Publishing	IT
Human Givens Services	JG, IT
Confirmed	Yes

4. Previous Meeting

Previous meeting minutes held on 23rd APRIL approved– all approved **Yes**

Minutes covering any confidential matters discussed at this meeting approved for director distribution only – all approved **NA**

4. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: ALL COVERED AND UPDATED

MB reported on her conversation with Ezra about the "Train the Trainer" programme, sharing insights about marketing approaches and course length considerations (eg bite size 1-2 hours as well as 4-6 hours) that could be helpful to us. MB will write up some notes so it can be discussed another time.

GL provided detailed information about membership renewal processes at BACP and NCPS, highlighting differences in how they handle lapses and registrations, which led to discussions about needing to clarify the policies, particularly around Part 2 to Part 3 transitions.

JB reported having interviewed 8 potential trustees who are willing to serve but has faced delays in getting responses from current Foundation members, particularly Stephen Hill. Ivan agreed to help expedite the process by reviewing the candidates and discussing the onboarding procedure with Ian.

5. Registration and Professional Standards (RPSC) 3.30PM- AT:

Andy provided updates on PSA complaints trends, noting that personal opinions on websites were generating increased complaints, particularly related to the Middle East conflict. A new lay member has joined the committee – their background is in mental health through the NHS and lecturing at Sheffield University.

6. CGG Report 3.50PM- Jo Baker:

Jo discussed concerns about external service delivery, particularly regarding newly qualified therapists being asked to perform tasks beyond their scope, and mentioned ongoing efforts to work with external partners to address these issues.

JB asked if we make allowances for overseas students who practise in their first language which is not English. If someone has chosen to take a course in a language, they must be aware that they will be assessed in that language. Amendments are to be made to the diploma course information on the website to reflect this.

DW asked about the retired membership category. The details are still being worked on.

AD asked about any replacement plans for CGG members and tutors who step down. Jo said that they were expanding their pool and looking for people with teaching qualifications for the latter.

7. AGENDA

A) Corporate honorary membership —JB

JB and AD agreed to collaborate on developing a corporate honorary membership framework, with JB suggesting they create a sponsorship-style package with different tiers of benefits, as different organisations may want different things.

B) Policy for data protection complaints – DW

DW presented a simple policy to meet the need to have a data protection complaints process in place by June 19th. All were happy to adopt, and it will be put on the HGI website. DW will also pass the policy through to the college to adapt for their own needs.

C) Online promotion of the HGI members' directory – Google Ads, etc. JB

This was not discussed.

D) DBS/EDBS tracking requirements for membership process review – GL

GL reported that the system offered through CareCheck for processing applications for enhanced DBS checks is up and running. The details will be announced in the May/June bulletin.

E) Review and decide on proposed fee increases for different membership categories – ALL

The May/June Bulletin will give 3 months' notice of planned fee increases as of 1st September 2026. Members will be asked to email in by the end of June with any comments.

F) College Certificates – DW

DW will ask Gareth if he is willing to sign as Education Director and, once agreed, arrange this through Design.

G) Conference – online version – DW

DW reported highly positive feedback, although some people would like outside speakers. Plans for offering individual sessions again with same speakers online, so that those who couldn't be at the conference can attend, were discussed. DW to work with Gareth on practicalities and costings to present to the board.

G) Group to discuss AI and therapy – AD

AD suggested that there are a lot of people interested in the subject and it would be good to have a working group of HGI members to brainstorm ideas. A call out will go in the next bulletin for anyone interested in joining.

UPDATES:

7) Clinical Governance Group (CGG): Board liaison DW

Nothing further to report.

8) HG Group Merger: JB

Nothing further to report.

9) RPSC Liaison: MB

Nothing further to report.

10) HGI Administration: EN

Membership

A number of practical issues were addressed/resolved. A member has suggested that it would be helpful if there could be a checklist of things that need to be sorted out before retiring from practice. This was thought a good idea. DW has offered to draft one and present to the CGG for their comments.

11) Partnership of Counselling and Psychotherapy Bodies (PCPB): GL

GL said that the commission is now starting to hold regional meetings; he will be going to the one in Wales and wondered if JB would like to attend in Scotland, and EN as well.

12) Membership Figures APRIL:

MHGI scoped column A

Practising – 286

Non-Practising – 9

MHGI scoped column B

Practising – 9

MHGI scoped column C

Practising – 5

Total MHGI Practising members = 300

Total MHGI Non-Practising members = 9

FHGI scoped column A

Practising – 8

Non-Practising – 4

FHGI scoped column B

Practising – 1

FHGI scoped column C

Practising – 1

Total FHGI Practising members = 10

Total FHGI Non-Practising members = 4

GHGI Trainees

Practising – 50

Non-Practising – 7

13) Finance/Audit Update: JB/MB

The group discussed financial challenges, noting that conference revenue stands at only £7,000 this year, and explored options for making future conferences more financially viable by potentially offering both in-person and online attendance options at the same price point.

14) Any Other Business:

National Council of Hypnotherapy and HGI email address – DW

An inaccurate advert has appeared in the National Council for Hypnotherapy's journal, comparing other organisations' (including HGI) membership benefits unfavourably to their own. DW reported that she had written asking for a correction to be printed and the ad not to be run again. She had heard nothing, a week later. It was agreed that DW should now write to them again, saying that we would raise a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority if no response has been received within a week. It was also agreed to change the chairsupport@hgi.org.uk email address to hgiboard@hgi.org.uk, as this will make it easier when using that account to send emails from HGI directors.

'New mental health strategy' MB

MB alerted the board to an opportunity to offer ideas and examples of good practice to inform the call for evidence for the new government strategy. There will be a link to the government survey in the next bulletin, encouraging members to respond.