



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity
Held On
Thursday 27 September 2018 at 6.30pm
At
Stanley House, Manchester Road, Audenshaw**

Present:

RWBro Sir David Trippier, President
VWBro DN Thornhill, Deputy President
WBro CA Northcott, Chairman of the Board & Chairman of The Grant Making Committee
WBro JS Brownson, Honorary Treasurer
WBro PJ Price, Honorary Secretary
WBro D Lightbown, Chairman - Committee of Benevolence & Hewlett Court Advisory Committee
WBro MW Davis, Provincial Grand Almoner
WBro AK Mulhearn, Provincial Grand Charity Steward
Mrs. J Ward, Non-executive director
WBro W R Waite, Non-executive director

The total attendance of 90 members represented 58 Lodges and 32 Chapters.

In attendance also was Tim Elston, a Partner in the firm of the Auditors, Percy Westhead & Co. A number of ladies were also in attendance on the evening.

Introduction by the President:

The President opened the Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity at 6.30pm by welcoming the Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren present.

The Honorary Secretary, at the request of the President, explained the 'signing-in' arrangements to representative Members and confirmed the availability within the room of copies of the previously circulated Annual Report. The President said that in advance of the formal business of the AGM there was to be a presentation from one of the organisations that the Charity had supported with a financial grant.

The demonstration then commenced by the Salle Angelo Fencing Club of Rochdale. The ELMC supported the Club with a grant for scoring equipment in 2016 and the Club provided entertainment at the recent Abseil Challenge. This year the ELMC have supported the Club with a further grant for laser pistols and travel targets. Paul Marr of the Club introduced the demonstration team.

Next to make a presentation was Miss Charlotte Hulson. Charlotte, since losing both her parents, has been a Masonic Beneficiary for 12 years. Charlotte spoke about the support she has received from ELMC and MCF (RMTGB). Roger Tinker, Chairman of the Young People's Committee, introduced Charlotte.

The President thanked Paul Marr representing the Salle Angelo Fencing Club and Charlotte Hulson for their excellent presentations.



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

The President introduced the AGM and handed over to the Chairman, WBro Chad Northcott, to undertake the formal business of the evening.

Agenda

1 To receive apologies.

The Chairman stated that the Notice for this evening's Annual General Meeting, and the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 had been distributed in advance to those Members that use e-mail. Other Members had been provided with material by post.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Wednesday 27 September 2017, the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 and the Notice in respect of this Annual General Meeting had all been published on the Charity's website.

In the absence of any objections the Notice convening the Annual General Meeting was taken as read.

Apologies for absence were reported by the Hon. Secretary and have been recorded separately.

2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2017

The Chairman drew attention to the circulated minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and enquired whether they were an accurate record of what took place on that occasion.

It was proposed by WBro WR Waite and seconded by WBro D Lightbown that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 September 2017, which had been distributed in advance, be agreed as a true and correct record. This proposition was approved unanimously. There were no matters arising.

3 To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2017

The Honorary Treasurer, WBro Jonathan Brownson, referred the meeting to the Annual Report detailing the annual accounts, and the notes and comments on those accounts, as follows:

Mr President, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Brethren.

The Group's unrestricted total income was £1.041m in the year, a decrease of £201.6k on the previous year, with costs increasing by £22.3k to £1.015m. This resulted in a surplus of £25,649 compared with a surplus of £249,554 in 2016 and a surplus of £740,213 in 2015. You will recall that the 2015 results included a gain from the disposal of our interest in Bridge Street in the sum of £906,280. Without this there would have been a deficit in 2015 of £166,067.

Other gains and losses relate to the movement in investments and show net gains of £170,734, compared with net gains of £164,758 in the previous year.

The value of investments had increased by £200,627, compared with an increase of £286,911 in the previous year.



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

The Group's total unrestricted net assets have increased since 2016 by £192,059 to £4.82m, compared with an increase of £430,435 in the previous year.

Looking at each individual part of the Charity, I would comment as follows: -

The Charity's unrestricted income reduced during the year by £201,629. The increase in 2016 was £243,038. This fall is mainly due to a reduction in legacy income and grants from MCF. Legacies fell by £133,265 to £35,117. I would stress that we are always extremely grateful for such legacies and a significant one has been bequeathed and will be received during the current year. Grants from MCF fell by £74,273 to £40,437, with a corresponding reduction in the grants made. A total surplus from Hewlett Court has once again helped the position, although this contribution reduced by £53,360 in 2017. Donations from individual Freemasons, Lodges and Chapters were up by £1,989 to £226,233. This follows an increase of £117,115 in the previous year and an increase of £23,848 in 2015, mainly accounted for by the cessation of the Festival during 2015. Investment income fell in 2017 by £7,183 to £64,287.

Turning to Hewlett Court, the residential home, owned and operated by the Charity. Income from residents increased by £24.7k but costs increased by £64.4k, resulting in an operating profit of £48,052, compared with a profit in 2016 of £91,233, the previous year. The main reason for the increase in costs is due to additional repair and renewal costs incurred in the year of £ 45.6k. With depreciation of £33k in the year, the contribution to ELMC amounted to £15,036 compared with £54,720 in the previous year. In addition, donations received directly by Hewlett Court, not included in the numbers just quoted, amounted to £4,000 in 2017, compared with £18,176 in 2016. The accommodation has a maximum of 44 residential places and there is a significant waiting list.

The Hall Company ceased trading in May 2015 and so there are therefore no results to incorporate. The Hall Company was removed from the Register of Companies in 2017.

The overall Balance Sheet of the Charity shows unrestricted funds of £4,819,954 and restricted funds of £31,958 relating to the Disaster Relief Fund, giving total funds of £4.852m. This is an increase of £175,787 from the previous year.

Lastly, this will be my last report as a member of the Board and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the fantastic support that I have received as its Treasurer for the last 6 years. Extra special thanks to Julie, Karen, Ann and Fiona and our auditors for all bearing with me.

I wish my successor, the Charity and the Board continued success.

Questions were invited.

No questions were put to the Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his presentation of the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities.



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

4 To receive the Auditors Report.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tim Elston a Partner at Percy Westhead and Co, to the meeting and invited him to make his Report. Mr Elston indicated that he did not propose to go through the whole of the accounts but would be happy to answer questions. Mr Elston then read out the Auditor's opinion contained within the Annual Report and Financial Statements. There were no questions from the floor. The Chairman thanked Mr Elston and his colleagues for their attention as the Auditors of the Charity's accounts.

5 Resolution to Adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The Chairman explained that the Annual Reports, as contained in the printed booklet, previously distributed and available in hard copy that evening had been considered in detail and approved by the ELMC Board at a meeting that had taken place on Thursday 30 August 2018; he proposed that they be formally adopted. The President seconded the proposal and Members present voted unanimously in favour of the proposition. The Accounts were adopted with thanks given by the Chairman to Jonathan Brownson for his management of the accounts during the year.

The Chairman announced that Jonathan Brownson was to retire as Treasurer of the Charity at this Meeting. The Chairman went on to state that Jonathan had been Treasurer since 2012 and his service had been very much valued.

The Chairman said that if elected Jonathan's successor was to be David Cowen, David will be known to many of you. The Chairman stated that David had a professional and Masonic pedigree of the highest order. David was a Chartered, and Chartered Certified, Accountant of longstanding and Co-principal in a specialist accountancy practice. David was a former District Secretary, Deputy District Chairman, Deputy Provincial Director of Ceremonies and as from the Craft Meeting in November 2018 would be the Provincial Grand Junior Warden. Jonathan and David had been working together within the Charity for several months and David has been an invitee to the recent Meetings of the Board.

6. To Elect Directors.

The Chairman described the Board structure comprising between 12 and 15 Trustees, up to 11 of whom are elected at each Annual General Meeting.

The four 'ex officio' Directors were the Provincial Grand Master as President of the Charity, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master as Deputy President of the Charity, the Provincial Grand Almoner and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

Members were reminded that at the annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on 15 November 2018 there are to be certain retirements and appointments. Those changes would influence the composition of the Charity's Board of Directors.

The proposals for decision were that:



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

Derek Nelson Thornhill standing down as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Chairman of the Charity but remaining as a Non- Executive Director of the Charity.

On being invested Deputy Provincial Grand Master, John Farrington joining the Board.

On being invested as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Mark Davis, retiring as a Director and his successor as Provincial Grand Almoner, David Hudson, joining the Board.

On being invested Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Stephen Clark, joining the Board with Kirk Mulhearn, the current holder of that Provincial Office, then retiring.

The Chairman thanked Derek Thornhill as Deputy President of the Charity who had been a Director since 2012. He also thanked Mark Davis, who had been the longest member of the Board as a Director since 2007

Thanks, were given to Kirk Mulhearn for his work as a Director since 2017

The nominations for the elected Directors were;

Chad A Northcott	Chairman of the Board & Chairman of The Grant Making Committee
Philip Price	Honorary Secretary
David Cowen	Honorary Treasurer
Mark Davis	Provincial Grand Almoner
Kirk Mulhearn	Provincial Grand Charity Steward
David Lightbown	Chairman - Committee of Benevolence & Chairman Hewlett Court Advisory Committee
Robert SC Mitchell	Chairman - Museum Committee
Julie Ward	Non-executive director
William R Waite	Non-executive director

The President, RWBro Sir David Trippier proposed that the nominated Brethren and Lady be elected to the Board of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity for the ensuing year. The Deputy President VWBro Derek N Thornhill, seconded the proposition.

All present voted in favour. The Chairman thanked those elected for their past service and for agreeing to continue to serve the Charity by acting as Directors.

7. To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year.

The Chairman stated that the current Auditors, Percy Westhead & Co., had signified their willingness to continue in office for a further year if elected. The Chairman gave his thanks for the work they had undertaken on behalf of the Charity and the service they had provided. The Chairman invited a proposition that they be re-elected for the ensuing year. This was duly made by WBro MW Davis seconded by WBro AK Mulhearn and carried by the Members.

The Chairman confirmed the reappointment of Percy Westhead & Co as Auditors of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity for the ensuing financial year.



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

8. To appoint Members of the Committee of Benevolence

The Chairman introduced the next agenda item; to appoint the Members of the Committee of Benevolence. The Hon. Secretary read the names of the Brethren to be appointed as members of the Committee for the forthcoming year: -

David Lightbown	Chairman
Jeff Ward	Deputy Chairman – Burnley & Pendle
Michael Bluer	Bury
Ronald Gridley	Bolton
Alston Hall	Rochdale
Brian Reynolds	Ashton & Mossley
David Platt	Oldham
Frank Salt	East Ribble
Nigel Johnson	Audenshaw
Alan Potts	Salford
Elliot Moss	Manchester Districts
Julie Ward	ELMC Director of Operations

In addition to those Brethren (and Lady) it was reported that the Provincial Grand Almoner, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Hon Secretary and Chairman of the Comforts Fund are ‘ex-officio’ members of the Committee

9. To appoint members of the Grant Making Committee.

The Chairman introduced the next agenda item; to appoint the Members of the Grant Making Committee. The Hon. Secretary read the names of the Brethren to be appointed as members of the Committee for the forthcoming year: -

Chad Northcott	Chairman
Stephen Clark	Provincial Grand Charity Steward Designate
Gerry Russell	Communications Officer
Karen Hall	Secretary
Brian J. Carter	
David Lightbown	
Peter Faulkner	
David Dunn	
Rev David Halford	
Sir David Trippier	President
Derek N Thornhill	Deputy President

10. To note the appointment of members to the following Committees

The Chairman observed that within the Membership there was a range of talents, skills and abilities and the Charity was always keen to determine if there were Brethren able and willing to work on one of the Committees. The Charity was always pleased to receive nomination for the consideration of the President. Nominations were to be made via the Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman asked the Hon. Secretary to read the names of those Brethren who were to be



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

members of the several Committees. Those names were read by the Secretary as follows: -

Fund Raising Committee

Kirk Mulhearn	Chairman, Provincial Grand Charity Steward
Philip Price	Deputy Chairman
Julie Ward	ELMC Director of Operations
Stephen Clark	The Provincial Grand Charity Steward Designate
Paul Sellars	Secretary
Gerry Russell	
Chris Wildman	
Steven Graham	
Nigel Johnson	
John Thornhill	
Dennis Schiff	
Michael H. Clare	
John Lees	
Sir David Trippier	President
Derek N Thornhill	Deputy President
Chad A Northcott	ELMC Chairman

Hewlett Court Advisory Committee

David Lightbown	Chairman
Ian Whitehead	Deputy Chairman
Julie Ward	ELMC Director of Operations
Beverley Schofield	Manager
Chris Wildman	Treasurer
David Garnett	
Dennis Heskett	Secretary

Comforts Fund Sub-Committee

Charles B Ward	Chairman
Mahtarr Samba	
Dennis Gilmore	
David Platt	

The Chairman remarked that the Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence is an "ex Officio" member of the Comforts Fund Sub-Committee.

Young Peoples Sub-Committee

Roger Tinker	Chairman
Edward Smethurst	
Paul T. Doran	
Gary O'Neil	
Chris Creelman	
Ray Evans	
Richard Riley	
Howard Alderson-Perkins	



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

Karen Hall
Julie Ward

ELMC Director of Operations

Investment Committee

John Scott
Ian Connor

Chairman
Secretary

Derek Calrow
David Rothburn

David Cowen

Hon Treasurer

Robert Race of WH Ireland Ltd attended to offer advice on investments.

The Chairman thanked all those who had agreed to serve on the committees for the coming year. He added thanks to the retiring members of the ELMC Committees for their valuable work without which the Charity could not continue.

11. Any Other Business.

The Chairman invited items from the floor under Any Other Business but of which there were none.

12. To Close the meeting.

The Chairman handed the meeting back to The President.

The President on behalf of the Board of Directors gave thanks to all who worked on the Committees and helped with social functions and events. In concluding the formal business of the Annual General Meeting, the President extended an invitation to attendees to join him in the provided refreshments.