



The East Lancashire Masonic Charity

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity held on Thursday **26 September 2019 at 6.30pm** at Stanley House, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, M34 5GB.

Present

RWBro Sir David Trippier	President
VWBro John Farrington	Vice President
WBro C A Northcott	Chairman & Chairman Grant Committee
WBro Philip J Price	Honorary Secretary
WBro David Cowen	Honorary Treasurer
WBro David Lightbown	Chairman of Committee of Benevolence & Chairman Hewlett Court Advisory Committee
WBro David Hudson	Provincial Grand Almoner
WBro Steven Clark	Provincial Grand Charity Steward
VWBro Derek N Thornhill	Director
WBro Stephen Thomson	Director
Mrs Julie Ward	Director

The total attendance of 83 members represented 57 Lodges and 26 Chapters. Also in attendance was Andrew Warren of Percy Westhead Co, Auditor.

The President, RWBro Sir David Trippier, opened the Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity at 6.30 pm, and offered a warm welcome to all the Brethren and visitors in attendance.

The President then asked the Hon Secretary to explain the signing-in arrangements, the availability of copies of the Annual Report presented this year in a souvenir package and the entitlement to vote restricted to those attending as 'representative members.

The President explained that before the commencement of the formal business of the AGM there would be two presentations each one being an example of the way in which the Charity carried out its work and made differences to lives.

ELMC had sponsored several members to attend the International Scouts' Jamboree this year, in Virginia. Jamboree attendees assisted by their Leader, Steve McNee, gave a presentation with slides showing their unique life experience.

The President gave words of thanks to Steve McNee representing the Scouts

There are almost 70 young beneficiaries of the Charity and a group of them 'gave something back' when they arranged the Peel Tower Abseil Challenge and Hewlett Court Open Day in 2018. There was a presentation with slides hosted by Roger Tinker, the Chairman of the Young People's Committee acknowledging the donation of £15,000 to the Charity

The President gave words of thanks to Roger Tinker representing Young People.

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

Agenda

1 Notice of AGM and ancillary documents – Apologies for Absence

The Chairman stated that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Thursday 27 September 2018, the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018, the existing Articles of Association and the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association had all been published on the Charity's website as has the formal Notice of the AGM.

Notice of this AGM setting out the Agenda items and signposting access to ancillary documents had been distributed individually to those Members using e-mail and by post to those members who do not.

In the absence of any objections the Notice convening this Annual General Meeting was stated by the Chairman to be taken as read.

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

2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2018

The Chairman drew attention to the published and circulated and minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2017 and enquired of the Meeting if they were an accurate record of what took place on that occasion. There was no dissent.

It was proposed by WBro Derek Thornhill and seconded by VWBro John Farrington that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2018, which had been distributed in advance be agreed as a true and correct record. The 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 2018

The Chairman observed that Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the notes on the Accounts were included in the Annual Report that had been made available and circulated in electronic and hard copy form.

The Treasurer, WBro David Cowen referred the meeting to the Annual Report detailing the annual accounts, and the notes and comments on those accounts.

(See attached typewritten copy of the Treasurer's report delivered during the meeting)

Questions were invited. There were no questions.

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

4 To receive the Auditors Report.

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Warren of Percy Westhead and Co to the meeting and invited him to make his Report. Mr. Warren indicated that he did not propose to go through the whole of the accounts but would be happy to answer questions. There were no questions. Mr. Warren then read out the Auditor's opinion contained within the Annual Report and Financial Statements. The Chairman thanked Mr. Warren 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 2018.

The Chairman explained that the Annual Reports as contained in the printed booklet, published on the Charity's website and available in hard copy that evening had been considered in detail and approved by the Charity's Board at a meeting that took place on 30 August 2019; 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 to Treasurer, David Cowen for his management of the accounts during the year.

6 Resolution to Amend the Articles of Association of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity

The Chairman explained to the Meeting that the Board of Directors had proposed that the Charity should amend the existing Articles of Association to encompass changes proposed to the membership of the Committee of Benevolence; to simplify that Committee so as to allow it to operate more efficiently and also to more properly reflect the current operations of the Charity and its various Committees which had changed since the current Articles were first adopted.

The Chairman declared that the existing Articles of Association had been on the Charity's website and the Articles of Association as proposed had appeared there too since publication of the Notice of the AGM.

Hard copies of each had been circulated.

The Chairman observed that the Articles as proposed would make no fundamental changes to the way in which the Charity was to deliver its primary functions and core activities. The changes were directed towards re-alignment of the past with the present, resolving uncertainties, streamlining processes and making efficiencies.

Discussion had been encouraged. There had been no written notices of objection.

The Chairman stated that the Board recommended the proposed Articles to the Meeting for adoption and he was to make such a proposition

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that as with all the other voting situations that evening only a Representative Member has an entitlement to vote upon the proposition.

Before proceeding with his proposition, the Chairman invited questions with respect to the Articles There were no questions.

The Chairman proposed that the Articles of Association as published on 2 September 2019 as amended Articles of Association be adopted as the Articles of Association of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity. WBro David Lightbown seconded the proposal. The Members present voted unanimously in favour of the proposition.

7 To Elect Directors.

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

The four 'ex officio' Directors are 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.

The Chairman announced that the nominations for the elected Directors were

Sir David Trippier	President
John Farrington	Deputy President
Chad A Northcott	Chairman of the Board & Chairman of The Grant Making Committee
Philip Price	Honorary Secretary
David Cowen	Honorary Treasurer
David Lightbown	Chairman - Committee of Benevolence & Chairman Hewlett Court Advisory Committee
Stephen Thomson	Chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee
Robert SC Mitchell	Chairman Museum Committee
Mrs Julie Ward	Director of Operations
Derek Thornhill	
William R Waite	
David Hudson	Provincial Grand Almoner
Steve Clark	Provincial Grand Charity Steward
Stephen Thomson	

The President proposed that the nominated Brethren and Lady be elected to the Board for the ensuing year. The Deputy President, VWBro Farrington, seconded the proposition. The Members present voted unanimously in favour of the proposition. The President thanked those elected for their past service and for agreeing to serve the Charity by acting as its Directors.

8 To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year.

The Chairman stated that the present Auditors, Percy Westhead & Co had signified their willingness to continue in office if elected. A proposal was to be put to the Meeting but before doing so the Chairman stated that he would like to thank the Auditors for their services. WBro Steve Clarke proposed that Percy Westhead & Co be appointed Auditors for the ensuing year. WBro David Hudson seconded the proposition.

The Members present voted unanimously in favour of the proposition and the Chairman

confirmed the reappointment of Percy Westhead & Co as Auditors to the Charity for the ensuing financial year.

9 To Appoint Members of the Committee of Benevolence

The Chairman introduced the Committee of Benevolence Agenda item; to appoint the Members of the Committee of Benevolence.

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that there was ordinarily a representative proposed from each District within the Province. A number of those being proposed were also Provincial Welfare Officers.

The Secretary read the names of the Brethren who were to be appointed to the Committee of Benevolence for the forthcoming year:

David Lightbown	Chairman
Frank Salt	Northern Area
Brian Reynolds	Southern Area
Alston Hall	Eastern Area
Mike Bluer	Western Area
Elliot Moss	Manchester Area
Alan Potts	Salford Area
Julie Ward	ELMC Director of Operations

In addition to those Brethren and Lady the Provincial Grand Almoner, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, the Honorary Secretary of the ELMC and the Chairman of the Comforts Fund Committee were “ex officio” members of the Committee. A Guest Almoner is also invited from the Mark Degree.

10 To Appoint Members of the Grant Making Committee.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to read the names of the Brethren who were to be appointed as members of the Grant Making Committee for the forthcoming year.

Chad Northcott	Chairman
John R Farrington	Deputy President
Steve Clark	Provincial Grand Charity Steward (ex officio)
David Hudson	Provincial Grand Almoner (ex officio)
Gerry Russell	Communications Officer
Karen Hall	Secretary
Brian Carter	
David Lightbown	
Peter Faulkner	
David Halford	
David Dunn	

11 To Appoint the members of the Fund-Raising Committee

The Chairman asked the Secretary to read the names of the Brethren who were to be appointed as members of the Fund-Raising Committee for the forthcoming year.

Stephen Thomson	Chairman
Philip Price	Deputy Chairman
Julie Ward	ELMC Director of Operations
Steve Clark	The Provincial Grand Charity Steward (ex officio)
David Hudson	The Provincial Grand Almoner (ex officio)
Paul Sellers	Secretary
Gerry Russell	
Chris Wildman	
Steven Graham	
Nigel Johnson	
John Thornhill	
Dennis Schiff	
Michael Clare	
Tony Stephenson	

12 Appointment of Members to serve on the other Committees' and Sub-Committees' during the ensuing year

The Chairman observed that within the Membership there was a range of talent, skills and abilities. The Charity was always keen to determine if there are Brethren who are

able and who would be willing to work on a Committees. The Charity would be pleased to receive via the Secretary nominations for the consideration of the President.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to read the names of those Brethren who have been appointed to serve on the other Committees for the forthcoming year.

Hewlett Court Advisory Committee

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

Comforts Fund Sub-Committee

Charles B Ward	Chairman
Mahtarr Samba	
Dennis Gilmore	
David Platt	

The Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence is an “ex Officio” member of this sub-Committee.

Young Peoples Sub-Committee

Roger Tinker	Chairman
Edward Smethurst	
Paul T. Doran	
Gary O’Neill	
Chris Creelman	
Ray Evans	
Howard Alderson-Perkins	
Karen Hall	Secretary
Julie Ward	ELMC Director of Operations

Investment Committee

John Scott	Chairman
Ian Connor	Secretary
Derek Calrow	
David Rothburn	
David Cowen	Hon Treasurer

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

The Chairman gave his thanks to Julie Ward and Karen Hall for their most valuable work.

13 Any Other Business.

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

The Chairman handed conduct of the meeting back to the President

14 To Close the Meeting

The President said that on behalf of the Board of Directors he wished to thank all those who worked on Committees and helped with fund raising activities, social functions and events. The contribution was of benefit and very important to the Charity's function. The President closed the Meeting with an invitation to all attendees to partake in the provided refreshments.