



East Lancashire Masonic Charity

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MINUTES OF THE EAST LANCASHIRE MASONIC CHARITY **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd SEPTEMBER 2022**

The Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity was opened at 6:30 pm with an introduction by the President.

The President of the Charity, RWBro Robert I Frankl, Provincial Grand Master, welcomed Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity ('ELMC') and expressed his thanks to all attendees for their presence and showing their support to ELMC - the Province's own Charity.

The President said that the Province is currently 'in Festival', with an Appeal hoping to raise some £2.4M over a 5 year period. The President said that the ELMC and the Province work closely with the Masonic Charitable Foundation ('MCF'), who in turn offer ELMC a £10,000 annual matched funding allowance to support ELMC local charity endeavours. Before starting the AGM proper, the President introduced two presentations that highlighted how the ELMC had successfully taken advantage of its partnership with the MCF.

The President informed the Meeting that "Jolly Josh" was a charity that had received £3,498 from the ELMC Grant Making Committee and £3498 matched funding from the MCF. With the grant Jolly Josh had purchased a magic carpet interactive projection system.

The President introduced Sarah Ford, as the Jolly Josh Centre Manager, and Lillie Winterbottom, as the Jolly Josh Community Fund Raiser; who were to tell the Meeting about the gift and the way in which the Jolly Josh charity had benefitted. The Jolly Josh Charity was based in Rochdale and provided dedicated peer support and safe spaces for children, young adults and carers of children with profound multiple learning difficulties and special needs. The funds had been used to provide Magic Carpet apparatus; this was form of projection facility that that was being used by children with disabilities that were in the charity's Stay and Play programme. Images of the

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magic carpet formed on the floor and there was interactive participation by the children using the facility, which offered stimulation and opportunities for learning. Meeting attendees were given a demonstration of the equipment.

The President thanked the Sarah Ford and Lillie Winterbottom for their presentation and was pleased that the gift has assisted the charity in its work.

The President announced that the second presentation was to be by Richard Baron, the Chairman of the “9th Heywood (St Michael’s) Scout Group” who had received £2,867.50 towards the installation of acoustic panelling in their newly constructed head-quarters and an additional £1000 from the MCF (under the matched funding scheme).

Richard Baron spoke of the newly constructed Scout head-quarters at Dixon Fold, Bamford, Rochdale. The Grand Opening of the building by the Mayor of Rochdale on 20 November 2022 before some 150 friends, supporters and sponsors represented the culmination of some 25 years of fund-raising effort. The Scout Group had been operating in the community for over 50 years working with young people from 8 to eighteen years old. The old premises had become unsuitable. There was the proposal to build a new facility where the original building stood. A ‘Buy a Brick’ Scheme had been very successful in raising money. There had been grants from the Local authority and donations from business sponsors. Local Freemasons had been interested in the project. As the building took shape and neared completion various needs were identified one of which was the provision of acoustic panelling. Rochdale Freemasons has sponsored an application to the ELMC Grant Making Committee. The Committee had approved the Grant with an additional £1000 funded by the MCF. The new head-quarters provided an opportunity for young people to engage with the Scout movement and other groups. The new centre had become an important focus in the Scouting movement, in education and in the local community and was also now being used by other community interests. Richards Baron thanked the Freemasons for their donations.

The President thanked Richard Baron for his presentation.

The President said that he was to open the formal business of the Annual General Meeting.

The President invited Philip Price as Honary Secretary to take a register of attendees and explain the procedure as to voting not in person but through an Appointed Representative.

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Philip Price said how pleasing it is to see so many present upon this our first ELMC AGM conducted in person since the pandemic. Philip Price referred to the 'signing in' Registers, Blue for Craft Representatives and Red for Chapter Representatives, that were set out at the reception tables. Philip Price went on to explain the voting process. During the course of the evening there were to be a number of propositions put to the Meeting as shown in the Agenda. Representative Members of Lodges and Chapters are qualified to vote and entitled to vote. The full details of qualification and entitlement to vote are set out in the Articles of Association of the Charity at Paragraphs 3,17, & 28. For the benefit of the wider audience Philip Price went on to say that a Representative Member will in the first instance be the Almoner nominated by the Lodge or Chapter or if non then its Charity Steward or any other nominee of the Lodge or Chapter as notified to the Charity.

There are also other Representative Members qualified by reason of their function within the administration of the Charity It was explained that each Representative has the one vote and voting was ordinarily by show of hands in person. The Articles provide for a Representative Member to vote by proxy. Those Representative Members not able to be present at this evening's Meeting this evening had been invited to vote by proxy. Philip Price confirmed that proxy votes had been received in respect of this Meeting,

Philip Price handed back to the President.

The President informed the Meeting that he was to ask Chad Northcott, the Chairman of ELMC, to Chair the formal business of the Annual General Meeting Agenda.

Chad Northcott thanked the President and began to address the Agenda items

Agenda

1 Notice of AGM and ancillary documents – Apologies for Absence

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 30th September 2021 and the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 had all been published on the Charity's website as had the formal Notice of this AGM.

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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.

The Chairman said that he was to take the Notice convening this Annual General Meeting as read unless there are any objections.

There were no objections.

The Chairman asked the Honorary Secretary, Philip Price, to read out apologies for absence.

Philip Price told the Meeting that there were several apologies that had been received by intending attendees many of whom were on other Masonic business. Those apologies had been recorded but in the interests of expediency those apologies were not be read.

2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th September 2021.

The next business on the Agenda was to approve the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30th September 2021.

The Chairman said that those Minutes were circulated to Members with the Notice of this meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any corrections, or suggested amendments to the Minutes? There were none.

The Chairman called upon WBro David Lightbown to make a proposition that the minutes be approved, and WBro William Waite to second the proposal.

The Proposition was put to the Meeting and seconded and a vote was taken.

The proposition was carried by the majority of those entitled to vote.

The Chairman declared the proposition carried and the Minutes approved.

The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising. There were none.

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3 To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2021

The Chairman said that the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the notes on the accounts have been circulated and were available on the Charity's website.

The Chairman invited the Honorary Treasurer WBro David Cowen, to summaries the accounts and offer some explanatory comments.

The Treasurer said that the Accounts comprised four strands being Donations, Hewlett Court, Investments, and Legacies. The pandemic had had its influence. The refurbishment at Hewlett Court was complete with full occupancy. There were no concerns.

The Chairman invited questions. There were none.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his presentation.

4 To receive the Auditors Report.

The Chairman turned to Item 4 on the Agenda which was to receive the Auditor's Report. The Chairman said that he was pleased to advise the Meeting one of the Auditors was present this evening and he asked Andrew Warren, who is a Partner of Percy Westhead and Co, to read the audit opinion.

Andrew Warren read out the Auditors opinion.

The Chairman invited questions on the Accounts and Reports of the Charity's activities, and pointed out that all the Committee Chairmen are present. There were none.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Auditors - Andrew Warren and Timothy Elston.

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5 Resolution to Adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The Chairman said that in his capacity of Chairman of ELMC, he proposed that the Annual Report and the Statement of Financial Activities, which have been approved by your Board at its meetings be adopted.

The President was invited to Second the proposal and did so.

The proposition was put to the vote.

The proposition was carried by the majority of those entitled to vote.

The Chairman declared the proposition carried and the Annual Report and the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021 were adopted.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Treasurer for his work.

6 To Elect Directors.

The Chairman said that the next item on the Agenda was the election of Directors to the Board of the ELMC. The Chairman explained that Board structure comprised 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 (Robert Ian Frankl) as President of the Charity, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (John Richard Farrington) as Deputy President of the Charity, the Provincial Grand Almoner (David Hudson) and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward (Robert Findlay).

The Chairman invited the President to identify his nominees and make a proposition that they be elected as Directors of the Board.

The President said that before that item of business he wished to address the Meeting. The President said that he wished to thank Derek Thornhill who was to retire as a Director on the Board today for all his work. The President went on to say that Derek Thornhill had served the ELMC in various capacities for more than 20 years, joining the Board in 2004. Derek was asked by the President at the time, Paul Rink, to rebrand the former ELMBI, which with a lot of assistance they did, and we now have the ELMC as we

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know it. Derek was also instrumental in establishing the Community Fund Committee (now the Grants Committee) and until November 2020 was our Deputy President. In that capacity Derek worked with Paul Rose and Martin Caller for over 10 years, representing the ELMC during the Leasing and Development of Manchester Hall, and the refurbishment of the 3rd floor for Freemasonry. The President said that Derek is his good friend of his, of the Charity, and of the Province, and that he was sure that Derek's knowledge and wise counsel would be available to us in the future should we have need.

There was loud applause.

The President returned to the business of the Annual General Meeting and the proposition.

The President said that in addition to including the four ex officio Directors as previously identified by the Chairman, his nominations to be elected as Directors are:

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
Peter L Nicholson	Chairman - Museum Committee
Mrs Julie Ward	Director Operations / Non-Executive Director
William R Waite	Non-Executive Director

and went on to say that he formally proposed that they be so elected, to serve as Directors of the ELMC.

The President invited WBro Alston Hall to second the proposition.

The proposition was put to the vote.

The proposition was carried by the majority of those entitled to vote.

The Chairman declared the proposition carried.

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The Chairman thanked those elected for their past services and for agreeing to continue to further serve the Charity by acting as Directors. The Chairman wished to record a special welcome to Peter Nicholson on his joining the Board today.

7 To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year.

The Chairman said that the next item on the Agenda was the appointment of Auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman said that the present Auditors, Percy Westhead & Co had signified their willingness to continue in office if elected. The Chairman said that before a proposal was put to the Meeting, he wished to take the opportunity of thanking the Auditors for the service they had provided in the past.

The Chairman invited WBro Robert Findlay to make the proposal and WBro David Hudson was invited to second.

The proposition made seconded and was put to the vote.

The proposition was carried by the majority of those entitled to vote.

The Chairman declared the proposition carried and that Percy Westhead & Co be the Auditors of ELMC until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

8 To Note Members Appointed to the Committee of Benevolence

The Chairman said that the next item on the Agenda was to appoint the Members of the Committee of Benevolence. The Chairman said that all would be aware that since 2020 a Representative is proposed from each Area within the Province. The Chairman said that a number of those being proposed were also Provincial Welfare Officers.

The Chairman asked the Secretary, Philip Price to read out the names of the Brethren who are to be appointed to the Committee of Benevolence for the forthcoming year.

Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed Area Representatives for the forthcoming year:

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David Lightbown	CHAIRMAN
Julie Ward	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Alan Potts	SALFORD AREA
Alan Fielder	NORTHERN AREA
Victor Murphy	SOUTHERN AREA
Elliot Moss	MANCHESTER AREA
Alston Hall	EASTERN AREA
Mike Bluer	WESTERN AREA

Philip Price said that in addition to those persons named 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 was also invited from the Mark Degree.

9 To Note members appointed to the Grant Making Committee.

The Chairman asked that the Secretary, Philip Price, read out the names of those who are to be appointed as members of The Grant Making Committee for the forthcoming year.

Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed to the Grant Making Committee for the forthcoming year:

Chad Northcott	Chairman
David Dunn	Deputy Chairman
John R Farrington	Deputy President
Robert Findlay	Provincial Grand Charity Steward (ex officio)
David Hudson	Provincial Grand Almoner (ex officio)
Gerry Russell	Communications Officer
Karen Hall	Secretary
Peter Faulkner	
David Halford	
Julie Ward	Director of Operations (ex officio)

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10 To Note the members appointed to the Fund-Raising Committee

The Chairman asked that the Secretary, Philip Price, read out the names of those who are to be appointed as members of the Fund-Raising Committee for the forthcoming year.

Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed to the for the Fund-Raising Committee forthcoming year:

Stephen A. Thomson	Chairman
Philip J Price	Vice Chairman
Paul Sellers	Secretary
Julie Ward	Director of Operations
Nigel Johnson	
Steve Graham	
Dennis Schiff	
Tony Stephenson	
Rachel Cookson	
Beverley Schofield	
Nick Druce	
Dan Gaunt	

Philip Price said that in addition to those persons named the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Bob Findlay, was an 'ex officio' member.

11 To note the appointment of Members to serve on the other Committees' and Sub-Committees' during the ensuing year

The Chairman told the Meeting that within the Membership there was a range of talent, skills and abilities, and ELMC was always keen to determine if there were Brethren who were able and who would be willing to work on one of the Committees. ELMC would be pleased to receive nominations for consideration by the President. Nominations can be made through the Honorary Secretary.

The Chairman asked that the Secretary, Philip Price, read out the names of those who are to be appointed as members of the other Committees for the forthcoming year.

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Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed to the Hewlett Court Advisory Committee for the forthcoming year:

David Lightbown	Chairman
Julie Ward	Director of Operations
Dennis Heskett	Secretary
David Cowen	Treasurer
Beverley Schofield	Hewlett Court Manager
Paul Thornton	Building Advisor
Michael Stubbs	Health and Safety

Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed to the Comforts Fund Sub-Committee:

Alston Hall	Chairman
Julie Ward	
Harold Cooper	
Jim Hilton	
Beverley Schofield	
Rachel Cookson	

Philip Price said that in addition to those persons named the Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence was an “ex Officio” member of this Sub-Committee.

Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed to the Young Peoples Sub-Committee

Roger Tinker	Chairman
Paul Doran	
Gary O’Neill	
Raymond Evans	
Christopher Creelman	
Malcolm Roe	
Karen Hall	
Julie Ward	

Philip Price said that in addition to those persons named the Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence was an “ex officio” member of this Sub-Committee.

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Philip Price read out the following names of those appointed to the Investment Sub-Committee

John Scott	Chairman
David Rothburn	
David Cowan	Treasurer
Ian Connor	Secretary
Derek Calrow	

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

The Chairman said that he wished to thank all who had agreed to serve on the ELMC Committees for the coming year. The Chairman said that he was taking the opportunity to thank the retiring members of the Committees for their valuable work and without which the Charity could not continue.

The Chairman said that the formal business of the Annual General Meeting was concluded and that he was to hand back to the President.

12 Any Other Business.

The President said that before he closed the formal part of the meeting was there Any Other Business?

There was none.

The President said that in closing he wished on behalf of the Board of Directors to thank Julie Ward, our Operations Director, Karen Hall our Administration Officer, Beverley Schofield the Manager of Hewlett Court, and Rachel Cookson our Hewlett Court Team Leader for their work within the ELMC, the additional work they do for the various Committees which they support, and the work they do supporting our Provincial Festival.

The President said that he also wished to thank the rest of the Hewlett Court Staff, the Chairmen and the other volunteers who work on the various ELMC Committees, and all those who assist with fund-raising, social functions and events.

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The President also reiterated his thanks to all those attending the meeting that evening and for the ongoing support the attendees provided to ELMC. ELMC had often been described as 'Our Crown', with Hewlett Court being the 'jewel that adorns it'. ELMC was greatly valued and long may it continue. The President said that he considered it a great privilege to be President of this Charity.

13 To Close the Meeting

The President announced that the business of this Annual General Meeting was concluded. The President went on to say that refreshments were now available which he hoped all would enjoy together with the rest of this evening.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 7:35 pm

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