



Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF)

Held at the Amptill Suite, Grand Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DA on Wednesday, 14 December 2016 at 3.15 pm.

Present: Richard Hone, QC, President
James Newman, Deputy President (Chairman)
Michael Heenan, Treasurer
Sir Paul Williams, OBE, DL, Chairman, RMBI Care Co
David Innes, Chief Executive
Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer
Charles Angus, Finance Director
Mark Lloyd, Managing Director, RMBI Care Co

Members present as recorded in register.

Richard Hone, QC welcomed all those present to the first Annual General Meeting of the MCF.

James Newman conducted the business of the meeting.

1. The minutes noted that since the incorporation of "The Masonic Foundation" in August 2015, Companies House and the Charity Commission have approved that the name of the Charity be changed to "Masonic Charitable Foundation" with effect from 11 December 2015.
2. On 7 March 2016, the Trustees resolved to dis-apply the requirement in Article 7.1(c) of the Company's Articles of Association that the appointments of the first two representatives of Metropolitan Grand Lodge and the first two representatives of each Provincial Grand Lodge, required to constitute the Membership of the Company, should occur at their respective annual meetings. This was noted.
3. The annual report of the Trustees and the audited accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2016 were received and noted.
4. The appointment of Knox Cropper as auditors of the Charity at a fee to be agreed by the Trustees was confirmed.

The meeting incorporated a series of presentations designed to inform members about the work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and its plans for the future. A short film entitled MCF - the first year was also shown.

An Address was given by Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master and Deputy Grand President of MCF.

The following questions were asked:-

- What are the overhead costs for the new charity (MCF)?

The percentage of total resources attributed to charitable expenditure and that which should be attributed to overheads, particularly the cost of raising funds was a matter of presentation and interpretation. A figure of 11% for overhead costs (which included governance) was noted; however a definitive figure would be obtained for the information of the Members.

- How do you chose which charity grants are funded?

Applications come into the Charity Grants team which will undertake an initial check, including ensuring the applicant charities are registered with the Charity Commission and that projects fall within one or more of the aims of MCF (Financial Hardship, Health & Disability, Social Exclusion & Disadvantage and Education & Employability). All applications must be accompanied by a full set of audited or independently examined accounts. At this stage, due diligence is carried out on the charity by a Grants Officer, including reviewing the charity's objectives, background, finances, governance and leadership, services and service user experience. Each successful charity must demonstrate a proven demand for the service for a clearly defined beneficiary group where support is not being offered by others locally or duplicates a service. There must be clear targets for the number of service users that the project hopes to reach which must be realistically achievable and that it has the organisational structure in place and staff or volunteer capacity to deliver the project or service, as well as an illustration of expected outcomes from the service or support. Furthermore, the charity must demonstrate that its aims or project are sustainable and that there are further potential funding plans in place.

- How does the Board try to ensure diversity within its Trustees?

The MCF has tried to be as representative as possible with regard to age and geographical location of Board members. Five women are currently members of MCF Committees and the Articles of Association allow people who are not Freemasons to be appointed as Trustees.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 5pm.

- The next General Meeting will be held on 17 June 2017 in Nottingham.
- The Annual General Meeting of MCF will be held on 13 December 2017 in Freemasons' Hall, London.