



Minutes of the Members' Meeting of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF)

Held at the Cambria Suite, Grand Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DA on Wednesday, 13 December 2017 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
Dr Charles Akle, Trustee, MCF
John Boyington, CBE, Trustee, MCF
Charles Cunningham, Trustee, MCF
Michael Codd, Trustee, MCF
Antony Harvey, Trustee, MCF
Christopher Head, Trustee, MCF
Andrew Ross, Trustee, MCF
Nigel Vaughan, Trustee, MCF
David Watson, Trustee, MCF
Howard Wilson, Trustee, MCF

David Innes, Chief Executive
Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer
Charles Angus, Finance Director
Mark Lloyd, Managing Director, RMBI Care Co
Louise Bateman, HR Director
Suhail Alam, Director of Relief Chest System
John McCrohan, Head of Strategy and Special Projects
Harry Smith, Head of Communications

Members present as recorded in register (attached)

In attendance: Annette Campbell, Company Secretary
Linda Walker, Executive Assistant to CEO/COO (minutes)

Invited guests: Kevin Lally, Auditor, Knox Cropper
Stephen Anderson, Auditor, Knox Cropper
John Bell, Trustee, Mark Benevolent Fund
Martin Wilson, Trustee, Mark Benevolent Fund
Daren Coleman, Charities Manager, Mark Benevolent Fund
Chris Grove, member of the MCF Masonic Support Committee

Richard Hone, welcomed all those present, including guests from the Mark Benevolent Fund. Apologies had been received from the Deputy Grand Master, who passed on his regards and best wishes for the successful meeting and who had requested feedback from the meeting at a later date.

RH stated that Members were a very important link between the MCF and the grass-roots membership and thanked all those present for their attendance, especially those who had travelled long distances in difficult weather. RH suggested that in future the meeting could start earlier, and that wine should be served at the preceding lunch and invited Members feedback. The response was entirely favourable.

It was **agreed** that the next AGM on 12 December 2018 would start at 14:15 and would be preceded by a buffet lunch, at which wine and soft drinks would be served.

Richard Hone handed over to James Newman, Deputy President for the AGM. The proceedings are recorded in separate minutes. After the AGM Richard Hone reassumed the chair and continued the Members' Meeting.

The minutes of the Members' Meeting on 17 June 2017 were **approved**.

Governance

David Innes, Chief Executive, gave a short presentation on Governance.

The Members' guide "Membership of the MCF" which had been circulated with the agenda was noted. DI stated that the role of the MCF Members was different to the role of Members in the legacy charities. MCF Members should be prepared to play an active part in the Charity and provide a two-way communication link between the MCF and the Provinces. DI also highlighted the work undertaken by the Charity Grants team, stating that he believed this was an excellent way of promoting the MCF in the wider community.

Questions were invited.

- A member stated that he believed communication between the MCF and the Provinces had improved over the preceding year and used the example of the Tercentenary Awards - Community Grants initiative to demonstrate this point.
- Several members reported on the short notice of changes to Hospice grants and DI agreed to discuss this with the Charity Grants team with the aim of improving communication on future occasions.
- A member asked whether the Impact Report would be available as a PDF document. Harry Smith (HS), Head of Communications and Marketing, confirmed that a pdf version of the document would be available on the MCF website.
- It was requested that a pdf version of the Charity Stewards' Guide be available for download and HS confirmed that this would also be available.
- A member stated that he was concerned that cheques would not be provided by the MCF for presentation to charities. DI stated that it was the responsibility of the MCF to transfer funds in the safest and most efficient way possible and this was by electronic means. However, the MCF can arrange for the transfer of funds to be at a more convenient time, particularly in order to tie in with a presentation event, and materials including certificates and dummy

cheques can be provided by the MCF if required. The point was also made that the MCF aims to disburse funds to charities as quickly as possible so that there is little delay in addressing need. If however, any Province encounters a charity unwilling to work with them in promoting the Craft, MCF or Freemasonry in general, the MCF should be notified immediately and contact will be made with the recipient charity.

The Members' Guide "Membership of the MCF" was **approved**. DI stated that a draft had been presented at the PGMs Forum in October and the final document would be sent to all PGMs in the New Year.

DI invited the Members to contact the MCF by email, either through Linda Walker on walker@mcf.org.uk or alternatively info@mcf.org.uk. Resources and sample presentations can be accessed through the MCF website <https://mcf.org.uk/resources/> and a dedicated Members' page is also being developed. More details to follow.

Strategy

James Newman and David Innes

JN gave a presentation on the MCF strategy and presented the draft MCF strategy document which had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Questions from the floor

- A Member asked whether they could be informed if a grant to an individual were to be declined or withdrawn. LH stated that grants to individuals were covered by strict confidentiality and data protection legislation. He confirmed that grants were assessed annually to allow for changes in circumstance. Provincial Grand Almoners will be aware of cases being affected in their respective Provinces.
- A Member discussed on-going Festival fundraising and potential confusion for grass-roots members supporting a Festival for a legacy charity. JN stated that the MCF would continue to promote the Festivals supporting the legacy charities as well as those for the MCF.
- A Member referred to the Members' Update document, and asked whether there was an intention to create a "league table" of Festival totals based on per capita achievements. DI confirmed that there was no intention to create any sort of table and the Festivals page had been provided for information only. DI agreed to review the layout and content of the Festivals page for future publications.
- A Member stated that the strategy document appeared to place greater emphasis on non-Masonic giving. JN and DI explained the structure of the document and why they felt it was appropriately balanced.
- With regard to charity grants, DI confirmed that grants are always made to charities registered with the Charity Commission and based in England and Wales.

The MCF Strategy document was **agreed**.

Operations

Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer, MCF

LH presented an update on MCF Operations.

Questions from the floor

- A member raised the matter of Honorifics and the take up of Honorifics by Provinces and individuals. LH stated that Festival Honorifics were recommended by the MCF as a helpful fundraising tool however individual members must make their own decision as to whether they wish to seek to attain a specific honorific. LH stated that it would always be the choice of each unit/Lodge as to whether they wish to support the use of Honorifics.
- Individual Honorifics in support of the MCF (separate to Festival honorifics) will be launched in the New Year and details of this new initiative would follow in due course. Suhail Alam, Relief Chest Director encouraged all members to contact him if they had any further questions about Honorifics or the Relief Chest.
- A Member enquired whether there were plans for Metropolitan Grand Lodge to join the Festival system. RH stated that discussions were ongoing with Metropolitan Grand Lodge in order to determine the best way for London to support the MCF. Reference was made to the successful appeals in support of the MSF and the RMBI, but also to the fact that London Freemasons and their families receive significant support from the MCF.

RMBI Care Co

Sir Paul Williams, OBE, DL, Chairman, RMBI Care Co
Mark Lloyd, Managing Director, RMBI Care Co

SPW and ML gave an update on the latest developments at RMBI Care Co.

There were no questions.

Finance

Michael Heenan, Treasurer, MCF
Charles Angus, Finance Director, MCF

MH referred to the minutes of the last AGM and stated that at present administration costs were around 9% of outgoings. He stated that this was a very competitive figure when compared with similar organisations.

There were no questions.

Closing remarks

Richard Hone, QC

RH thanked all those present for their enthusiasm, and their interesting and thoughtful questions. He stated that the presentations would be made available on the MCF website in due course. He invited all members to spread the word about the Relief Chest in their Province and recommended the use of Individual Relief Chests (IRCs) stating that he would be opening an IRC as soon as they were available.

RC wished all those present the compliments of the season and a safe journey home.

The next Members' meeting will be held on Sunday 22 July at the Royal Masonic School for Girls in Rickmansworth and would be held in conjunction with the Family Day, hosted by the Province of Hertfordshire. Further details will be available nearer the time.

The meeting closed at 16:37.