



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

Held at the Masonic Hall, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham on Saturday
June 17 2017 at 11.00

Present: Richard Hone, President
James Newman, Deputy President (Chairman)

Philip Marshall, Provincial Grand Master, Nottinghamshire
Members of the Nottinghamshire Executive
Stratton Richey, Met GL

MCF Members

Derek Broderick, Yorkshire NE	Terry Burt, Yorkshire NE
Michael Codd, Trustee	Andrew Crump, Monmouthshire
Roger Garratt, Nottinghamshire	Bruce Goodman, Lincolnshire
Anthony Harvey, Trustee	Michael Hitchcock, Derbyshire
Andrew Hough, Buckinghamshire	David Maddern, Somerset
George Mann, Cheshire	Mark Matthews, W. Lancs
Stan Moffatt, Cumberland & West	Neil Morse, Hampshire & IOW
Terry Neate, Herefordshire	Derek Parkinson, W. Lancs
Richard Parrott, Staffordshire	Patrick Pattison, South Wales
John Peberdy, Leics & Rutland	Tony Sibson, Leics & Rutland
Andrew Ross, Trustee	Terry Thurley, Essex
Mike Spalding, Norfolk	Andrew Tomblin, Staffordshire
Richard Thurlow, Northants & Hunts	Ian Walker, Somerset
Andrew Twomlow, Monmouthshire	Howard Wilson, Worcestershire
David Watson, Trustee	Barry Woodhead, Nottinghamshire
Chris White, Trustee	

MCF Executive and Staff

David Innes, Chief Executive	Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer
Charles Angus, Finance Director	Suhail Alam, Relief Chest Director
John McCrohan, Head of Strategic Development and Special Projects	Harry Smith, Head of Communications
Linda Walker, (minutes)	
Executive Assistant to CEO/COO	

RW Bro Philip G Marshall, Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire gave a short introduction and welcomed all those present to the meeting.

Richard Hone, QC opened the meeting.

1. The minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the MCF, held on 14 December 2016, were confirmed and signed by the President.
2. The Meeting incorporated a series of presentations designed to inform Members about the work of the MCF and plans for the future. The full script and notes are available below: -

[MCF Members' Meeting - 17 June 2017 - Full Script.pdf](#)

A hard copy can be provided if required, please contact Linda Walker (lwalker@mcf.org.uk).

3. Governance

- James Newman OBE, Deputy President and Chairman, MCF presented on the totality of charitable support by the Masonic Community. Initial investigations suggested that this support amounted to over £33 million, split approximately 50/50 between Masonic and non-Masonic causes. Further work will be done later in the year as it is felt this figure might be somewhat conservative.
- David Innes gave an update on the Relief Chest Scheme and asked Members to encourage maximum use of the scheme when visiting Lodges and Chapters.
- John McCrohan presented a talk on the evolving MCF strategy and informed Members that the strategy would be circulated widely for comment over the coming months.

Questions from the floor

A question was asked about Individual Relief Chests. Suhail Alam explained that Individual Relief Chests would be launched in the autumn 2017. This would be a free on-line service, would use the latest technology and be available on smart devices. Further information would be available in due course.

A question was asked on the support provided by the Relief Chest to Provinces in Festival and whether bespoke reports to Provinces could be provided. SA confirmed that a full support service was available through the Relief Chest for Provinces in Festival to the MCF or the legacy Charities. All Provinces had to do was ask.

4. Operations

Les Hutchinson gave an update on Operations.

Questions from the floor

A question was asked about how the MCF had reacted to the recent spate of terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. LH stated that the local Province was usually best placed to set up a fund to assist with immediate local need. However, the MCF will be assessing the longer term need and would put together a programme for assistance if required.

5. RMBI Care Co

David Innes noted apologies from Sir Paul Williams, Chairman and Mark LLOYD, Managing Director. He then proceeded to give a short update on the RMBI Care Co.

There were no questions

6. Finance

Apologies were received from Mike Heenan, Treasurer. Charles Angus gave an update on financial matters.

There were no questions.

7. Role of Members

The President discussed the role of Members and referred to the draft Terms of Reference entitled Membership of the Masonic Charitable Foundation which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

He stressed the importance of the role of Members with their key responsibility being to provide a two-way link between the MCF via their Province to the wider membership of the Craft.

He encouraged Members to send any comments on the draft Terms of Reference to David Innes.

MCF Community Awards – Tercentenary Fund. The President reported that the on-line vote had gone live as planned on Monday 12 June. The number of votes as of 17 June stood at over 50,000. 82% of votes received had been from non-Masons.

The President stated that he would wish Members, together with Trustees, would be available to present Community Awards to the charities in their Province. Further details of the charities involved would be circulated in due course.

After approval by the Charity Grants Committee, the Charity Grants Strategy paper would be circulated to members for information.

It had been decided that a members' lunch would be held each year prior to the AGM. The President, Deputy President, Trustees, Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and members of the Senior Leadership Team would be present.

This year, the lunch and AGM will be held in Freemasons' Hall on 13 December. Further details would be circulated nearer the time.

A Members' Area would be set up as part of the MCF website. Further details to follow.

Questions from the floor

With regard to large non-Masonic grants, could there be more consultation with Provinces? JN confirmed that communication with Provinces is part of the process of awarding large non-masonic grants and a conversation with the Province is held before the decision is relayed to the charity concerned. As part of a wider issue, dedicated communications between MCF and Members would be put in place.

Andrew Ross, Chairman of the Charity Grants Committee, stated that desk-based due diligence was already carried out on grants of £10k or more. However, he believed that charities receiving large grants should also be visited as part of this process and welcomed Member involvement in taking an active part.

8. Any Other Business

The next Annual General Meeting of the MCF will be on Wednesday 13 December in Freemasons' Hall, London.

Members were invited to attend the Community Fun Day, an event to celebrate the Tercentenary of UGLE, being held in the Market Square, Nottingham.

The meeting closed at 12.33pm.