



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, 12 December 2018 at 3:15 pm.

Present:

Richard Hone, QC, President
James Newman, OBE, Deputy President (Chairman)
Michael Heenan, Treasurer
Sir Paul Williams, OBE, DL, Chairman, RMBI Care Co
John Boyington, CBE, Trustee, MCF
Charles Cunnington, Trustee, MCF
Michael Codd, Trustee, MCF
Tim Dallas-Chapman, Trustee, MCF / Member for the Province of Jersey
Antony Harvey, Trustee, MCF
Christopher Head, Trustee, MCF
Andrew Ross, Trustee, MCF
Ian Sabin, Trustee, MCF
David Watson, Trustee, MCF
Andrew Wauchope, Trustee, MCF
Christopher White, Trustee, MCF

David Innes, Chief Executive
Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer
Charles Angus, Finance Director
Mark Lloyd, Managing Director, RMBI Care Co
Suhail Alam, Director of Relief Chest System
Louise Bateman, HR Director
Katrina Kerr, Head of Charity Grants
John McCrohan, Head of Strategy and Special Projects
Harry Smith, Head of Communications
Natasha Ward, Masonic Support Programme Lead

Members present as recorded in register (attached)

In attendance:

Annette Campbell, Company Secretary
Linda Walker, Executive Assistant to CEO/COO (minutes)
Annaliese Farnsworth, Senior Administration Officer

Invited guests:

Kevin Lally, Auditor, Knox Cropper

Stephen Anderson, Auditor, Knox Cropper

Tony Morris, Deputy President, Mark Benevolent Fund
Daren Coleman, Charities Manager, Mark Benevolent Fund

Chris Caine, MCF Committee Member
Chris Grove, MCF Committee Member
Jonathan Knopp, MCF Committee Member
Ian Newby, MCF Committee Member
Mark Smith, MCF Committee Member
Nicholas Springer, MCF Committee Member

Chairman Richard Hone, QC, President, MCF opened the meeting

RH thanked all for attending and expressed his pleasure at the high turnout. RH introduced and welcomed several new MCF members appointed since the last Members' Meeting.

RH stated that he anticipated that the role of the MCF Members would continue to evolve going forward and further updates on this would be given at the summer meeting.

RH referred to the departing MCF Trustees and added his personal thanks to each for their service to Masonic charity and gave particular thanks to Mike Woodcock, who had taken a leading role in the formation of the MCF.

1. The minutes of the Members' Meeting held on 22 July 2018 were approved.
2. David Innes gave an update on the two workshops on developing the role of MCF Members, held at the Members' Meeting in July. He stated that some very good points had been made at the meeting and were being taken forward as the role of Members evolves throughout the year. Several of the topics highlighted during the workshop discussions would also be covered in the following governance update.
3. Governance

James Newman stated that he wished to discuss two matters in relation to governance, firstly an internal issue relating to the MCF Board of Trustees. JN referred to the retirement of four MCF Trustees and stated that one further Trustee was due to retire in March 2019. A Board appraisal process and skills audit had been undertaken and following this a Trustee recruitment drive had commenced. All PGMs had been contacted and invited to identify individuals with the necessary skills and experience to become an MCF Trustee or sit on one of the MCF Committees. An advertisement had also been placed in the December edition of Freemasonry Today, inviting applications. JN invited the Members to join in with this process and to contact the MCF with details of prospective candidates.

The second governance point was an external matter. JN s explained that when the MCF was created the Grand Master's Council Charity Committee (GMCCC), chaired by the Grand Master, was the body used to ensure that the evolving charity met with the approval of the Rulers and of Freemasonry in general. Once the MCF had been established, it had been agreed that the GMCCC should suspend its activities to leave the MCF to 'bed in'.

The GMCCC has agreed to form a Working Group (WG). The WG will look at matters relating to MCF activities and will play a helpful role in ensuring that the MCF links in and aligns with UGLE strategy. The first WG meeting had been held and several points had been identified which were being worked through. One of the points raised related to the role of MCF Members. Other topics included the charity grants process and how to give Provinces more input at policy level which included looking at the notice given for grant notification. Also the role of communications and how MCF could further align with UGLE communication messages will be explored.

JN stated that further updates will be given to Members at the next meeting held in the summer.

4. Operational update
Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer, MCF

LH gave an update on the latest operational developments at the MCF. A copy of the speech is available via the Members Area.

Questions were invited, of which there were none.

5. RMBI Care Co Development Strategy
Sir Paul Williams, OBE, DL, Chairman, RMBI Care Co
Mark LLOYD, Managing Director, RMBI Care Co

SPW gave an update on the latest developments at the RMBICC. A copy of the speech is available via the Members Area.

There were no questions.

6. Presentation on Age UK/Masonic Community Partnership

David Maddern, MCF Member for the Province of Somerset, gave a speech on the work being undertaken between MCF and Age UK. A copy of his speech is available via the Members' Area.

There were no questions.

7. Open Forum

RH invited questions from the floor.

A member from the Province of Dorset highlighted an issue regarding closure of NatWest Bank branches in his area and subsequent problems with paying into the Relief Chest System. Suhail Alam, Relief Chest System Director, stated that he was aware of the issue and would contact the Member concerned outside the meeting.

RH thanked all those present for attending the meeting. He also wished to record his thanks to MCF staff for all their hard work over the preceding twelve months.

The meeting closed at 16.30

Details of the next MCF Members meeting will be circulated in due course.