

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ
Registered Charity No 281942

GRAND PRESIDENT
HRH THE DUKE OF KENT, KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC

DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT
PETER G. LOWNDES

VICE GRAND PRESIDENT
IAIN R. BRYCE, TD, DL

15 September 2010

Dear Sir and Brother

NOTICE OF MEETING

A General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held on **Saturday, 16 October 2010, at 11.00 am** at the **University of Essex**, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ. Members of the Grand Charity (i.e. Master Masons who are subscribing members of London and Provincial Lodges, plus all other Brethren eligible to attend Grand Lodge), their wives or other partners and non-Masonic guests, are welcome to attend. Everyone must be seated by 10.50 am.

The meeting, which will be chaired by the Vice Grand President, RWBro Iain R. Bryce, TD, DL, PDepGM, is being organised with the support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex. A buffet lunch will be served afterwards to those who have previously purchased tickets from the Province. The agenda, report of the Council and minutes of the Annual General Meeting, are contained in this booklet.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES
Secretary of the Grand Charity

DRESS
Lounge suits - No regalia

GENERAL MEETING THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

Saturday, 16 October 2010

AGENDA

1. Welcome by RWBro Iain R. Bryce, TD, DL, PDepGM, Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2010 at Freemasons' Hall, London, for confirmation (see page 16).
3. To receive the report of the Council dated 21 July 2010. The report is contained on pages 14 and 15. It includes recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out in detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants on pages 11 to 13, and which should be considered as part of the report. These recommendations require the approval, under item 6. below, of the members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity at this General Meeting before the money can be given.
4. To consider a resolution to ratify the following proposed amendments to the Trust Deed and Regulations of the Grand Charity as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010, and which have been available to view in detail on the Grand Charity's website since 14 May 2010.

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010
Section 1, Clause 6	<p>The beginning of clause 6 has been amended and restated to read: "The members of the Grand Charity are the members of Grand Lodge and..."</p> <p>Previously, this section read as follows: "The Members of the Grand Charity shall be members of Grand Lodge and..."</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010 - <i>continued</i>
Section 2, Regulations 0201 and 0203(a)(v)	<p>The definition of "London Members" will be amended and restated as: "London Members" means members of the Council elected in accordance with procedures organised by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London;"</p> <p>Additionally, Regulation 0203(a)(v) will be amended such that the wording "to represent London Members" will be replaced with "as London Members". The revised Regulation will read as follows: "Three members shall be elected to serve for a period of three years as London Members."</p> <p>The definition of "Provincial Members" will be amended and restated as: "Provincial Members" means members of the Council elected in accordance with procedures organised by the groups of Masonic Provinces;"</p>
Section 2, Regulations 0201 and 0218	<p>The following wording shown in bold will be added to Regulation 0218: "0218 The Secretary of the Grand Charity shall convene General Meetings of the Grand Charity by forwarding at least ten days before each meeting a paper of the business to be presented, together with the minutes of the immediately preceding General Meeting of the Grand Charity (if available), to all members of the Council, Grand Officers present and past, and two copies of the paper of business and minutes to the Secretary of every Lodge. Where a person so entitled to receive notice of a meeting has consented (generally or specifically) to any relevant notice, document or information being sent in any electronic form (including by fax or email) or being made available on a website, rather than being supplied to that person in hard copy form, and has not withdrawn such consent by notice to the Secretary of the Grand Charity in writing, then notice of that meeting (including copies of the paper of business and minutes) may be sent in electronic form or made available on a website, as applicable. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice, shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting."</p> <p>The following provisions will be inserted into Regulation 0201 to assist interpretation of Regulation 0218:</p> <p>"(b) A document or information is sent or supplied in hard copy form if it is sent or supplied in a paper copy or similar form capable of being read.</p> <p>(c) A document or information is sent or supplied in electronic form if it is sent or supplied by electronic means (for example, by email or fax) or by any other means while in an electronic form (for example, sending a disk by post).</p> <p>(d) A document or information is sent or supplied by electronic means if it is sent initially and received at its destination by means of electronic equipment for the processing or storage of data and entirely transmitted, conveyed and received by wire, radio, optical means or other electromagnetic means."</p>

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010 - <i>continued</i>
Section 2, Regulation 0203(c)	<p>Regulation 0203 (c) will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“(c) Except with the consent of the Grand President, no Brother who is a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or Superintendent or who is an executive member of any of the other principal Masonic charities, a member of the Grand Lodge’s Board of General Purposes, or the Committee of General Purposes of Supreme Grand Chapter, shall be eligible for election as an Elected Member. All members of the Council must be Past Masters of Lodges of the English Constitution of Freemasonry, qualified Rule 9 of the Book of Constitutions.”</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 2, Regulations 0203 (d) & (e)	<p>Regulations 0203 (d) & (e) will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“(d) Save for the President, Deputy President, Treasurer, members who are co-opted and members appointed to fill casual vacancies, members of the Council shall be appointed or elected with effect from the Annual General Meeting each year and shall retire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the calendar year in which the third anniversary of their appointment or election falls.</p> <p>(e) Save for the Appointed Members of Festival Provinces (who shall not be eligible for re-appointment in such capacity), each member of the Council retiring at an Annual General Meeting pursuant to Regulation 0203(d) shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election twice only. Upon his third retirement, that member of the Council shall not be eligible for re-appointment or re-election until a period of one year has elapsed.”</p>
Section 2, Regulation 0204 and 0201	<p>Regulation 0204(a) will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“0204(a) The Council may make rules for the disbursement of any of the funds of the Grand Charity but subject thereto separate funds shall be maintained for the Unrestricted Fund, the Relief Chest Restricted Fund and such other fund or funds as the Council considers appropriate.”</p> <p>References at Regulations 0204(b) & (c) to “the General Fund” will be replaced by references to “the Unrestricted Fund”.</p> <p>Regulation 0204(e) will be amended and restated such that references to “the designated funds account” will be replaced by references to “the Relief Chest Restricted Fund”, as follows:</p> <p>“0204(e) Payments or loans out of the Relief Chest Restricted Fund to or for either Masonic or non-Masonic charitable objects or purposes may only be made in accordance with rules to be made by the Council from time to time for the operation of the Relief Chest Restricted Fund.”</p> <p>For clarity, the following new definitions will be inserted into Regulation 0201:</p> <p>“‘Relief Chest Restricted Fund’ means the fund holding money donated through the Relief Chest scheme;”</p> <p>“‘Unrestricted Fund’ means the general fund of the Grand Charity maintained for application in accordance with Regulations 0204(b), (c) and (d);”</p>

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010 - <i>continued</i>
Section 2, Regulation 0204(d)	<p>Regulation 0204(a) will be amended and restated as follows: "0204(d) The President shall have authority to make emergency grants and loans out of the Unrestricted Fund for either Masonic or non-Masonic charitable purposes of up to £100,000 each. These emergency grants and loans shall be reported to the Council and to the Grand Charity in General Meeting, and can be the subject of directions under clause 8 of the Trust Deed. Emergency grants and loans made by the President shall not total more than £200,000 in aggregate in any three month period or such other limit as may be approved in advance by members of the Grand Charity in General Meeting"</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 2, Regulation 0208	<p>Regulation 0208 will be amended and restated as follows: "0208 The Council shall meet as often as it considers necessary but in any case not less than four times in each year at such times as it shall determine. The members of the Council may take a decision without a meeting by indicating their views to each other by any means, including electronic means. Such a decision shall require the consent of at least three-quarters of the members of the Council."</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 2, Regulations 0208, 0212, 0215 and 0220	<p>The notes to Regulations 0208, 0212, 0215 and 0220 will be deleted.</p>
Section 2, Regulation 0210	<p>The beginning of Regulation 0210 will be amended and restated to read: "Nine members of the Council shall form a quorum..."</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 2, Regulation 0212 and throughout	<p>In Regulation 0212 and throughout the Trust Deed and Regulations, references to a "Committee" or "Committees" will be replaced with references to a "committee" or "committees".</p>

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010 - <i>continued</i>
Section 2, Regulation 0212	<p>Regulation 0212 will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“0212 The Council may establish committees (of which the President, Deputy President and Vice-Presidents shall be members ex officio), may appoint members of such committees from among the members of the Council or otherwise, may remove such members, may delegate powers to such committees and may make rules for the procedures of such committees. Each committee shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) consider and report to the Council on all matters referred to it; (b) have power to invite to any of its meetings for the purpose of consultation any persons (whether brethren or not) possessing special knowledge of any subject with which the committee has to deal; (c) have power to make decisions by electronic means in accordance with the procedures applying to decisions of the Council under Regulation 0208 (except that references to the “Council” shall be construed as references to the “committee”); and (d) have power to establish sub-committees, appoint members of such sub-committees from among its members or otherwise, remove any such members, delegate powers to such sub-committees and make rules for the procedures of such sub-committees.”
Section 2, Regulation 0219(a)	<p>Regulation 0219(a) will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“0219(a) The chair at all General Meetings shall be taken by the Grand President, the Deputy Grand President, the Vice Grand President or such other Brother as the Grand President shall appoint to act in his place. <i>In the absence of the Grand President, the Deputy Grand President and the Vice Grand President (and failing any prior appointment by the Grand President), the Brother present and willing who holds the most senior rank within the Craft shall take the chair.</i></p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 2, Regulation 0222	<p>In Regulation 0222, which previously stated:</p> <p>“The Annual Statement of Accounts of the Grand Charity shall be audited by an auditor qualified under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1985 (or any subsequent enactment)...”</p> <p>the reference to “Section 25 of the Companies Act 1985” will be replaced with a reference to “Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006”.</p> <p>Regulation 0222 also previously stated:</p> <p>“... The auditor shall conduct the audit and report upon the Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and recognised auditing standards.”</p> <p>The reference to “the Charities Act 1993” will be replaced with a reference to “the Charities Act 1993 (as amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time)”.</p>

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010 - <i>continued</i>
Section 2, Regulation 0223	In Regulation 0223 the word “ approved ” will be replaced by the word “ received ” and the final sentence of Regulation 0223 will be amended and restated as follows: “The Council shall also ensure that the Annual Report and Audited Statement of Accounts shall be made available to be accessed on the Grand Charity website: www.grandcharity.org at least ten days before the relevant General Meeting.”
Section 2, Regulation 0224(c)	The reference to “ the Charity Commissioners ” will be replaced by a reference to “ the Charity Commission ”.
Section 3	The rules of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee will be extracted from the promulgated constitutional document at Section 3. Sections 4 and 5 of the promulgated document will then consequentially be renumbered as sections 3 and 4 respectively.
Section 4	The second schedule at Section 4 will be renumbered as Section 3.
Section 4, Paragraph (a)	The following words will be added to the end of paragraph (a), after the words “entitled to the Trust Fund beneficially”: “(including, without limitation, to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert and to pay any reasonable fees required).”
Section 4, Paragraph (c)	In paragraph (c) the words “ (with such consent as may be required by law) ” will be amended and restated as “ (subject to such consents or procedures as may be required by law) ”.
Section 4, Paragraph (d)	Paragraph (d) will be amended and restated as follows: “(d) Power to co-operate with and support other persons and institutions having objects of an exclusively charitable nature and to exchange information and advice with them. ” NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.
Section 4, Paragraph (g)	In paragraph (g), after the words “ Power subject to such consents ”, the words “ or procedures ” will be inserted.
Section 4, Paragraph (j)	In paragraph (j), the words “ insofar as they may act on it the advice or opinion aforesaid was ” will be deleted. Paragraph (j) will now read as follows: “(j) Power to retain and act upon the advice or opinion of any lawyer, broker, accountant or other professional person (whether or not obtained by them) provided that neither the Trustee nor the Council shall be responsible for any loss occasioned by so acting.”

Current Clause Reference & Section No	Proposed amendments as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010 - <i>continued</i>
Section 4, Paragraph (m)	<p>Paragraph (m) will be deleted.</p> <p>Paragraphs (n) to (z) of Section 4 will be renumbered accordingly. The following amendments to these paragraphs refer to their original numbering in the left-hand column.</p>
Section 4, Paragraph (o)	<p>Paragraph (o) will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“(n) Power to make grants, loans or other payments and to give guarantees for any charitable purpose.”</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 4, Paragraph (q)	<p>The following words will be added to the end of this sub-clause, after the words “permitted by law”:</p> <p>“and to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure”</p>
Section 4, Paragraph (u)	<p>In paragraph (u), renumbered as paragraph (t), after the words “Power to collect and receive donations (whether periodical or other)”, the words “and to accept (or disclaim) gifts of money and any other property” will be inserted.</p>
Section 4, Paragraph (y)	<p>Paragraph (y) will be amended and restated as follows:</p> <p>“(x) Power to insure and take out any insurance policies including insurance for the property of the Grand Charity against any foreseeable risk, and to protect the Grand Charity, the Trustee, the Council and members of committees, including trustee indemnity insurance.”</p> <p>NB The text shown in bold above is illustrative only. It will not appear in bold in the Regulations.</p>
Section 4, Additional paragraph	<p>The following new paragraph will be inserted at the end of Section 4:</p> <p>“(z) Power to do such other lawful things as shall further the objects of the Grand Charity.”</p>
Section 5	<p>The Scheme at Section 5 now becomes Section 4 and the covering page of the Charity Commission Scheme dated 2 April 2002 will be inserted at the beginning of the Scheme as part of the constitution of the Grand Charity, as it contains certain definitions used in the Scheme.</p>

5. The Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, will explain the Charity's grant-giving activities and policies.
6. To seek approval for the following grants to be made, which are set out in more detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants referred to above:

MEDICAL RESEARCH

- a. £20,000 to **Action Medical Research** to fund research into infant medulloblastoma at Newcastle Medical School.
- b. £100,000 to **Northwick Park Institute for Medical Research** to fund colonoscopy training and research in Middlesex.
- c. £25,000 to **Spinal Research** to fund research on chondroitinase to enable nerve regrowth at Cambridge University.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- d. £20,000 to **Childhood First** to fund a family placement and support scheme in Norfolk.
- e. £15,000 to **Kidscape** to fund workshops for children at risk of becoming bullies.
- f. £15,000 to **Volunteer Reading Help** to fund reading support for children in care.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- g. £50,000 to **British Red Cross** to fund a first aid vehicle for Cambridgeshire.
- h. £50,000 to **Crisis** to fund the development of a centre for homeless people in Oxford.
- i. £80,000 to **Friends of the Elderly** to fund a new dementia unit in Malvern.
- j. £10,000 to **Pilotlight Cymru** to fund an administrator for a capacity building charity.
- k. £44,000 to **St John Cymru** to fund a new lifeboat in West Wales.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

- I. £5,000 to **Lichfield Cathedral**, Staffordshire, to fund conservation.
7. To report Emergency Grants made since the last meeting.
Under powers given to the President, a grant of £25,000 has been made via the British Red Cross for flood victims in Pakistan.
8. To receive a report on the work of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee by its Chairman, VWBro Michael D.P. Turnbull, PGSwdB.
9. Guest speakers:-
 - a. Major General Andrew Cumming, CBE – Controller of SSAFA Forces Help
 - b. Debra Keeling – Dementia Care Advisor, RMBI (in connection with its work with Dementia UK)
 - c. Professor Neville Davidson, FRCP, FCRC - Chairman of the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity
10. RWBro John Michael Webb, Provincial Grand Master for Essex, will address the meeting.
11. Closing address by the Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity, RWBro Iain R. Bryce, TD, DL, PDepGM.

END OF MEETING

FOLLOWED BY

LUNCH for ticket holders only

(following the meeting, a buffet lunch will be served to those who have previously purchased tickets from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex)

SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 6a. to 6l. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 16 October 2010, and which are referred to in paragraph 2. of the Council's report dated 21 July 2010. The paragraphs are numbered to match those shown in the Agenda.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

6a. ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Action Medical Research to fund a research fellowship in infant medulloblastoma under Dr C. Howell at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research, Medical School, Newcastle upon Tyne. Medulloblastoma is a malignant brain tumour found in children. The charity funds all types of medical research for children.

6b. NORTHWICK PARK INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH ("Northwick Park") The Council recommends a grant of £100,000 to Northwick Park to fund a training and research project at the Wolfson Unit for Endoscopy in St Mark's Hospital, Middlesex, a specialist colorectal postgraduate teaching hospital. The grant will fund the development of a colonoscopy simulator which will be introduced to other hospitals and training centres across the UK and it is estimated that 200 clinicians will attend courses each year.

6c. SPINAL RESEARCH The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Spinal Research to fund translational research on chondroitinase to enable nerve regrowth. The research project will be led by Dr E Muir at Cambridge University. The charity funds wide-ranging research into treatment for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

6d. CHILDHOOD FIRST The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Childhood First to fund a placement and family support team in Norfolk. The charity works with children with severe emotional and behavioural problems caused by abuse and neglect. The family support is run as an outreach programme providing tailor-made therapeutic support to traumatised children and their family and carers.

6e. KIDSCAPE The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Kidscape to fund workshops for children who are at risk of becoming bullies. The charity supports bullied children by providing anti-bullying resources and training. These workshops will work with potential bullies and a mentor to help channel aggression and stop bullying at an early stage. The charity is based in London.

6f. VOLUNTEER READING HELP The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Volunteer Reading Help to fund a project to help children in care to improve their reading through the use of volunteer reading helpers. The charity helps children in deprived areas to develop reading skills through support in schools and is currently helping 211 children in care. The project will operate in Kent and the Wirral.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

6g. BRITISH RED CROSS The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the British Red Cross to fund a new first aid unit vehicle for Cambridgeshire. The grant is part of a rolling programme to provide new vehicles to serve every Province and vehicles have already been funded in the West Midlands, Lancashire and Essex.

6h. CRISIS The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Crisis to fund the development of a new Skylight Centre for homeless people in Oxford. The centre will provide education, training and employment services to single homeless people. Crisis has existing centres in London and Newcastle which were used by 3,000 people last year and the charity opened a new centre in Birmingham this year. Further Crisis Skylight centres are planned for Edinburgh and Liverpool.

6i. FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY The Council recommends a grant of £80,000 to Friends of the Elderly to fund a new 24 bed dementia unit in Malvern. The unit will be attached to an existing residential home run by Friends of the Elderly and will provide specialist and dedicated nursing care for people suffering from dementia. The charity runs 16 residential and nursing homes for the elderly and also provides home and day services in certain areas.

6j. PILOTLIGHT CYMRU The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to fund the salary of an office administrator to enable the capacity building charity to expand into Wales. The charity offers small charities business input for a 2-year period by matching teams of 4 senior business people with charity leaders through a mentoring process. The charity has been established in London for 7 years and evaluation shows that partner charities increase the number of people they work with by an average of 57% and achieve a 54% increase in turnover.

6k. ST JOHN CYMRU The Council recommends a grant of £44,000 to St John Cymru to fund a new lifeboat in West Wales. There is no local RNLI station in the area and this is the only lifeboat run by St John Cymru. The charity provides voluntary first aid support and is the leading provider of first aid training in Wales as well as operating a patient transport service and providing educational youth development programmes.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

61. LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire, to contribute to the cost of the conservation of the Herkenrode glass in the Lady Chapel.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
following its meeting held on 21 July 2010
FOR THE GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Saturday, 16 October 2010

MASONIC GRANTS

1. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS

Since the last report, the Council has ratified the following grants made by the Masonic Relief Grants Committee:

DATE	NO OF GRANTS AWARDED	TOTAL RELIEF
19 May 2010	165	£439,950
16 June 2010	169	£472,657
21 July 2010	175	£477,300

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

2. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants (on pages 11 to 13) and which appear under items 6a. to 6l. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 16 October 2010.

OTHER MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

3. Since the last report the Grand Charity has received the following instalments from legacies of £1,000 or more:

Amy Mylese Watkins	£3,290.09
Frederick James Pannifer	£5,000.00
Raymond Scott	£2,000.00

On behalf of the members of the Grand Charity, the Council expresses its grateful thanks to all those who consider the Charity in their Will.

GRAND CHARITY FESTIVAL – SOUTH WALES 2010

4. The Festival held for the Grand Charity by the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales on Saturday, 15 May 2010 at the Cardiff International Arena, raised £4,032,217. The Council is most grateful to RWBro Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, KCVO, GCStJ, RD, RNR, Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, and the members of his Province for this magnificent achievement.

GRAND CHARITY FESTIVAL – ESSEX 2011

5. The 26th Annual Festival to be held on behalf of the Grand Charity will take place on Saturday, 25 June 2011, at the Guildhall, London, under the Presidency of the Provincial Grand Master for Essex.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President
21 July 2010

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ
Registered Charity No 281942

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON WC2B 5AZ
ON WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 2010 UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT

There were present those officers and members of the Grand Charity who had attended the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting and the Chief Executive.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 December 2009 at Freemasons' Hall, London, were taken as read and confirmed.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: (VWBro Grahame N. Elliott, CBE): Deputy Grand President and members, welcome to the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity.

Before dealing with the Report, I should like to make the following comments

1. The Council would like to thank Ken Rondel, who, until his appointment earlier this year as Provincial Grand Master for Jersey, was on our Finance Committee and was particularly supportive on our programme to review the Investments Strategy and the appointment of new advisers along with the other central Masonic Charities. Thanks also go to John Butler, who was appointed by the Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire in connection with the Festival that Province held in 2008. His service finishes at the end of this Annual General Meeting
2. This year, as you have just been informed in the Board of General Purposes' report, we are not seeking any increase in the annual contributions paid by Lodges under Rule 271. We

propose that the annual contributions remain at the level of £14 per Lodge membership.

3. And lastly, I hope you will be delighted to learn that later our Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, will be covering a few of the highlights of the last financial year once we have considered the Annual Report and Accounts, which everyone has been able to view on the Charity's website since the 14th May. I hope that many members will also have received the very important Annual Review, along with the latest copy of Freemasonry Today.

Turning now to the business paper for this Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity, Item 2 of the Agenda is to receive the Report of the Council following its meetings held since the last General Meeting in December.

With the exception of the Non-Masonic Grants, which will be dealt with under the next item, I now propose that the whole of the Report be taken as read and adopted.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Turning now to the business paper for this Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity [holds up yellow business paper], Item 2 of the Agenda is to receive the Report of the Council following its meetings held since the last General Meeting in December.

With the exception of the Non-Masonic Grants, which will be dealt with under the next item, I now propose that the whole of the Report be taken as read and adopted.

The motion was seconded by the
Deputy President (WBro Brian D. Kelly, PJGD)
and agreed by the members.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

The President then proposed as one motion that the following grants listed under Agenda Items 3a to 3x and totalling £1,014,000, be approved:

MEDICAL RESEARCH

3a ASSOCIATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA HYDROCEPHALUS (ASBH) The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to ASBH to fund a research project at the University of Sheffield into the use of in utero MRI scans to identify babies with abnormal brain development. Currently ultrasound scans are used, but there is evidence that in utero MRI will show more. About 1,100 spina bifida pregnancies still occur each year in the UK and the charity

provides support and information for families about the disabilities caused by spina bifida and hydrocephalus. The charity is based in Cambridgeshire.

3b. CAMBRIDGE FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £100,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the Cambridge Foundation to fund Dr Alasdair Cole's research into the use and side effects of alemtuzumab in treating multiple sclerosis. The research project was established to create a new drug treatment for early stage MS but it is also showing interesting results relating to the development of other autoimmune diseases. The charity is based in Cambridgeshire.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3c. ADDACTION The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Addaction to fund the Young Addaction Aspire pilot. The charity believes that young people who abuse drugs and alcohol respond well to treatment when it is tailored to their needs and that money is better spent on early intervention rather than expensive residential rehabilitation. The pilot will be working with young people in Cornwall and Lancashire offering a 12 week Aspire Foundation Course to cover personal development and a community project using local partners. The project is based in Lancashire.

3d. CENTREPOINT The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Centrepoint to fund the further roll-out of the Partnering Project for homeless young people. The Freemasons' Grand Charity originally funded the Project as a pilot scheme. The Project now operates in seven regions providing free capacity building support to small voluntary sector homelessness charities and consultancy and advice to larger organisations. The project is based across the country.

3e. CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE The Council recommends a grant of £83,000 to Clubs for Young People to fund the Do Something: Out of School project. The project will provide a programme of community based activities including cricket, dance, film-making etc to 2,000 smaller voluntary youth clubs and will be funded by a partnership between the Lord's Taverners, The Foundation for Sport and the Arts and The Freemasons' Grand Charity. The project is based across the country.

3f. SKILL FORCE The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Skill Force to fund a new team in the Solent, covering Bournemouth, Southampton, Portsmouth and Havant. Skill Force helps young people to earn vocational qualifications and to develop life skills through structured classroom and outdoor activities in which instruction and mentoring is provided mainly by ex-armed forces personnel. The charity is based in Nottinghamshire.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3g. BEATING BOWEL CANCER The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Beating Bowel Cancer to fund a specialist nurse advisor and head of patient services. Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer in the UK and 36,500 people are diagnosed each year. The charity delivers a telephone and web-based service as well as providing free informative publications. About 30,000 people download copies of the booklets and 250,000 have visited the website. The charity is based in Middlesex.

3h. BREAST CANCER HAVEN The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Breast Cancer Haven to fund a clinical nurse specialist in Hereford. The charity runs Havens in London, Leeds and Hereford supporting people with breast cancer. All services are provided free of charge and each year 420 cancer patients attend at Hereford.

3i. CARDIAC RISK IN THE YOUNG (CRY) The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to CRY to fund a new CRY vehicle to carry cardiac screening equipment for use by volunteer cardiologists at events. The charity raises awareness through a programme which screens 7,000 young people each year. One in 300 will be found to have a serious condition and eight apparently healthy young people (under 35) die of an undiagnosed heart condition each week in the UK. The charity is based in Surrey.

3j. CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to the Challenging Behaviour Foundation to fund the Family Support Officer who provides information and advice directly to families and provides input into national strategies. The charity supports about 1,400 families who care for disabled people who have extreme and challenging behaviour. The charity is based in Kent.

3k. CONNECT The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Connect to fund a quarterly newsletter containing information, tips and advice for people with aphasia. Aphasia is a speech and communication disorder that results from damage to the brain. Aphasia usually occurs after a stroke but it can also be caused by brain injury or tumour and 250,000 people in the UK have aphasia. NHS patients may be offered short-term speech therapy after a stroke, but do not receive any long-term help with communication disabilities. The charity is based in London.

3l. COUNSEL AND CARE The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Counsel and Care to support the national advice service for the elderly and part-fund the salary of a new fundraiser. The advice line deals in detail with 2,500 enquiries plus 500 written enquiries each year and produces factsheets on a variety of relevant issues for older people. The new fundraiser will develop the charity's capability to raise money from individual donors and legacies. The charity is based in London.

3m. DOGS FOR THE DISABLED The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Dogs for the Disabled to fund a programme highlighting the benefits of a trained dog for families with an autistic child. The charity has previously provided eight specially trained dogs to families with autistic children with positive results but this new project will help many more families and will be delivered in partnership with the National Autistic Society. The charity receives 50 enquiries of interest each week and aims to reach 320 families. The charity is based in Oxfordshire.

3n. DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Down Syndrome Education International to fund the See and Learn Project. The project builds on step-by-step activities and materials to help children achieve better reading, language, number and memory skills. All programmes are available to families free of charge on-line and the website has 20,000 regular visitors. The charity is based in Hampshire.

3o. MUSIC IN HOSPITALS The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Music in Hospitals to fund Making Musical Memories, a series of concerts for older people in healthcare settings. The charity uses 300 professional musicians to deliver concerts in day care centres, hospitals, nursing and residential homes improving the quality of life and well being of those attending. Most healthcare centres contribute to the cost of concerts, but when cuts have to be made cultural activities are often targeted first. The Charity therefore provides 48% of its concerts free of charge. The charity is based in Surrey.

3p. PHAB The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to PHAB to fund Inclusive Living Experiences at outdoor activity centres for disabled children. 130 children aged 14-18 attend projects in Cumbria, Derbyshire & Hampshire. It gives parents of disabled children a respite break or allows them to holiday together as a family. The charity is based in Croydon.

3q. THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION (RABI) The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to RABI to contribute to the welfare fund. RABI is a grant-making charity which supports members of the farming community who are suffering hardship. RABI has 12 regional welfare officers who visit and assess applicants and the charity supported 1,668 beneficiaries in 2008 with £1.9m of grants, welfare advice and practical support. The charity is based in Oxfordshire.

3r. SEVERN AREA RESCUE ASSOCIATION (SARA) The Council recommends a grant of £21,000 to SARA to fund the expansion of the Chepstow Station. SARA is an independent lifeboat and land search rescue organisation. It is staffed by volunteers who attended 114 callouts in 2008.

There are lifeboat stations at Chepstow, Sharpness and Wyre Forest covering a wide swathe of the west of England and Wales. The charity is based in Monmouthshire.

3s. SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION (SSAFA) FORCES HELP The Council recommends a grant of £250,000 to SSAFA Forces Help to fund the specific needs of regional branches in supporting service personnel and their families. The grant will be distributed across the country in the autumn and the Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Lodges will be invited to assist with cheque presentations at the local branches.

3t. SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE ASSOCIATION (SBSA) The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to SBSA to support the children of SBSA members. The Royal Navy's Special Boat Service (SBS) is the lesser-known sister unit of the British Army's Special Air Service (SAS) regiment. The SBS is a special forces unit which carries out special operations at sea, along coastlines and on river networks but is also highly skilled on dry land. Recent operations have taken place in Afghanistan and in Iraq. The charity is based in Dorset.

3u. VICTIM SUPPORT The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Victim Support to fund training of volunteers in the south west region to enable them to support victims of serious crime. The charity provides support and information for victims of personal crime and volunteers need specialist training to help them to deal with domestic violence, sexual abuse, murder and racist crimes. Each crime category has a tailored four-day course. The charity is based in Wiltshire.

3v. VITALISE The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Vitalise to subsidise respite holidays for people with Alzheimer's Disease and their carers at a residential centre in Nottingham. The whole centre is reserved for the specialist weeks and the carers are able to socialise and go on outings while knowing that their partner is being properly cared for. The charity provides services for disabled people in five residential centres and focuses on those with high dependency needs. The charity is based in Cumbria.

3w. WINSTON'S WISH The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Winston's Wish to fund a senior counsellor. 24,000 children in the UK are bereaved of a parent each year. The counsellor helps families bereaved through homicide or suicide and will work directly with 80 families each year. The counsellor also answers calls on the national helpline and emails on the website. The helpline supports about 3,500 families and professionals each year. The charity is based in Gloucestershire.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

3x. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to Liverpool Cathedral to contribute to the cost of refurbishment of the Undercroft area.

The motion was seconded by the
Deputy President (WBro Brian D. Kelly, PJGD)
and agreed by the members.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TRUST DEED AND REGULATIONS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members. Items 4 and 5 deal with changes to the Grand Charity's Trust Deed and Regulations, respectively, but unless anyone has any objections, I propose to take these together.

Full details of the amendments made have been available in the Grand Charity office and on the Charity's website since 14 May 2010. Much of this is a tidying-up operation and certainly there is nothing that in any way destroys or impairs the charitable status of the Grand Charity.

Deputy Grand President and members, I propose that the Council's amendments referred to at Agenda Items 4 and 5, and which have been detailed in the documents previously made available, be ratified for approval.

The motion was seconded by the
Deputy President (WBro Brian D. Kelly, PJGD)
and agreed by the members.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members. We now come to Item 6 and the Council presents its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 November 2009, copies of which were circulated with the paper of business for today's meetings and, as I previously mentioned, have been available for all to see on the Charity's website.

Before I propose their adoption I should like to say that:

1. It has been a good year for the Charity, thanks to the continued support of the Craft, to which Laura Chapman will refer shortly.
2. The charitable giving in the year, as shown in the accounts, amounts to £9,594,000 made up of Masonic Grants of £4.7m, Non-Masonic Grants of £2.9m and Non-Masonic Grants via the Relief Chest Holders of £1.85m. I feel this is a very respectable sum of which I hope you all feel justifiably proud.

Deputy Grand President and members. Before asking for the Annual Report and Accounts to be adopted, I shall be pleased to respond to any particular point that any member might wish to raise.

I now propose that the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2009 – be taken as read, received and adopted.

The motion was seconded by the
Deputy President (WBro Brian D. Kelly, PJGD)
and agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President. Before moving to item 7, I will, with your permission, ask our Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to guide us through some of the highlights of the year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Laura Chapman): Deputy Grand President and Members – I am very pleased that the President asked me to report on the work of the Grand Charity in 2009 as it allows me to share with you some of the highlights of the year.

As you may recall, I mentioned last year that the Grand Charity received a remarkable legacy in 2008 that has allowed the Trustees this year to approve a grant of £500,000 for the RMBI to improve dementia care in its home at Cadogan Court. As I am sure you are all aware, the RMBI is undertaking a major programme of refurbishment of its homes and the Grand Charity's support enabled by this legacy will make a significant contribution to this programme.

In addition, the Grand Charity continues its core function and during the year covered by the Annual Report and Accounts it awarded 1,930 grants to Masons and their dependants in financial distress. During the past year we have seen some of the most complicated and distressing cases that we have ever received as the impact of the financial crisis has caused redundancies, business failures and other devastating situations for members and their families.

Two projects that I would like to bring to your attention from the grants made to non-Masonic Charities include a medical breakthrough for diabetes and funding for stem cell regeneration of sight. In 2007, the Grand Charity awarded a grant to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to develop a closed loop artificial pancreas for children. The research has been successful and the artificial pancreas will revolutionise the management of Type 1 diabetes. A second grant for medical research awarded in 2009 is one of £250,000 to Moorfields Eye Hospital to support research into therapies to prevent ocular scarring and enable stem cell regeneration of sight.

These are just two highlights from a programme of grant making that totalled £2.9m last year and included a special allocation of £550,000 for ten grants that were made to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the installation of HRH The Duke of Kent as Grand Master.

The exciting news from the Relief Chest Scheme in 2009 is that it has entered the electronic age wholeheartedly. You would not believe that hidden in the basement of Great Queen Street is a hub of 21st century IT technology that has revolutionised the efficiency and capability of the service for Lodges and other Masonic organisations to help them manage the money that they collect for charity. The Grand Charity is very grateful for the excellent support it has received from Grand Lodge's IT department to achieve this goal. Not only is the Scheme providing all its services more efficiently and at lower per unit costs, but every year the amount of gift aid tax that it is reclaiming is growing—in 2009 the total neared 3/4 million pounds. I would urge any of you whose Lodges do not have a Relief Chest to open one to gain the benefits of gift aid tax relief and ease of administration, all at no additional cost to your Lodge.

Another highlight for the Grand Charity was the 2009 Festival held by the Province of Hertfordshire. The Council would like to thank the Provincial Grand Master, Colin Harris, and all the members of the Province who contributed to it for their generous support of more than £3m for the Grand Charity.

The year has also been marked by an ever growing number of initiatives supported by the four central Charities. We have already seen very positive results from these and I would leave you with the very clear message that the move of the four Charities into Freemasons' Hall is already bringing greater efficiency and a higher quality of service for you, the members of the Craft. Thank you.

EMERGENCY GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members – Item 7 relates to Emergency Grants. Details of all recent grants made under the special powers given to the President of the Grand Charity are shown under Item 7 of the Agenda, and so I do not propose to explain them further.

- Floods in Southern India - An emergency grant of £25,000 was donated to Save the Children, following the Krishna River bursting its banks flooding five districts in India. The grant helped 20 of the worst affected villages in Southern India by providing them with essential and life-saving relief.

- Cumbrian Flood Relief - An emergency grant of £10,000 was given via the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland to the Cumbria Community Foundation.
- Haiti Earthquake - Two emergency grants totaling £20,000 were granted to help the Red Cross with their aid efforts and Plan International received a grant of £10,000 in support of their efforts in dealing with the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

- Chile Earthquake – An emergency grant of £20,000 was approved to the Red Cross following a large earthquake in Chile. More than 800 people were killed and over 2 million affected by the disaster.

However, I would like to add that due to the request from some Provinces, Lodges and individual members, the Council opened a Relief Chest specifically to receive donations for the Haiti disaster relief work. The funds will be awarded to a specific project, similar to that given following the Asian Tsunami. To date we have received generous donations amounting to £84,000. The Chest is still open for further donations and our Chief Executive will be recommending a suitable project within the next few months. Thank you to everyone who has supported the project.

COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY

The Secretary (WBro Richard Camm-Jones, PAGDC) announced the following appointments and elections to the Council under regulation 0203 of the Regulations of the Grand Charity: -

Appointments by the Grand President

WBro Bro Brian Kelly, PJGD,
as Deputy President of the Grand Charity
WBro Bro Roderic W. Mitchell, PJGD,
as Treasurer of the Grand Charity

To serve for the period 2010 to 2013: -

VWBro Michael D.P. Turnbull, PGSwdB
WBro Charles Akle, PJGD
WBro Paul S. Richards, PAGDC

Elected by Masonic Provinces for the period 2010 to 2013

WBro David K. McCormick, PSGD
WBro Dr Kenneth C. Harvey, PAGDC
WBro Anthony J. Wood

Elected by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge for the period 2010 to 2013

WBro Ian B. Johnson, PAGDC

Appointed by the Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire, whose Province will be holding a Festival for the Grand Charity in 2012

WBro Nigel A. Pett

AUDITORS OF THE GRAND CHARITY'S ACCOUNTS

RWBro Michael Price, Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, proposed that the firm of Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP be re-elected auditors of the Grand Charity for the ensuing year.

RWBro Percy Driver, District Grand Master for Bombay,
seconded and the members agreed the motion.

CLOSING COMMENT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Before you close this Annual General Meeting, Deputy Grand President, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of the Grand Charity to thank all the Council members for their time, interest, enthusiasm and expertise, which they give so generously to this Charity. We are most grateful to them all, especially those who retire this year.

Since the last Annual General Meeting we have been delighted to welcome Brother Ian Bryce as our new Vice Grand President. He brings with him a wealth of relevant charitable experience, in particular his knowledge of the Masonic charities. In the last few months we have benefited from a truly excellent Festival in South Wales, and so our heartfelt thanks go to the members of that Province and their Provincial Grand Master, Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards.

Indeed, thank you to all of you for your generous support over the past 30 years, without which our work could not have continued. It is an honour to serve Freemasons and Freemasonry in this way and on behalf of the Council of the Grand Charity, we hope you feel that together with our fellow Central Masonic Charities, we do justice to your charitable aims.

Deputy Grand President and members, I thank you.

END OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

DIARY DATES

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2011 Festival

to be held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex
Saturday, 25 June 2011
Guildhall, London

General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity

to be held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire
Saturday, 26 November 2011
11.00 am
Staffordshire County Showground

Future Grand Charity Festivals

Cambridgeshire – 2012
Staffordshire – 2013
East Kent – 2014
West Wales – 2015
Norfolk - 2016
Sussex - 2017

All events are open to Freemasons and their non-Masonic guests.

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