

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*

14 March 2011

Dear Sir and Brother

NOTICE OF MEETING

A General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held on **Saturday, 2 April 2011**, at **11.00 am** at Cambridge Masonic Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1NA. 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, may attend. Everyone must be seated by 10.50 am.

The meeting, which will be chaired by RWBro Jonathan Spence, DepGM, is being organised with the support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire. Because space is limited, anyone who wishes to attend must first register their intention with the Provincial Grand Lodge (see details on page 5). A buffet lunch will be served after the meeting to all those who are present. The agenda, report of the Council and minutes of the previous 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, 2 April 2011

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Chairman, RWBro Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master.
2. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 16 October 2010 at the University of Essex, Colchester, for confirmation (see page 13).
3. To receive the report of the Council dated 26 January 2011. The report is contained on pages 10 to 12. It includes recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out in detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants on pages 6 to 9, and which should be considered as part of the report. These recommendations require the approval, under item 5. below, of the members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity at this General Meeting before the money can be given.
4. The Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, will explain the Charity's grant-giving activities and policies.
5. 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:

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- a. £25,000 to the **Amber Foundation** to fund a recruiting officer for a residential centre for disadvantaged young people in Surrey.
- b. £60,000 payable over two years to **Fairbridge** to fund the development tutor and outreach worker at a centre in Liverpool.
- c. £20,000 to **Girlguiding UK** to fund a peer mentoring and education project.

- d. £36,000 payable over three years to **Helena Kennedy Foundation** to fund a project to support children in care to achieve in higher education.
- e. £25,000 to the **Venture Trust** to fund the *Transitions to Independent Living* project for young homeless people.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- f. £20,000 to **Beatbullying** to fund *CyberMentors*, an online peer support project for disabled children.
- g. £20,000 to **MDF The Bipolar Organisation** to fund the regional development officer for self-help groups.
- h. £30,000 payable over three years to **Meningitis Trust** to fund the salary of the Community Nurse Manager.
- i. £15,000 to the **National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy** to fund a campaign to improve educational opportunities for children with epilepsy.
- j. £250,000 to **Parkinson's UK** to be distributed to each of the Provincial Grand Lodges for presentation locally to fund branch activities for people with Parkinson's Disease.
- k. £30,000 payable over two years to **Phoenix Futures** to fund a conservation therapy rehabilitation programme for recovering drug and alcohol addicts.
- l. £15,000 to the **Queen Alexandra Hospital Home** to fund a neuropsychologist for ex-Service personnel with acquired brain injury.
- m. £15,000 to **Sunfield Children's Homes** to fund outdoor sensory play equipment for children with severe learning disabilities.
- n. £30,000 to **The Children's Trust** to fund the upgrade of the accommodation for parents at a residential home for children with profound disabilities.
- o. £15,000 to **The Lin Berwick Trust** to fund a new holiday cottage in Cornwall for disabled people.

- p. £50,000 to **Treloar Trust** to fund a design and technology room at a college for severely disabled young people.
 - q. £20,000 to **Youth Cancer Trust** to fund the salary of the support worker at a holiday home for young people with cancer.
6. To consider the following resolutions:-
- a. that £600,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **hospice services** in 2011; £500,000 for allocation to adult hospices and £100,000 to children's hospices (Report paragraph 3).
 - b. that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general **non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less**, in 2011 (Report paragraph 4).
 - c. that £60,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2011 for grants to be made under the **Provincial Matched Funding Scheme** (Report paragraph 5).
 - d. that £192,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2011 for the **Air Ambulance and similar rescue services** in England, Wales and the Crown Dependencies, to be distributed via Provincial Grand Lodges (Report paragraph 6).
7. To report Emergency Grants made since the last meeting.

Under powers given to the President, a grant of £1,500 has been given to Save the Children being additional funds required for a project to re-build a school in the epicentre of the earthquake in Haiti. Following an outbreak of cholera, a further emergency grant of £25,000 has been given.

Following an earthquake in Queensland, Australia, a grant of £20,000 has been given to the Grand Lodge of Queensland's "Grand Master's Queensland Flood Appeal", which is to assist the wider community.

Following the flooding that hit Cornwall in December 2010, the President approved a grant of £5,000 for the relief of the community to be distributed via the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall.

Following flooding and mudslides in Brazil, the President approved a grant of £20,000 for the general community to be distributed via the District Grand Lodge of South America, ND.

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. Two speakers from the Scout Association, including the Director of Marketing & Communications, Gail Scott-Price.
 - b. Reverend Dr Alasdair Coles from the Cambridge Foundation.
10. RWBro Rodney J. Wolverson, Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire, will address the meeting.
11. Closing address by RWBro Jonathan Spence, DepGM.

END OF MEETING

FOLLOWED BY

LUNCH

Following the meeting, a buffet lunch will be served to those who have previously registered their intention to attend the meeting.

Applications to attend should be made to:-

Peter Brindle, The Bursar, Darwin College, Cambridge CB3 9EU
(envelopes should be marked '**FGCGM**')

Email: pjb37@cam.ac.uk

Telephone: 01223 335664

SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 5a. to 5q. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 2 April 2011, and which are referred to in paragraph 2 of the Council's report dated 26 January 2011. The paragraphs are numbered to match those shown in the Agenda.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

5a. AMBER FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the Amber Foundation to fund the salary of a recruiting officer for a residential centre in Surrey. The charity provides a structured programme of activities at three residential centres for disadvantaged unemployed young people. Each centre accommodates 30 young people who, on average, stay six to seven months. The programme has an 80% success rate of getting young people into college, work or reunited with their families. The recruiting officer makes contacts with referring agencies, identifies suitable young people and obtains funding for places. The charity is based in Wiltshire and the centre is in Surrey.

5b. FAIRBRIDGE The Council recommends a grant of £60,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to Fairbridge to fund an Outreach Worker and a Development Tutor at a centre in Liverpool. Fairbridge works with 3,500 of the most disaffected and disadvantaged young people running open-ended programmes of courses and activities. The charity aims to get 50% of the young people back into work, volunteering or education. The charity has agreed a merger with The Prince's Trust. The charity is based in London and the centre is in Liverpool.

5c. GIRLGUIDING UK The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Girlguiding UK to fund a new peer mentoring programme which will train older Guides to deliver sessions to Brownies and younger Guides on a wide range of topics such as bullying, eating disorders, sexual health and stress management. The project also helps the trained peers with their presentation skills, communication, decision making and leadership. The charity is based in London.

5d. HELENA KENNEDY FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £36,000 payable in equal instalments over three years to the Helena Kennedy Foundation to fund the *ThinkBig* programme for 10 looked-after young people (i.e. children in care). The programme will help those 'A' level students who do not have any family support to

overcome personal circumstances and achieve in higher education. The charity provides a mentor to help students to complete their studies and also offers internships and training in interview skills and business writing as well as financial support. The charity is based in London.

5e. VENTURE TRUST. The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Venture Trust to fund the *Transitions to Independent Living* project for young homeless people living in Foyers in England and Wales. Participants are referred from Foyers and will have a 10 day personal development course in the Highlands followed by ongoing outreach support. After a three year pilot project 64% of young people were in employment, education, training or volunteering, an increase of 47%. The charity is based in Scotland, the beneficiaries are from Foyers in England and Wales.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

5f. BEATBULLYING The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to BeatBullying to fund CyberMentors, an online peer support project specifically for disabled children and those with special needs. The charity supports young people to tackle bullying through prevention workshops in schools and communities. The CyberMentors project has been going for 18 months, has 1 million users and participating schools record a 41% reduction in bullying. Young mentors are supported by trained counsellors and the website is monitored by BeatBullying. The charity is based in London.

5g. MDF THE BIPOLAR ORGANISATION The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to MDF The Bipolar Organisation to fund a regional development officer for self-help groups. The charity is a self help organisation for sufferers of bipolar (manic depression) with 120 self-help groups and 4,500 members. The charity runs self-management training and has a helpline which receives 500 calls a month about benefits, employment, debt and other issues. The charity is based in London.

5h. MENINGITIS TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 payable in equal instalments over three years to the Meningitis Trust to fund the salary of the Community Nurse Manager. One in seven people have lifelong disabilities after meningitis. The charity supports about 15,000 people each year and the community nurses make home visits, give advice and information, answer the helpline and run family days. The charity is based in Gloucestershire.

5i. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to the National Centre for Young

People with Epilepsy to fund the Champions for Childhood Epilepsy Campaign. 60,000 young people have epilepsy in the UK which is one child in every primary school and five in every secondary school. Half significantly underperform at school compared to their IQ and many teachers lack the knowledge and skills to help these children achieve their potential. The charity is based in Surrey.

5j. PARKINSON'S UK The Council recommends a grant of £250,000 to Parkinson's UK to fund the specific needs of regional branches in supporting people with Parkinson's Disease. The grant will be presented to branches across the country by the Provincial Grand Lodges.

5k. PHOENIX FUTURES The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 payable over two years (£20,000 and £10,000) to Phoenix Futures to fund the Conservation Therapy Programme engaging service users in practical outdoor conservation work as part of rehabilitation. The charity provides rehabilitation programmes for drug and alcohol addicts and this project is delivered away from treatment centres in eight sites with the National Trust, Natural England, RSPB etc. Users become volunteers and increase their chances of completing a full programme of rehabilitation by 21%. The project is run from Sheffield.

5l. QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL HOME The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home to provide a Neuropsychologist to help residents with acquired brain injury (ABI). The charity provides residential rehabilitation and nursing for ex-Service personnel. Those with ABI often have difficulty communicating and are frustrated, angry or confused. The psychologist will help them, as part of a multi-disciplinary team, to come to terms with their disability. The charity is based in Sussex.

5m. SUNFIELD CHILDREN'S HOMES The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Sunfield Children's Homes to fund outdoor sensory play equipment for children with severe learning disabilities. The charity provides residential care for 60 pupils from across the UK with complex learning needs including profound autism and challenging behaviour. The equipment will be used in structured therapy sessions with an occupational therapist to help modulate behaviour, as well as in play breaks. The charity is based in Worcestershire.

5n. THE CHILDREN'S TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to The Children's Trust to fund the upgrade of accommodation to enable parents to visit and stay near their disabled children. The Trust provides residential care and education for children with profound

multiple disabilities and currently parents are housed in staff accommodation. The planned development will provide 9 en-suite rooms with shared living facilities and wheelchair access. The charity is based in Surrey.

5o. THE LIN BERWICK TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to the Lin Berwick Trust as a contribution towards a new holiday cottage in Cornwall. The charity provides self-catering accommodation for severely disabled people and their families. The Trust currently runs two cottages which are occupied 45 weeks of the year. The charity is based in Suffolk and the cottage will be in Cornwall.

5p. TRELOAR TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Treloar Trust to fund a design and technology room at Treloar College. Treloar provides residential education and training to 250 young people with severe physical disabilities. 90% of students use a wheelchair and 80% have impaired speech. The most recent Ofsted report rated Treloar as 'outstanding'. The design and technology room will be part of a new development of purpose-built facilities for the school and college. The charity is based in Hampshire.

5q. YOUTH CANCER TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to the Youth Cancer Trust to fund the salary of the Support Worker. The charity provides free holidays in Bournemouth for young people with cancer. Eight young people at a time join in activity-based holidays and 240 young people attended last year. The charity aims to reduce the isolation that young people with cancer suffer as they are separated from their peers by their illness. The holidays receive excellent feedback from the young people. The charity is based in Dorset.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following its meetings held on 20 October 2010 and 26 January 2011

FOR THE GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Saturday, 2 April 2011

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
18 August 2010	164	£427,879
15 September 2010	142	£390,630
20 October 2010	170	£453,362
17 November 2010	141	£352,773
14 December 2010	174	£427,090
26 January 2011	154	£417,488

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

2. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants (on pages 6 to 9) and which appear under items 6. to 9. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 2 April 2011.

HOSPICES

3. The Council recommends that £600,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to hospice services in 2011; £500,000 for allocation to adult hospices and £100,000 to children's hospices (Agenda item 6a).

SMALL GRANTS

4. The Council recommends that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2011 (Agenda item 6b).

PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

5. The Council's Matched-Funding Scheme, in association with Provincial Grand Lodges, continues to be well received and the Council recommends that a further £60,000 be placed at its disposal in 2011 for match-funding grants (Agenda item 6c).

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

6. Support for operational Air Ambulance and similar rescue services in England, Wales and the Crown Dependencies continues to receive widespread support from Freemasons and the Council now recommends that a further £192,000 be placed at its disposal in 2011 for grants to these services, to be distributed via Provincial Grand Lodges (Agenda item 6d).

OTHER MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

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

Graham Illingworth	£35,000.00
Raymond Unwin	£20,000.00
Beatrice Aspinwall	£5,105.77
D. Godfrey	£1,000.00

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.

GENERAL MEETINGS

8. **ESSEX** The Grand Charity holds at least one General Meeting each year in a Masonic Province. The Council wishes to record formally its thanks to the Provincial Grand Master for Essex, and the members of his Province who assisted in organising a very successful meeting at the University of Essex, Colchester, in October 2010, at which approximately 170 members and wives were present (the minutes of the meeting are on page 13.)

9. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE** The Council is very pleased to note that the Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire has agreed that his Province shall support a General Meeting of the Grand Charity to be held at the Cambridge Masonic Hall, Bateman Street, on Saturday, 2 April 2011.

10. **STAFFORDSHIRE** The Council is very pleased to note that the Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire has agreed that his Province shall support a General Meeting of the Grand Charity to be held at the Staffordshire County Showground on Saturday, 26 November 2011.

11. COUNCIL'S HAITI RELIEF CHEST Following emergency grants of £30,000 approved by the President in support of relief work after an earthquake in Haiti, the Council opened a Relief Chest in January 2010 to receive additional donations from members of the Craft to help with the longer term needs. The Council has now identified a suitable project and a total of £93,000 has been given to Save the Children to assist in rebuilding a school at the epicentre of the earthquake. The Chest has now been closed.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President
26 January 2011

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, COLCHESTER
ON SATURDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2010 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
RWBRO IAIN R. BRYCE, *TD, DL*, PDEPGM, VICE GRAND PRESIDENT

**As well as officers and members of the Grand Charity, Her Majesty's
Lord Lieutenant for Essex, Lord John Petre of Writtle, and many other
invited guests were present.**

The Vice Grand President entered and opened the meeting at
11.00 am by welcoming all those present.
He then called on the President of the Grand Charity.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, Baron Petre,
honoured guests, ladies, gentlemen and members.

On behalf of the members of the Council of the Grand Charity, many of
whom are here today with their ladies, I welcome you all to this General
Meeting.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is just one of four central Masonic
Charities. The others being: -

the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys
the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
and the Masonic Samaritan Fund.

This Charity – The Freemasons' Grand Charity - stems from original funds
set up for charitable activities when Freemasonry as we know it today first
started, the Grand Charity is the only one that automatically confers
membership on Freemasons, the majority of whom live in England &

Wales. Those of you are Master Masons present here today are all members of the Grand Charity.

The Charity makes grants to Freemasons who find themselves in difficulty, financially or health-wise, and this aspect of its work will be explained later during the Meeting under Item 8. We are also the principle non-Masonic grant-giving Charity of the four central Charities, which again will be explained by our Chief Executive under Item 5. We make Emergency Grants which are dealt with under Item 7 and run the Relief Chest Scheme for Lodges and Provinces to help them maximise the efficiency of the handling of their charity funds, both from an interest point of view and taxation relief.

The purpose of this meeting is to present the most recent report of the Council of the Grand Charity, which includes several recommendations for grants to non-Masonic charities, and which require the approval of the members. Details of the grants are given on pages 11 and 12 of the yellow booklet.

Whilst you will hear about the work of the Charity, more importantly this is also an opportunity for those who know little about us, or even the Masonic order in general, to learn something more of our activities and those of the many other charities around the country that do so much for the good of us all. None of the charities represented here today, including the Freemasons' Grand Charity itself, is here to collect funds, but I hope that you will leave the meeting with a greater knowledge of what is available from us all and perhaps a clearer picture of how you might wish to help us on some future occasion.

Grants from the Freemasons' Grand Charity are only given to charities that serve the wider population of England and Wales, but some have a local connection either because the charity is based in the area or because it has projects running that support specific local communities. Some of those that have received grants in recent years and which have a particular connection with this part of the country are: -

The British Red Cross, which received £50,000 last year for a Responder Ambulance for Essex. The van is here today, and I hope you will all take the opportunity of going outside to see it.

We have also given grants totalling £34,000 to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance between 2007 and 2010.

Several local branches of SSAFA Forces Help, including Essex, have been assisted as we shall hear later in the meeting.

The following charities, which have all received grants in recent years, are all based here in Essex:-

Barnardo's
Princess Royal Trust for Carers
Lupus UK
Scout Association – KidsOutdoors Campaign

Each year since 1984, almost every hospice service in the country has received assistance from us. Here in Essex over the past 26 years, a total of £300,000 has been donated to local services including the:-

Fair Havens Hospice
Farleigh Hospice
Haven House Children's Hospice
Little Haven Children's Hospice
Saint Francis Hospice
St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust
St Helena Hospice
St Luke's Hospice (Basildon & District)

and further grants will be going out next month.

The Council members and I are most grateful to the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex for helping us to organise this General Meeting today and also to all the other Masonic and Civic representatives, who have come along to support it. I hope that everyone will find the day both enjoyable and interesting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 June 2010, at Freemasons' Hall, London, were taken as read and confirmed.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As I mentioned just now, under our regulations, we must present at all General Meetings a report of the Council's activities and decisions made since the previous General Meeting. The report of our Council meeting held on 21 July 2010 is set out on pages 14 and 15 of the booklet.

Under Item 3 of the Agenda (which is on page 2), I now propose that the whole of the Report be taken as read and, with the exception of paragraph 2. and the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants, which is the subject of Agenda Items 6. and which will be dealt with later, that it be adopted.

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: Vice Grand President and members. Last January, the Council approved several changes to the Grand Charity's Trust Deed and Regulations. Although these were the subject of a proposal at the Annual General Meeting last June, the Council has since been made aware that in order to fully comply with the Scheme of the Charity Commission, details of all the proposed amendments should be given in the paper of business for the meeting at which the resolution to ratify them is considered. Consequently, the details, which have been generally available since 14 May last, appear in total on the Agenda for today's meeting and so I now propose that they be ratified for approval.

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

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President and members, before we deal with the non-Masonic grants recommended under Agenda Item 6. I will, with your permission Vice Grand President, call on the Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to tell us something about the process undertaken by the Council, before recommendations are made. Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Laura Chapman.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Laura Chapman): Vice Grand President, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen.

The next item on the agenda seeks the approval of the members for 12 grants to non-Masonic charities that have been recommended by the Council. To give you some additional background about this aspect of our work, I would like to speak very briefly about the Charity's guidelines for non-Masonic grants and what we hope to achieve by making them.

Providing a central point for giving to non-Masonic charities on behalf of the entire Craft was one of the primary reasons that the Freemasons' Grand Charity was established in 1980. Although local and Provincial Lodges donate money to literally thousands of charities, these are primarily to charities of the local community and reflect the wishes of that particular Lodge or Province. It was envisioned that the Freemasons' Grand Charity would complement this local giving by making grants to national charities that the majority of Masons would want to help. In twenty-nine years, the Charity has made grants totalling more than £45m to a wide range of social welfare and medical research charities.

The Council, when deciding which charities to support, is very aware of its responsibility to you, the Craft, who provide all the funding for these grants—grants that in 2009 totalled more than £2.9m. With non-Masonic grants, The Freemasons' Grand Charity seeks to:

- Support causes that you, the members of the Craft and your families, are concerned about and that you would choose to fund yourselves
- Support charities that are well-managed, need funding and offer services that are relevant
- Achieve identifiable and measurable results—helping people in real need, and
- Raise public awareness about Freemasons' charitable support through the publicity received from national charities.

Before a grant is put to a General Meeting for approval, it is carefully vetted by staff, against guidelines agreed by the Council, as part of our due diligence. For all larger grants, we will visit the charity at work. The accounts of the charity will be scrutinised and the management team assessed to ensure that it can deliver the project for which it is seeking funding. After a grant is made, we ask for follow-up reports as part of our monitoring and evaluation to find out what the grant has achieved.

We also have a number of initiatives to work more closely with Provincial Masons to provide support for causes that are particularly important to them. As well as the successful matched funding scheme which is offered to provinces every four years on a rolling programme. The Freemasons' Grand Charity has established a new initiative whereby the charity will approve a major grant of £250,000 every year to a cause that receives particular support from Freemasons. The donation will then be split into smaller grants which will be delivered by the Provincial (and Metropolitan) Grand Lodges to the local branches of the selected national

charity, in a similar manner to the Air Ambulance grants. This year, SSAFA Forces Help is the recipient and the cheques are currently being presented around the country.

We are now in the fourth year of the Air Ambulance scheme and over £750,000 has been given to air ambulance services around the country to date. This grant is very popular with Provincial Grand Lodges and, when the cheques are presented they are often augmented by individual Province's own fundraising efforts to their local service. As mentioned earlier by the President, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust has received a total of £34,000 from the Grand Charity since 2007.

Masonic support for air ambulance services is probably surpassed only by its support for hospices. Since 1984 the Freemasons' Grand Charity has given over £8 M for the operating costs of adult and children's hospices throughout England and Wales. All of these grants are made via Provincial offices.

Turning to the yellow paper of business, you will see that at item 6, the 12 recommended grants are grouped under the main categories of support given by the Freemasons' Grand Charity:-

- medical research
- vulnerable people
- youth opportunities
- plus religious buildings

After consideration has been given to these grants, the President will tell you about the Emergency Grants he has approved since the last General Meeting. These are also given for non-Masonic causes, usually towards relief efforts following natural disasters.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

The President then proposed as one motion that the following 12 grants which were listed under Items 6a. to 6l. of the Agenda, and which total £434,000, be approved:

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

6l. 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.

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

EMERGENCY GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As President, I am authorized to make emergency grants throughout the world of up to a total of £200,000 between General Meetings, to help in the event of disasters or similar emergencies.

The Agenda shows that since the last meeting, a grant of £25,000 has been made to help victims of the terrible flooding in Pakistan. I now have to report that a further £25,000 has been added to that grant, making a total of £50,000 that the Grand Charity has given to the British Red Cross to help with their disaster relief work following the Pakistan floods.

I also have to report that an emergency grant of £10,000 has been approved for residents in the South Island of New Zealand, following a major earthquake. This sum is to be matched by the District Grand Lodge and given to the Mayor's Fund for distribution to the wider public who are in financial distress. Despite having necessary insurance cover, many of the people living there still required emergency financial assistance in order to help them carry on as normal, or at least as best they can.

SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: We now come to Item 8, which is to receive a report on the work of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee. This Committee has one of the most important tasks associated with Masonic charitable activity as it assists our own members (Freemasons) and their dependants. I, therefore, have much pleasure in calling on the Chairman of the Committee, Michael Turnbull.

VWBro Michael Turnbull, PGSwdB,
Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee,
addressed the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Our next two speakers represent charities that the Grand Charity supports on behalf of all Freemasons on a national scale. Last June, the members of the Grand Charity approved a major 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 was due to be distributed across the country this autumn and we looked to the Provincial Grand Lodges and Metropolitan Grand Lodge to assist us in achieving this by presenting cheques at local branches.

To tell us more about the charity and how our grant will be used, please welcome, the Controller of SSAFA Forces Help, Major General Andrew Cumming.

Major General Andrew Cumming,
Controller of SSAFA Forces Help,
addressed the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: I mentioned at the start of this meeting that the Grand Charity is just one of four central Masonic Charities, all of which, first and foremost, assist Freemasons and their dependants, but which can, in our case particularly, also assist the wider, non-Masonic Community when funds allow. I am happy to say that with the support of our members, and particularly Provinces in Festival, that situation continues. In June 2009, the Grand Charity made a grant of £38,500 to a charity that is now known as Dementia UK. This grant was given to train staff working in the RMBI's care homes around the country and I am delighted to be able to introduce Debra Keeling, the RMBI's Dementia Care Advisor, who will tell us how the money has enabled her charity to work closely with Dementia UK.

Debra Keeling, RMBI Dementia Care Advisor,
addressed the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Whilst the Grand Charity receives a lot of support for the work it does for national charities on behalf of English Freemasonry, it is very often those that have their roots in a particular area that our members have a greater affinity towards. Our next speaker represents such a charity, one that is particularly relevant to this Province of Essex, and so, with your permission Vice Grand President, I should now like to ask the Provincial Grand Master for Essex to address the meeting and also to make the next introduction. Ladies and gentlemen, he can surely need no introduction, John Webb.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER FOR ESSEX (RWBro John Michael Webb);
Distinguished guests, ladies, gentlemen and Brethren – Good morning and on behalf of the Province of Essex – a warm welcome to you all on this very special occasion.

I hope that you, Vice Grand President, the President and members of the Council of the Grand Charity have found everything to your satisfaction. It is the first time that Essex has hosted a General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity and I believe that it is a mark of esteem and

recognition for the generosity and support it has received and continues to receive from Brethren across the Province.

I am particularly pleased that the Grand Charity has chosen us as we reach the culmination of our 2011 Festival Appeal and for allowing us to see first hand the wonderful work that it delivers to so many different areas in the UK and of course worldwide. It is also a particular honour for me to welcome so many distinguished guests both from the Grand Charity itself and of course, those from Essex who have travelled here to be part of this auspicious event.

The meeting today is chaired by one of the country's most senior Freemasons, RWBro Iain R. Bryce, who is the Charity's Vice Grand President, and we are naturally very pleased and honoured to see you here today, Sir.

I am also pleased to welcome:-

the Lord Lieutenant for Essex, Lord Petre of Writtle
the High Sheriff of Essex, Michael Hindmarch
the Mayor of Colchester, Cllr Sonia Lewis and her husband Keith
the Chairman of Essex County Council, Cllr Rodney Bass
and the Essex President of The Red Cross, Dominic Petre.

Their attendance here today is a reflection of the links we have established and continue to establish with the community, developing a dialogue with Civic Leaders, supporting their particular charities and raising the profile of Freemasonry and its many good works across Essex.

We all know that Masons worldwide have always given generously to many worthy causes and Brethren in Essex are certainly no exception. Our efforts are concentrated for the moment on our Festival 2011 Appeal, but I am proud to say that when it comes to raising money for charity, the Brethren of this Province have not been found wanting.

Masons in Essex have shown exceptional ingenuity when it comes to new ways of fund-raising – schemes which have been adopted and have in turn also succeeded in many other Provinces. I should particularly like to mention the TLC initiative, which started in Essex and which has now been adopted by over 40 different Provinces across the country as well as Cyprus and Gibraltar.

TLC, or Teddies for Loving Care, was launched less than 10 years ago and since then more than 820,000 teddies have been given to children in hospitals when they are feeling at their most stressed and unhappy. Our Pro Grand Master, MW Bro Peter Lowndes, is its patron and as this was originally an Essex initiative, I am honoured to say that I am its Vice Patron.

Orange Aid, a venture by Essex Provincial Grand Stewards, raised nearly £70,000 in one weekend to buy vital equipment for the RNLI and we continue to support many charities across Essex, such as the Air Ambulance, Women's' Refuges and so many more both directly and, of course, via the Grand Charity.

Equally as important, Essex Masons have shown me that raising money can also be a lot of fun, which is why I am never surprised to hear of yet another fund-raising venture. Scratch Cards, which to date have raised more than £50,000 for our Festival, have been adopted by three other Provinces and are about to be taken up by another two.

I could list more, but let us now hear from someone whose charity benefits from the fund-raising efforts of which we are so proud. Distinguished guests, Brethren, ladies and gentlemen, we are very privileged to have with us today Professor Neville Davidson who is the Chairman of the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, which he set up over 10 years ago, together with several of his patients, including the BBC TV presenter, Helen Rollason. As the President said, the charity has its roots in Essex, where it continues to receive much support. Will you please give a warm welcome to Professor Neville Davidson.

Professor Neville Davidson,
Chairman of the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity,
addressed the meeting.

Thank you Neville; that was a truly enlightening talk, informative and fascinating and I sure that everyone here today enjoyed it and equally as important will have come to appreciate the vital work that you undertake on behalf of us all.

Distinguished guest, ladies, gentlemen and Brethren. I cannot end without saying something about the 2011 Grand Charity Festival, which this Province will hold at the Guildhall in London next year. We shall soon come to the end of today's formal proceedings and so I look forward to meeting some of you over lunch, when I also hope you will visit and network with the many charities that have stands here today. These are

the charities that we all continue to support, mostly through the work of The Freemasons' Grand Charity. To date, our Essex 2011 Festival Appeal has raised just over £4 million to help it continue this vital work.

It supports countless good causes both in the UK and worldwide. For example, you have already heard that in the event of a natural disaster, English Freemasons, via the Grand Charity, are among the first to offer help to those who most need it.

With less than one year to go, I hope that Essex can do more. I would appeal to individual Masons here today to go back to your Lodges for one final push. It is possible that some could organise a social event or a special occasion that will raise additional funds. Even a few pounds make the difference. To quote a well-known supermarket chain – every little helps.

In my experience, Essex Masons are big-hearted and generous. I thank you all for your support and know that you will do all you can as you have always done. Brethren, it is a privilege to be your Provincial Grand Master and you have made me proud. Thank you.

CLOSING COMMENTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Before finally handing back to you Vice Grand President, I should like to thank you for being here today. We are greatly honoured by your presence and congratulate you on all you have done for various charities outside Freemasonry and of course within Freemasonry itself. I also take this opportunity of thanking the Province once again for their support for today's meeting and particularly the Provincial Grand Master, John Webb, for his most interesting part in this General Meeting. Also I believe we should thank Laurie Justice from the Province of Essex for all the work he has done behind the scenes in making this such a happy and, I hope, successful occasion. Laurie is also a member of the Council of Grand Charity.

As the Provincial Grand Master said just now, several charity stands will be available to view over lunch and I too hope you will take the opportunity to learn more about what happens to our money when it is in the hands of the charities that actually use it.

On behalf of all the charities represented here today and most particularly the Grand Charity I thank everyone for their support, past, present and in the future. It is invaluable to us.

VICE GRAND PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Madam Mayor, ladies, gentlemen and members.

I hope that you have all enjoyed this morning's meeting and I would like to add my thanks to those already given to our speakers for their part in the proceedings. We will all go away much better informed than when we came!

This is my first appearance in my new position within the Grand Charity and I am delighted to be with you, but saddened that it was the death of the late Lord Lane of Horsell that led to my being appointed. I would like to pay tribute to him for the work that he did in this office, I know that the Council and staff of the Grand Charity valued his contribution and much enjoyed his chairing of these meetings.

The Grand Charity and its sister central Masonic Charities depend, of course, on Freemasonry for their foundation and continued existence. Charity is one of the three great principles on which Freemasonry stands and is the practical means by which, on both a national and a local level, we can demonstrate our commitment to our local communities and society in general.

As the brethren present will know, Freemasonry has seen challenging times over the last twenty or so years but by a policy of openness we have come through those challenges, given the lie to some of the myths that had grown up about us and are beginning to see a renewal of interest, particularly amongst those in their twenties and thirties. It is as a result of that policy of openness that we are able to enjoy the company of the civic dignitaries who are with us today. It would normally be invidious for me to pick out an individual but on this occasion we are delighted to have the Lord Lieutenant with us as one of his ancestors, Robert 9th Lord Petre, was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England from 1772 – 1776. It was during his rule that the Grand Lodges' headquarters were first established in Great Queen Street in London. It was a difficult and by no means universally popular project, but by your ancestor's leadership and powers of persuasion, sir, it was successfully carried through and we have been there ever since.

I am also delighted to see the ladies with us. Sometimes, I fear, we take them for granted forgetting that without their support we would not be able to enjoy our Freemasonry. Having been involved for many years in the Charity Festivals I know that without their practical support, their wonderful ability to think up new and enjoyable ways of fundraising and

their skill at organising events the sums raised would be a great deal less than they have been.

The President has thanked the Province for organising today's event, but I would like to thank both the local organising committee and the staff of the Grand Charity without whose careful planning, today would not have happened.

Once again I thank you all for coming and there being no further business I formally declare the meeting closed.

END OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

DIARY DATES

Annual General Meeting

to be held on the same day as the
June Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

Freemasons' Hall, London

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2011 Festival

to be held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex

Saturday, 25 June 2011

Guildhall, London

General Meeting

to be held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire

Saturday, 26 November 2011

Staffordshire County Showground

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2012 Festival

to be held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire

Wednesday, 26 September 2012

Queen's College, Cambridge

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2013 Festival

to be held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire

Saturday, 14 September 2013

Keele Hall, Staffordshire

Future Grand Charity Festivals

East Kent – 2014

West Wales – 2015

Norfolk - 2016

Sussex - 2017

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

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

Tel: 020 7395 9261 Email: info@the-grand-charity.org www.grandcharity.org