

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*

13 May 2011

Dear Sir and Brother

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, as part of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on Wednesday, 8 June 2011, but separate from it. Members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity are hereby invited to attend. Detailed instructions (including dress) for those attending are the same as those for the meeting of Grand Lodge.

The Agenda for the meeting is included in this booklet. The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2010 are contained in a separate document.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES
Secretary of the Grand Charity

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

8 June 2011

AGENDA

1. **Minutes** of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 2 April 2011, at Cambridge Masonic Hall, for confirmation (*see page 15*).
2. To receive the **Report of the Council** dated 20 April 2011. The Report is contained on pages 11 to 13. It includes recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out in detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants on pages 7 to 10 and which should be considered as part of the Report. These require the approval, under items 3a. to 3p. below, of the members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity at this Annual General Meeting before the money can be given.
3. To seek approval for the following grants (which are set out in more detail in the Schedule of **Non-Masonic Grants** referred to above) to be made:

MEDICAL RESEARCH

- 3a. £50,000 to **Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund** to fund a research project on peripheral diabetic neuropathy in Manchester.
- 3b. £36,000 to **Wellbeing of Women** to fund a research project on womb cancer in Leeds.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- 3c. £35,000 to **Catch 22** to fund training for 'at risk' young people at a vocational skills centre in North Kent.
- 3d. £12,000 payable over three years to **Farms for City Children** to fund a week on a farm in Devon for inner city children.
- 3e. £14,000 to **Future Talent** to fund a music education bursary scheme for disadvantaged children.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- 3f. £10,000 to **Aidis Trust** to fund a computer helpline for disabled people.
- 3g. £20,000 to **BLISS** to fund specialist counselling for parents of premature and sick babies.
- 3h. £28,000 to **CSV** to fund the development of a training café in Bristol for people with learning disabilities.
- 3i. £19,000 to the **Dystonia Society** to fund the production of new information publications.
- 3j. £10,000 to **Happy Days** to fund day trips for children with special needs.
- 3k. £117,000 payable over three years to **Marie Curie** to fund two Marie Curie nurses in Kent.
- 3l. £10,000 to the **Peter Le Marchant Trust** to contribute to the salary of the skipper of a canal boat providing trips for disabled people in Leicestershire.
- 3m. £25,000 to the **Red Balloon Learner Centre Group** to fund training for staff at centres for severely bullied children.
- 3n. £29,000 payable over three years to the **Spinal Injuries Association** to fund the salary of a peer advice manager.
- 3o. £50,000 to **St Dunstan's** to fund the extension of the North Wales Medical Centre.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

- 3p. £5,000 to **St Botolph's Church, Lincolnshire**, to fund a major restoration programme for the tower of the Boston Stump.
4. To receive and adopt the **Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts** of the Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2010, which are contained in a separate document and are also available to download from The Freemasons' Grand Charity website.

5. To report any **Emergency Grants** made by the President under Regulation 0204(d) since the last meeting.
6. Appointments and elections of **members of the Council** of the Grand Charity under Regulation 0203(a).
 - a. To announce the name of the member appointed by the Grand President to be the Deputy President for the ensuing year.
 - b. To announce the name of the member appointed by the Grand President to be the Treasurer for the ensuing year.
 - c. To announce the names of members appointed by the Grand President to serve for the period 2011 to 2014.
 - d. To announce the names of members elected by Provincial Lodges for the period 2011 to 2014.
 - e. To announce the name of the member appointed by the Provincial Grand Master for the Province holding a Festival for the Grand Charity in the year 2013.
 - f. To announce the name of the member elected to represent London Lodges for the period 2011 to 2014.
7. To **elect the auditors** of the Freemasons' Grand Charity's accounts.

SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 3a. to 3p. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 8 June 2011 and which are referred to in paragraph 7. of the Council's Report dated 20 April 2011.

The paragraphs are numbered to match those shown in the Agenda.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

3a. JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to fund a research project: *Developing Corneal confocal Microscopy for Human Diabetic Neuropathy* led by Professor Rayaz Malik. Peripheral diabetic neuropathy is a common complication of type 1 diabetes. 350,000 people have type 1 in the UK and 50% of these will suffer serious complications. The charity is based in London and the research is at the University of Manchester.

3b. WELLBEING OF WOMEN The Council recommends a grant of £36,000 to Wellbeing of Women to fund a research project led by Dr Nicolas Orsi investigating the role of a network of molecules known as eicosanoids in womb cancer. The incidence of womb cancer has doubled over the past 10 years and 7,500 women are diagnosed in the UK each year. New lipodomics technology has created an opportunity to analyse samples of tissue. The charity is based in London and the research is at Leeds University.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3c. CATCH 22 The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Catch 22 to fund the vocational skills centre in North Kent which is set up as a fully equipped motor garage. The centre has been running for 14 years and has helped 1000 young people. Last year out of 110 young people, 21% went into further education and 77% to employment using skills learnt at the centre. Catch 22 (formerly Rainer) supports 34,000 disadvantaged young people in 100 projects across the country. The charity is based in London and the project is in Kent.

3d. FARMS FOR CITY CHILDREN The Council recommends a grant of £12,000 payable in instalments over three years to Farms for City Children to fund farm holidays for 120 inner city children. Each week 116 disadvantaged children aged between 8 and 14, 52% of whom are in receipt of free school meals, stay on a farm. The experience helps to build self-confidence and communication skills as well as learning about food

production. The charity is based in Devon with farms in Gloucestershire and Pembrokeshire.

3e. FUTURE TALENT The Council recommends a grant of £14,000 to Future Talent to fund a bursary scheme to assist talented musicians from disadvantaged backgrounds. The charity provides instruments, private lessons and courses for children aged 5-18 using means-tested bursaries and offers scholarships for older children. The charity is based in London.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3f. AIDIS TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Aidis Trust to fund a computer helpline for disabled people. The national technical support helpline advises over 1,000 disabled people on appropriate assistive technology and helps with computer problems. Aidis charges no fees and focuses its work on the poorest disabled people. The project will also train 20 young unemployed IT professionals as volunteers on the helpline. The charity is based in London.

3g. BLISS The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to BLISS to fund specialist counselling for parents of premature and sick babies. 120 counsellors across the UK from the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy will participate following a successful pilot funded by the Department of Health. Each session costs Bliss £40 and the recommended number is 6 sessions. The charity provides care for premature and sick babies and is based in London.

3h. CSV The Council recommends a grant of £28,000 to CSV to fund the development of the Café G in Southmead, Bristol. The project will provide catering training to a wide range of people with learning disabilities and to disadvantaged young people in an area of deprivation as well as spreading the 'healthy eating' message. The charity supports 165,000 people in volunteering and is based in London. The project is based in Bristol.

3i. DYSTONIA SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £19,000 to the Dystonia Society to fund the production of new information publications. Dystonia is an incurable movement disorder that causes uncontrollable muscle spasms and affects 70,000 people in the UK. Diagnosis can take up to three years as GPs lack awareness of the condition although it can be treated with botulinum. The new publications, both print and online, will enable people to research specific symptoms. The charity is based in London.

3j. HAPPY DAYS The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Happy Days to fund activities for children with special needs. The charity provides day trips and outings for disadvantaged children and the grant will fund day trips for approximately 500 children with special needs together with their carers. Children come from across the country and the charity is based in Bedfordshire.

3k. MARIE CURIE The Council recommends a grant of £117,000 payable over three years to Marie Curie to fund two Marie Curie nurses in Kent. Last year 2,000 Marie Curie nurses cared for 23,400 people with cancer and other terminal illnesses, generally working at night for 8-9 hours. There are 21 nurses in Kent and the cost of all Marie Curie services in Kent is around £520,000. The charity is based in London and the project in Kent.

3l. PETER LE MARCHANT TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to the Peter Le Marchant Trust to contribute to the salary of the skipper of a canal boat. The charity provides trips and holidays on a canal boat for disabled people and has 780 passengers each year, many of whom are repeat visitors. The charity is based in Leicestershire.

3m. RED BALLOON LEARNER CENTRE GROUP The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the Red Balloon Learner Centre Group to fund training for staff at centres for severely bullied children. The charity provides intensive education and care for severely bullied children who are unable to attend mainstream secondary school. There are centres in Cambridge, London, Norwich and Merseyside with plans to open in Essex, Warwick and Lancashire. Each centre takes 15 children and is self-funding. The charity is based in Cambridge.

3n. SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION The Council recommends a grant of £29,000 payable over three years to the Spinal Injuries Association to fund the salary of a peer advice manager. 40,000 people in the UK have a spinal injury. The peer advice service operates in 10 NHS Spinal Injury centres and is run by people who are themselves in wheelchairs. The charity supports 600 newly injured people each year plus 144 people in employment clinics. The charity is based in Buckinghamshire.

3o. ST DUNSTAN'S The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to St. Dunstan's to fund the extension of the North Wales Medical Centre. The charity supports blind ex-Service personnel. It cares for 3,000 individuals and had 550 new beneficiaries last year. The grant will go towards a training flat for newly blinded people and the facilities are mainly used for rehabilitation and training. The charity is based in London and has centres in Brighton and Sheffield. The project is in North Wales.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

3p. ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to St. Botolph's Church as a contribution towards a major restoration programme for the Tower of the Boston Stump. It is the largest parish church in the country and is visited by 50,000 people each year.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following its meeting held on
20 April 2011

FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on
Wednesday, 8 June 2011

GENERAL

1. VICE GRAND PRESIDENT

The Council is delighted to report that the Grand President has re-appointed RWBro Iain R. Bryce, *TD, DL, PDepGM*, as Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity for the ensuing year.

2. CASUAL VACANCY

The Council has appointed WBro Thomas J. Hedderson, *PSGD*, to fill a Casual Vacancy in the London membership of the Council of the Grand Charity with effect from 8 June 2011.

3. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GRAND CHARITY

Under the terms of Regulation 0202(e), the Council has elected WBro His Honour Judge Richard M. Hone, *QC, PSGD*, and WBro Thomas J. Hedderson, *PSGD*, as Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year, with effect from the end of the Annual General Meeting.

4. RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council wishes to extend its thanks and good wishes to WBro Brian D. Kelly, *PJGD*, WBro Dr Vivian Thomas, *PSGD*, and VWBro Dr Robert J. Woodward, *PGSuptWks*, who retire at the end of the Annual General Meeting, and to WBro Dr Kenneth C. Harvey, *PAGDC*, who has resigned with effect from 8 June 2011.

5. ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Council has approved the Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of the Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2010 and presents them in a separate document for adoption by the members (Agenda Item 4). The document is also available to download from the Charity's website.

MASONIC GRANTS

6. 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 APPLICANTS ASSISTED	RELIEF GRANTED
16 February 2011	96	£223,410
16 March 2011	126	£306,730
20 April 2011	181	£439,179

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

7. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants (on pages 7 to 10) and which appear under items 3a. to 3p. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 8 June 2011.

GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2010

8. The Council has now completed allocation of the funds totalling £600,000 for adult and children's hospices, which were placed at its disposal in December 2009. *Appendix B* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2010 is a full list of the grants made.

GENERAL SMALL GRANTS AND PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING GRANTS - 2010

9. The Council has now allocated the majority of the £100,000 placed at its disposal in December 2009 for small grants of £5,000 or less, to non-Masonic charities. It has also allocated the majority of the £60,000 placed at its disposal in December 2009 for the Provincial Matched Funding Scheme. *Appendix D* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2010 shows details of these and other grants, individually under £10,000.

AIR AMBULANCE GRANTS - 2010

10. The Council has now allocated the £192,000 placed at its disposal in December 2009 for grants to Air Ambulance and similar services. A full list is included at part of *Appendix A* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2010.

OTHER MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

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

Raymond Unwin	£3,290.58
Yvonne Mary Peatfield	£17,166.59
Graham Illingworth	£178,705.85

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

2011 FESTIVAL

12. The twenty-sixth annual Festival for the Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held on Saturday, 25 June 2011, at the Guildhall, London, under the Presidency of RWBro John Michael Webb, Provincial Grand Master for Essex.

GENERAL MEETINGS

13. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 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 Cambridgeshire and the members of his Province who assisted in organising a very successful meeting at the Cambridge Masonic Hall, Bateman Street, on Saturday, 2 April 2011 (the minutes of the meeting are on page 15.)

14. STAFFORDSHIRE A further General Meeting of the Grand Charity will be held this year with the support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire at the County Showground on Saturday, 26 November 2011.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President of the Grand Charity
20 April 2011

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

CAMBRIDGE MASONIC HALL, BATEMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE CB2 1NA
ON SATURDAY, 2 APRIL 2011, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
RWBRO JONATHAN SPENCE, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

As well as officers and members of the Grand Charity, several invited guests were present.

The Acting 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: Acting Grand President, Provincial Grand Master, ladies, gentlemen and members.

On behalf of the members of the Council of the Grand Charity, some of whom are here today with their ladies, I welcome you all to this General Meeting. It gives me very great pleasure to return to this beautiful Masonic Hall, which I visited with Laura Chapman, our Chief Executive, at the launch of the Province of Cambridgeshire's 2012 Grand Charity Festival.

This meeting is about the Freemasons' Grand Charity, which is one of the four national Masonic Charities, all of which have different purposes. However, the Grand Charity is different in that the majority of Freemasons in this country are actually members of it. For that reason they are required to approve certain matters recommended by the Council, including any grants to non-Masonic charities and that is one of the purposes of today's meeting.

You will all have received a copy of the yellow paper of business. It includes a record of the previous business and on page 13 are the minutes of the last meeting, which was held at the University of Essex in Colchester. I do not propose to repeat what I said in my opening remarks at that meeting, but for those of you who are interested perhaps in due course you might like to read through the leaflet if you have not already done so, as this explains further activities for which we are responsible.

There is one project of the Grand Charity's that I would particularly like to draw attention to, which is not recorded in the minutes or the Council's report, and that is the Relief Chest Scheme. This is a wonderful service developed over the last 20 years, and which now has 4,700 Chests on behalf of individual Lodges, Provinces and other Masonic orders.

In effect, the Grand Charity looks after the charitable funds of Lodges and others and provides all the advantages of professionally audited accounts, a greater rate of tax free interest, regular tax reclaims under Gift Aid and all other administration at no cost to the Lodge or other Chest holder. The Chest holders retain full control over the disbursement of the funds as the Charity only makes grants on the instructions they give us. This is indeed an efficient means of administering charitable funds, which many Lodges and similar bodies would otherwise find difficult for themselves. We hope that still more of them will wish to join the Scheme, particularly in the light of the current Public Benefit review being undertaken by the Charity Commission.

The Grand Charity continues to work extremely closely with our colleagues in the other three main Charities and there are plans for even greater co-operation than I believe has ever been possible before, under the guidance of the Deputy Grand Master, who, of course, is the Acting Grand President for today's meeting and whose input to our affairs is greatly appreciated.

We certainly hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to know more about us, and perhaps even the Masonic order in general. You will be relieved to know that none of the Charities represented here today, not even The Freemasons' Grand Charity itself, is here to collect funds. We leave that for another occasion, but we hope 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 in the future.

I hope everyone will find the day both enjoyable and interesting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 16 October 2010, at the University of Essex, Colchester, were taken as read and confirmed.

ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S 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 following our Council meetings held on 20 October 2010 and 26 January 2011 is set out on pages 10 to 12 of the booklet. Under Item 3 of the Agenda, 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 5. 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.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Acting Grand President and members, before we deal with the non-Masonic grants recommended under Agenda Item 5. I will, with your permission Acting 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): Deputy Grand Master, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Providing a central point for giving to non-Masonic charities on behalf of the entire Craft was one of the primary reasons that the Grand Charity was established in 1980. Although local and Provincial Lodges donate money to literally thousands of charities, these are primarily local ones, and are chosen by Lodges and Provinces to reflect their own priorities. It was envisioned that the Grand Charity would complement this local giving by making grants to national charities that the majority of Masons would want

to help. In thirty years, the Charity has made grants totalling nearly £50 million 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 2010 totalled more than £2.5 million. 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.
- Raise public awareness about Freemasons' charitable support through the publicity received from national charities.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity makes grants to non-Masonic charities in five policy areas:

- Medical research
- Youth opportunities
- Vulnerable people
- Hospices
- Emergency and disaster relief

Charities that we support are national ones, which provide services to people across England and Wales. But, of course, these charities have their headquarters in many different cities and they support projects which are located throughout the United Kingdom. A number of non-Masonic grants that have been made during the past few years are associated with Cambridgeshire. For example, the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, which received a grant of £40,000 last year, is based in Cambridgeshire. The Red Balloon Learner Centre Group, a fantastic charity which supports severely bullied children and which received a grant of £25,000 in 2009 for the salary of a development manager, is also based in Cambridge. The founder and CEO of the charity, Carrie Herbert, was chosen as the Daily Mail's Inspirational Woman of the Year 2008, and I am delighted to say that she is with us today.

Given the quality of the medical research undertaken by Cambridge University, it is not surprising that a number of medical research projects funded by the Grand Charity are based here including ones under the auspices of the charities Diabetes UK and Spinal Research. In addition, a grant of £100,000 to the Cambridge Foundation for research into drug treatments for Multiple Sclerosis was made last year. Later this morning you will hear details of the project from its Director, the Reverend Dr. Alasdair Coles. In addition, as part of its annual support for the running costs of hospices throughout England and Wales, three hospice services within the Province of Cambridgeshire have received a total of £63,970 since 1984.

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 approves a major grant of £250,000 every year to a cause that receives particular support from Freemasons. Members are being asked today to approve a grant of £250,000 to Parkinson's UK to be distributed to Provincial Grand Lodges for presentation locally, to fund branch activities for people with Parkinson's disease.

Grants to hospice services have been made for many years now and in recent years regular grants to local Air Ambulance services across the country have also been made by the Freemasons' Grand Charity. Again, in both cases, Provinces present these donations, which raises awareness locally about the charitable support that Freemasonry provides for the wider community.

With the exception of the President's Emergency Grants, all other non-Masonic grants given by the Grand Charity must be approved by the members, so turning to the yellow paper of business, you will see at item 5, the 17 for approval by you today are grouped under two of the main categories of support given by the Freemasons' Grand Charity:-

- Youth Opportunities
- Vulnerable People

In addition, this meeting is asked to approve that funds be placed at the disposal of the Council for expenditure in 2011 as follows:

- £600,000 for grants to hospice services
- £100,000 for grants of £5,000 or less to small charities
- £60,000 for grants to be made under the Provincial matched-funding scheme, and
- £192,000 for grants to Air Ambulance and similar rescue services in England, Wales and the Crown Dependencies.

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.

The President then proposed as one motion that the following 17 grants listed under Items 5a. to 5q. of the Agenda for the meeting and totalling £676,000, be approved:

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.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Item 6. relates to grants that each year are placed at the disposal of the Council so that many smaller amounts can be distributed throughout the year in each category, often with the help of Provincial Grand Lodges. Most popular amongst these is the annual grant for hospices. The other grants, as Laura has already explained, are for Air Ambulance services, matched-funding with the Provinces and small grants of £5,000 or less.

The President then proposed as one motion that the following four grants listed under Items 6a. to 6d. of the Agenda for the meeting and totalling £952,000, be approved:

6a. £600,000 to 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.

6b. £100,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Council for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2011.

6c. £60,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2011 for grants to be made under the Provincial Matched Funding Scheme.

6d. £192,000 to 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.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: The total grants, therefore, that you have just approved amount to £1.628 million and the Council will be most grateful to note that their work has been duly confirmed by you.

You will be interested to note that our next leaflet, which is in draft and will be circulated with *Freemasonry Today*, summarises the giving by Masons through the Freemasons' Grand Charity in the 30 years since its formation, now amounts to in excess of £100 million, £56 million to Masons in need and £44 million to non-Masonic charities. An outstanding achievement, I am sure you will agree.

EMERGENCY GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As President I am authorised to make emergency grants of up to a total of £200k between General Meetings to help in the event of disasters and similar emergencies that might occur anywhere in the world. The agenda for today's meeting lists the Emergency Grants that have been made up to the time of our last Council meeting but since then we have also given the following grants for relief work:-

- £20,000 to the District Grand Lodge of Sri Lanka following flooding
- £20,000 to the British Red Cross following flooding in Colombia
- £30,000 to the British Red Cross following a further earthquake in New Zealand
- £50, 000 to the British Red Cross following a tsunami in Japan

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: I am delighted to say that we are now going to hear from two charities outside the world of Freemasonry that have received funding from the Grand Charity

First, to speak on behalf of the Scout Association, I should like to welcome Gail Scott-Spicer, the Director of Marketing and Communications, who has brought with her two young members of the Association, Jay Walker and Abe Collier.

Gail Scott-Spicer, Jay Walker and Abe Collier
addressed the meeting
on behalf of the Scout Association.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Laura Chapman mentioned earlier that some of our grants have been made to charities that are based here in Cambridge, so our next speaker may well be known to you as he is here on behalf of the Cambridge Foundation. Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in introducing the Reverend Dr Alasdair Coles.

Reverend Dr Alasdair Coles
addressed the meeting
on behalf of the Cambridge Foundation.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: The Province of Cambridgeshire has been of enormous help to the Grand Charity in the past few years. Not only has it offered to assist by organising today's meeting, but a potentially difficult situation was averted a few years ago when it agreed to change the date of the Grand Charity Festival from 2013 to 2012. We have other special ties with Cambridgeshire, and so it is with very great pleasure that I now ask the Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Wolverson, to address this meeting.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Deputy Grand Master, distinguished guests, ladies, gentlemen and brethren.

I am absolutely delighted that for the first time in the history of The Province a general meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity has been held in Cambridgeshire, and I am most grateful to the Charity for inviting us to host the occasion. A very warm welcome to everyone on behalf of the Freemasons of Cambridgeshire.

The reason why The Province has being honoured in this way today is of course that we are approaching the culmination of our fund-raising efforts for our Festival 2012. We are a very small Province, and we cannot hope to match the totals raised by some Provinces that may have six, eight or even ten times our numbers of Lodges and members; but where we can match and indeed surpass them is in the generosity of our members. We in Cambridgeshire justly have a very proud and long-standing reputation for being one of the highest fund-raising Provinces per capita. I can advise you all that we are rapidly closing in on the Festival target I set for the Province back in October 2006, and I haven't any doubt at all that, with all the events and fund-raising activities planned for the remaining months, we shall comfortably exceed it. Raising money is a serious matter, but there is no reason why we shouldn't continue to have a great deal of fun and enjoyment in the process.

During the proceedings today the meeting has approved a very considerable list of non-Masonic grants to be made under the headings of Youth Opportunities and of Vulnerable People. We've also approved substantial sums that are to be made available for hospices and for Air Ambulance services across the country; and we've heard of the emergency grants that have recently been made in the UK and particularly overseas. All Freemasons must feel as proud as I do when we hear of the speed of reaction of the Grand Charity, and the size of the assistance being given, following the natural disasters throughout the world, which tragically seem to occur with increasing frequency.

The sums raised by Freemasons across the country fund these grants, and I am very proud to know and to report that Cambridgeshire is playing its full part in helping the Freemasons' Grand Charity to continue with its wonderful and very important work.

We are very lucky indeed in Cambridge to have this magnificent Masonic centre and I know that, before closing, you would wish me to thank the Council of Management of Cambridge Masonic Hall Limited for agreeing that this meeting might be held here today.

I hope you all have enjoyed your day in Cambridge, and that you are able to stay and enjoy the buffet lunch which is to follow.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Thank you Rodney, and once again thank you to all our speakers.

Before finally handing back to you Acting Grand President, I would like to thank you for being here today. I am aware that you have not had to travel as far as most people, but it is very kind of you to be here with your wife, Almudena, to chair the meeting in your usual very delightful way and on behalf of us all present, I thank you not only for being here, but also for the additional time that you give in your role as Deputy Grand Master to advise and support all four of the central Masonic Charities as we work together and create greater efficiencies now that we are all located together in Freemasons' Hall.

I should also like to take the opportunity to thank the Province once again for their support for today's meeting and particularly to the Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Wolverson, for his most interesting part in the meeting. I would also like to thank those from the Province who have done all the work behind the scenes to make this a happy and I hope successful occasion. Please take the opportunity to have a look at the charity stands outside of the Scout Association and also the Red Balloon Learner Centres.

Finally, on behalf of the Grand Charity thank you all for your support, past, present and in the future and I wish the Province every success for its Festival next year.

CLOSING ADDRESS

ACTING GRAND PRESIDENT: Provincial Grand Master, ladies, gentlemen and members.

I am delighted to have been asked by the Grand President to Chair this meeting today because for me it is very much on "home territory". It is also an opportunity for me, as Deputy Grand Master, to speak on behalf of Grand Lodge, which was fundamental in establishing the roots of all four of today's national Masonic Charities, back in the 19th century.

Charity is one of the three great principles on which Freemasonry stands, but Freemasonry itself is not a Charity, although at times it may appear to be so. This is in part owing to the activities of many individual members, their Lodges and Provinces reacting to the needs of their local communities, whether it be through donations, providing skills or even just time and effort. Through Freemasonry working within the local

community in this way, often with good coverage in the local media, it is not surprising that many non-Masons think of it as a charity.

We are proud of our ability as an organisation to help individuals and charities in times of need, and so we welcome interest in what we do. It obviously is an effective counter to some of the harsher things that are said about us, often arising from prejudice or ignorance. However, it is the central Masonic charities that can make the greatest impact.

The Grand Charity holds a special place within English Freemasonry as it not only provides financial assistance for its members and those associated with them, but it also co-ordinates a greater Masonic response to the needs of the many other charities that exist for the benefit of everyone in society.

It is, perhaps, worth stating that Freemasonry is a non-religious organisation which is respectful of all religions. Our members come from many parts of the community and from many different walks of life. They all have a belief in God and have a desire to improve themselves and to help, as far as they are able, all others whether they are Freemasons or not.

The Grand Charity and our other main Charities are constitutionally independent of the United Grand Lodge of England, but Grand Lodge and the Craft as a whole are significant stakeholders in each of the charities as the charities are very much dependent on the Craft for their income and *raison d'être*. The relationship is such that of the Rulers the Deputy Grand Master has the responsibility for the oversight of the four charities.

The principal way in which funds are raised for each of the charities is through Festivals, and we have already heard from the Provincial Grand Master on the Province's 2012 Festival for the Grand Charity. It is, however, a reminder that Masonic funds are almost entirely accumulated by the generosity of Freemasons and their families.

We have all seen today something of the good that can come from maintaining central funds and I should like to add my own thanks to the speakers we have heard from today and I am sure we will have learnt something new from them.

I should also like to take this opportunity on behalf of Grand Lodge to thank the President, Grahame Elliott, the Council as well as the Grand Charity's staff for all that they do on behalf of us all. I know that without the support of our families, our Masonic interests would be far less easy to pursue, and I am delighted to see so many of you here today.

I would just conclude by adding my own thanks to Rodney Wolverson and to his Province, for which I have a special affection, and I thank you all for coming. Ladies, gentlemen and members of the Grand Charity, there being no further business I formally declare the meeting closed.

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 Grand Charity
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

General Meeting of the Grand Charity
to be held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of East Kent
Saturday, 17 November 2012
Winter Gardens, Margate

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.

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