

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
THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON, *DL*

VICE GRAND PRESIDENT
THE RT HON LORD LANE OF HORSELL

23 February 2007

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, 14 March 2007, 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 Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2006 are contained in a separate document.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD L. CAMM-JONES
Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

14 March 2007

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 16 September 2006 at the Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, for confirmation (*see page 14*).
2. To receive the Report of the Council following meetings held on 18 October 2006 and 31 January 2007. The Report is contained on pages 10 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 6 to 9, and which should be considered as part of the Report. These require the approval, under item 3. to 8. 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:

DISABILITY

- a. £100,000 to fund the respite care unit at a new **Leonard Cheshire** Home near Banbury.
- b. £60,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the **Multiple Sclerosis Trust** to fund the information and advice service.
- c. £30,000 to the **Muscular Dystrophy Campaign** to fund the *Together We're Stronger* partnership with eight smaller muscle disease charities.
- d. £25,000 to the **TreeHouse Trust** to fund the dissemination of best practice in education for severely autistic children.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- e. £50,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the **Elderly Accommodation Counsel** to fund an advisor on housing options for older people with dementia.

- f. £25,000 to the **British Association For Adoption And Fostering (BAAF)** to fund the medical advice programme raising health standards for children in care.
- g. £60,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the **Princess Royal Trust for Carers** to fund a service for carers of people with mental health problems.
- h. £25,000 to **Volunteer Reading Help** to fund a training programme for staff who train and support volunteers helping disadvantaged children learn to read.
- i. £30,000 to **Music in Hospitals** to provide *Musical Reminiscence* concerts for older people in healthcare settings such as hospitals and residential homes.
- j. £50,000 to the **Teenage Cancer Trust** to contribute towards the cost of a new specialist 10-bed teenage cancer unit at Cardiff University Hospital.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

- k. £50,000 to the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation** to fund a medical research project into type 1 diabetes at Cambridge University.
- l. £30,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the **Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) Association** to fund a medical research project into PSP at Cardiff University.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

- m. £5,000 to **Ely Cathedral**.

- 4. To consider a resolution that £500,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **adult hospice services** in 2007.
- 5. To consider a resolution that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **children's hospice services** in 2007.
- 6. To consider a resolution that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general **non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less**, in 2007.
- 7. To consider a resolution that a further £10,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2007 for grants to **Air Ambulance Services**.
- 8. To consider a resolution that a further £50,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2007 for **match-funding grants** of £5,000 or less.

9. To receive and adopt the **Annual Report and Accounts** of The Freemasons' Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2006 (*see separate document*).
10. To report **Emergency Grants** made since the last meeting.
11. Appointments and elections of **members to the Council** of The Freemasons' Grand Charity under Regulation 0203.
 - 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 2007 to 2010.
 - d. To announce the names of members elected to represent Provincial Lodges for the period 2007 to 2010.
 - 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 2008.
 - f. To announce the name of the member elected to represent London Lodges for the period 2007 to 2010.
12. 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 3. to 8. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 14 March 2007 and which are referred to in paragraph 10. of the Council's Report dated 31 January 2007.

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

DISABILITY

3a. LEONARD CHESHIRE The Council recommends a grant of £100,000 to Leonard Cheshire to pay for a respite care unit at a newly built Leonard Cheshire Home near Banbury. Leonard Cheshire supports 20,000 disabled people across the country including about 2,000 people in residential homes. The new home will replace an old house, which was not purpose-built and does not have the facilities or space that are now required, and will provide a modern home for 20 highly dependent disabled adults together with a respite care unit.

3b. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £60,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the Multiple Sclerosis Trust to fund the information service. The MS Trust supplies evidence-based information to many of the 85,000 people in the UK who have multiple sclerosis as well as providing education for nurses and other health and social care workers. The charity encourages people with multiple sclerosis to play an active part in the management of the disease through having access to the most up-to-date accurate information available.

3c. MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to fund the salary of the information and support manager in running a new partnership project, *Together We're Stronger*. The partnership will help eight smaller specific-condition support groups to produce information packs and promote the availability of self-management information to a wider audience. Muscular dystrophy is an umbrella term for 60 relatively rare conditions which affect about 25,000 people in England. The conditions tend to be long-term and progressive, with no cure or effective treatment.

3d. THE TREEHOUSE TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to The TreeHouse Trust to part-fund the salary of the development and information manager in order to disseminate best practice in autism education. The TreeHouse Trust was established to run

a school for severely autistic children in north London and to campaign for better education for autistic children nationally. There are only about 7,500 specialist school places for up to 100,000 children with severe autism. Education is recognised as a key intervention to improve outcomes for autistic children but most families face a long and protracted battle to find and access the services that their children need.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3e. ELDERLY ACCOMMODATION COUNSEL The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to fund a new advice service on housing options for older people with dementia. Elderly Accommodation Counsel provides free, independent information and advice on local housing for older people. There are now many more options such as ‘extra care’ housing and assistive technology that are available to older people with relatively mild dementia. Through a lack of understanding of all the options, older people may be moved into accommodation which cannot provide the extra care needed, and moving home can often exacerbate confusion.

3f. BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR ADOPTION AND FOSTERING (BAAF) The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to BAAF to support the BAAF health programme in raising standards in health care for looked-after children and ensuring that children entering care have their health needs accurately assessed and appropriate treatment administered. There are currently 79,000 looked-after children in the UK and 68% of them go into care as a result of abuse or neglect or disability. A child’s health will frequently have been adversely affected by poverty, neglect, poor diet, physical abuse or inadequate housing.

3g. PRINCESS ROYAL TRUST FOR CARERS The Council recommends a grant of £60,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers to fund specific services for carers of people with mental health problems. Through a network of 129 independent carers’ centres, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers provides information, advice and support to 290,000 carers. The 1.5 million people caring for someone with either a mental illness or some form of dementia have a particularly difficult time given the unpredictable behaviour and personality changes of those they are caring for, as well as the stigma attached to mental illness in society.

3h. VOLUNTEER READING HELP The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Volunteer Reading Help to part-fund a training programme for staff. Volunteer Reading Help works through 22 branches in England

using volunteers to work with children in the most deprived areas of the UK through one-to-one reading support sessions outside the classroom. The volunteers need to be recruited, trained, motivated and retained. The 22 branches are locally staffed and the new comprehensive training programme will ensure that the 130 staff all have the necessary skills, ranging from general management and fundraising to IT and child protection, to ensure the efficient operation of the service.

3i. MUSIC IN HOSPITALS The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Music in Hospitals to fund free *Musical Reminiscence* concerts for older people. The concerts are delivered in day care centres, hospitals, nursing and residential homes and, particularly for those with dementia, make a visible difference to the well being of those attending. Healthcare services have less money to spend on 'extras' such as these concerts and Music in Hospitals is committed to providing free concerts to organisations that are unable to raise the money themselves.

3j. TEENAGE CANCER TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the Teenage Cancer Trust to contribute towards the cost of a new 10-bed cancer unit at Cardiff University Hospital. The new unit is for cancer patients aged between 14 and 23 and will be located in a specially designed part of the building.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

3k. JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 towards a medical research project at Cambridge University to test the effectiveness of the 'closed loop artificial pancreas' in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes. About 20,000 children have type 1 diabetes in the UK. This will be a clinical trial to enable children to control their blood glucose levels better.

3l. PROGRESSIVE SUPRANUCLEAR PALSY (PSP) ASSOCIATION The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the PSP Association to fund a medical research project at Cardiff University investigating the role of tau gene expression in PSP. PSP is a progressive brain disease with no known cause, cure or treatment affecting about 3,800 people in the UK.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

3m. ELY CATHEDRAL The Council recommends that a grant of £5,000 be made to Ely Cathedral via the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire.

HOSPICES

4. The Council recommends that £500,000 be placed at its disposal for grants to adult hospice services in 2007.

5. The Council recommends that £100,000 be placed at its disposal for grants to children's hospice services in 2007.

SMALL GRANTS

6. The Council recommends that £100,000 be placed at its disposal for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2007.

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

7. In June 2006 the Members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity approved that £180,000 should be placed at the Council disposal for grants of up to £10,000 each for general purposes to operational Air Ambulance Service in England and Wales. This has received widespread support and the Council now recommends that a further £10,000 be placed at its disposal in 2007 for additional grants to Air Ambulance Services.

PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

8. The Council recommends that a further £50,000 be placed at its disposal in 2007 for match-funding grants of £5,000 or less with the Provincial Grand Lodges of Cheshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire North and East Ridings, Yorkshire West Riding, North Wales and South Wales Western Division.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
following meetings held on
18 October 2006 and 31 January 2007
FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Wednesday, 14 March 2007

GENERAL

1. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GRAND CHARITY

Under the terms of Regulation 0202(e), the Council has re-elected WBro David W. Morrow, PGStB, and elected WBro Dr Vivian Thomas, PJGD, as Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year, with effect from the end of the Annual General Meeting.

2. CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Under the terms of Regulation 0203(b), the Council has co-opted WBro Brian Miles, *CBE*, PJGD, and WBro Thomas J. Hedderson, PAGDC, to serve for a period of one year.

3. RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT

The Council wishes to extend its sincere thanks and good wishes to WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PDepGSwdB, who retires at the end of the Annual General Meeting. He has served as Deputy President since March 2004 and previously, since 1997, as a Provincial Representative.

4. RETIREMENT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council also wishes to extend its thanks and good wishes to the following members who complete their service at the end of the Annual General Meeting:

WBro Brian Gillbanks, PSGD
VWBro David E. Holliday, PGSwdB
WBro John D. Maynard, PAGDC

5. NAME OF CHARITY

The Council is implementing plans to make full use of The Grand Charity's working name of "The Freemasons' Grand Charity". This will be supported by a revised logo and is designed to improve awareness of the support from the Craft for Freemasons and the wider community.

6. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Council has approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2006 and presents them in a separate document for approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity (Agenda Item 9).

7. MASONIC COMPLIANCE

The Freemasons' Grand Charity, having discussed the anticipated compliance requirements emanating from the Charities Act with the three other central Masonic Charities, has prepared a paper for submission to the Board of General Purposes. It proposes to establish a help desk to support all Masonic charities via Provinces, Lodges and Chapters to ensure that they obtain appropriate advice from external sources. It was hoped that a decisions would be made in the next few months.

MASONIC GRANTS

8. DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF GHANA

The Council has received a request from the District Grand Lodge of Ghana for a grant towards equipment to be donated to a teaching hospital on the occasion of a visit to the District by the MW The Grand Master. The District will be donating £5,000 towards this project and the Council has approved a grant on behalf of The Freemasons' Grand Charity of £10,000.

9. APPLICATIONS TO THE MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS COMMITTEE

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 August 2006	186	£265,239
20 September 2006	114	£143,622
18 October 2006	199	£313,780
15 November 2006	156	£237,188
19 December 2006	154	£265,044
31 January 2007	149	£201,847

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

10. 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 3. to 8. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 14 March 2007.

GENERAL SMALL GRANTS - 2006

11. The Council has now allocated the £100,000 placed at its disposal in March 2006 for small grants to non-Masonic charities. *Appendix D* of the Annual Report and Accounts is a list of these and other grants, individually under £10,000.

GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2006

12. The Council has now completed allocation of funds from the £500,000 placed at its disposal in March 2006 for grants to hospice services. *Appendix B* of the Annual Report and Accounts is a list of the grants made.

ASIAN TSUNAMI 2004 FLOODS - RELIEF CHEST

13. Donations to the Relief Chest set up to assist victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami have so far generated a total of £883,780.39. To date, the Council has agreed support for five projects, committing a total of £767,681, from which grants amounting to £420,126 have so far been paid:

Project 1:

Support for children and their families in Villapuram, India.

Project budget: £319,165 Payments to date: £236,512

Project 2:

Study into psychological and social effects of the tsunami. India.

Project budget: £39,359 Payments to date: £14,084

Project 3:

To build a new school for the children of the tsunami, Hambantota, Sri Lanka.

Project budget: £199,126 Payments to date: £95,496

Project 4:

Construction of Krueng Raba Primary School, Aceh, Indonesia.

Project budget: £110,031 Payments to date: £74,034

Project 5:

Support for children and their families in Phuket and Phang Nga Provinces, Thailand.

Project budget: £100,000 Payments to date: None.

The balance of the funds in the Relief Chest will go to Project 3.

OTHER MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

14. Since the last General Meeting, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has received the following amounts from legacies of £1,000 or more:

Lilian Irene Cavalotti	£75,000
Muriel Ashley Platt	£5,656
Maurice Israel Woolfe	£4,000
Lord Swansea	£1,015
Ken Wallace	£1,000

On behalf of all the Members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Council expresses its grateful thanks to those who remember the Charity in their Will.

GENERAL MEETINGS

15. Arrangements have again been made with the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London to hold a General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity on Thursday, 28 June 2007. Although it will be specifically targeted at members of London Lodges, the meeting will be open to all members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, who may also bring non-Masonic guests. Further details will be made available later.

16. The Freemasons' Grand Charity also now holds a General Meeting each year in one of the Masonic Provinces. The Council wishes to record formally its thanks to the Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding and the members of his Province who assisted in organising a meeting in Harrogate in September 2006. Similar arrangements have been made, with the assistance of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales, Eastern Division, for a meeting to be held on Wednesday, 3 October 2007, in Cardiff. Further details will be made available later.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LODGES

17. The Council recommends that contributions to The Freemasons' Grand Charity payable by London and Provincial Lodges under Rule 271 of the Book of Constitutions in respect of each of their members for the year 2008, and which will be the subject of a resolution to be recommended by the Board of General Purposes at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in June 2007, should be not less than £13.00.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President
31 January 2007

THE GRAND CHARITY

ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

Registered Charity No 281942

60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ON SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2006

UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE VICE GRAND PRESIDENT

As well as officers and members of The Grand Charity, many 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: This is the eighth General Meeting of The Grand Charity to be held outside London, and on behalf of the members of the Council and Staff of The Grand Charity, I am very pleased to welcome you this morning and especially Lord Lane, who has already chaired three of these meetings:-

I am sure that it would be helpful to most of you if I gave you a brief background of The Grand Charity – and some explanation of what the meeting is about.

The Grand Charity is the central Masonic Charity. It is a grant-making charity and is administered by a Council of 30 members, many of whom are seated here on the stage. Together they broadly represent Freemasons in all areas of England and Wales. We also welcome many of the Council members' wives who have travelled long distances especially to be with us today.

Our principal, but not all, activities under the English Constitution, which are undertaken on behalf of Freemasons, are:

1. to provide financial help to Masons or their dependants who are in financially distressed circumstances
2. to assist other Masonic charities, particularly the other three Central Masonic Charities, in times of need
3. to provide the central channel for giving to non-Masonic causes
4. to provide relief, throughout the world to those affected by major disasters, through Emergency Grants.

The Grand Charity also operates the Relief Chest Scheme, which is used by 45% of all Lodges in the country. The service, provided at no cost to the Chest holder, enables Lodges, Chapters and other Masonic bodies across England and Wales to make donations to charities easily and tax effectively. Money raised for charitable purposes is centrally held in individual Chests and secures an enhanced rate of interest. The cost of maintaining the Chests is also reduced thanks to a centralised administration. Millions of pounds of donations are made via the scheme each and every year. Donations last year alone amounted to over £5.5 million and are given to recipients decided by the Chest holders (i.e. the Lodges and Chapters etc. themselves).

The Grand Charity is responsible to all Freemasons under the English Constitution. Its members are the members of Grand Lodge and all Master Masons of London and Provincial Lodges. The vast majority live in England and Wales and, as such they can influence affairs by attending and voting at these General meetings, of which there are usually three held each year.

Of course, none of the support we shall hear about today would be possible without the generosity of individual Freemasons and their families, for the work of The Grand Charity is funded entirely by contributions from them.

One of the major sources of these donations is the system of "Festivals", which are held each year. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a Festival is a series of fundraising events held in support of one of the four central Masonic charities, normally over a period of five years, that culminates in a celebratory meal, at which the total raised is announced. Annually, one of the 47 Masonic Provinces in England and Wales holds a Festival in support of The Grand Charity. We are very grateful to the

Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding for agreeing to host such an event for The Grand Charity in 2007. The money raised through Festivals ensures that The Grand Charity is able to offer its support to many important causes, which it might otherwise be unable to assist. I look forward to returning to this fine Province of Yorkshire, West Riding next year and extending the gratitude of The Grand Charity for the hard work and dedication that has already been shown, and which I am sure will continue in this last year, of this most important Festival.

Before we continue with the formal business, I wish to thank the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding, who have played such a prominent part in the organisation of this General Meeting. The members of the Council of The Grand Charity and I are most grateful.

Finally, I do hope that you will all find the meeting interesting, informative and, as all things in Freemasonry should be - enjoyable.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on 21 June 2006, at Freemasons' Hall, London, were taken as read and were confirmed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY

The President (VWBro Grahame N. Elliott, *CBE*) proposed and the Deputy President (WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PDepGSwdB) seconded that the following report of the Council of The Grand Charity be taken as read. The members agreed.

REPORT FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 JULY 2006

GENERAL

1. NEW MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

The Grand President has appointed WBro Peter R. Griffiths, PJGD, to the Council.

MASONIC GRANTS

2. APPLICATIONS TO THE MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS COMMITTEE

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
17 May 2006	108	£146,725
21 June 2006	156	£216,564
19 July 2006	140	£189,502

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

3. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in paragraphs a. to q. of an Appendix to this Report and which appear under items 4a. to 4q. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on 16 September 2006.

GENERAL MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

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

Horace John Stokes	£161,423
Oscar Frederick Boehringer	£60,000
William Gustav Such	£50,000
Arthur Ernest Manley	£2,909

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

NORTH WALES FESTIVAL - 2006

5. The Festival held for The Grand Charity by the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Wales on Saturday, 10 June 2006 at the North Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno, raised £2,338,008.86. The Council is most grateful to RWBro Gareth Lloyd-Jones, Provincial Grand Master for North Wales, and the members of his Province for this magnificent achievement.

YORKSHIRE, WEST RIDING, FESTIVAL - 2007

6. The 22nd Annual Festival to be held on behalf of The Grand Charity will take place on Saturday, 28 April 2007, at the Royal Armouries, Leeds, under the Presidency of the Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding. Details of the arrangements may be obtained from the Provincial Grand Secretary:-

WBro John Rushworth, PAGDC
The Masonic Hall, Spring Bank Place, Bradford BD8 7BX
Tel: 01274 481242 Email: pgl@wrprovince.co.uk

APPENDIX TO REPORT

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under item 4a. to 4q. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on 16 September 2006 and which are referred to in paragraph 3. of the Council's Report dated 19 July 2006.

DISABILITY

a. **CARE FUND** The Council recommends a grant of £112,000 to the CARE Fund to pay for equipment and staff at a new horticultural training centre in Ponteland, Northumberland for people with learning difficulties. CARE is a national charity that provides a range of services for 550 people with learning disabilities, including purpose built communities and supported living, day care services and employment training. The aim of the project is to provide real employment opportunities and income for people with learning disabilities.

b. **WHIZZ KIDS** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Whizz Kids to fund a network of qualified physiotherapists to assess the mobility needs of severely disabled children. The charity provides powered wheelchairs and tricycles at an average cost of £6,250 per child, together with equipment advice and wheelchair training. The ability to be independently mobile enables disabled children to participate in society more widely, lessening their reliance on carers and increasing their self-confidence.

c. **JUBILEE SAILING TRUST** The Council recommends a grant of £23,000 to the Jubilee Sailing Trust to fund the salary of a medical purser to look after the health and welfare of crew, particularly the 20 disabled crew, who will participate in a tall ship voyage. The Jubilee Sailing Trust provides adventure trips for disabled people through the experience of crewing a tall ship at sea with able bodied people.

d. CANINE PARTNERS The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Canine Partners to fund the cost of a new trainer who will work with disadvantaged young people in the training of dogs for disabled people, specifically for a BBC programme. Canine Partners is a charity that trains dogs in specific tasks to assist disabled people in day-to-day living. The dogs enable disabled people to live more independently and to increase their working and social activities.

e. DYSTONIA SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 payable over two years in equal instalments to the Dystonia Society to fund a new range of information leaflets for people with dystonia and for health professionals. Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder characterised by involuntary and sustained extreme muscle spasms, often affecting the neck, eyes or speech. For nearly 50% of people it can take two years to obtain a correct diagnosis and there is a lack of understanding of the condition amongst some GPs and nurses.

f. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £14,000 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society to fund the cost of special beds and ceiling hoists at a respite care centre in York. An estimated 85,000 people have multiple sclerosis in the UK and the respite centre has provide 10,000 bed spaces for short term respite care over the past 15 years.

g. BREAK The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Break to fund themed holidays in Norfolk with tailored activities for severely disabled children. Break provides stimulating respite care holidays for people with learning or physical disabilities. Guests come without their parents or carers, giving the latter a complete break from their responsibilities.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

h. RETHINK The Council recommends a grant of £90,000 payable over two years in instalments of £40,000 and £50,000 to fund a project to educate young children of the link between cannabis use and severe mental illness. Rethink will develop and implement a DVD training package. The aim is to prevent psychosis by communicating a clear message about one risk factor (cannabis), encourage those with mental health problems to speak publicly about their experience and to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness

i. ST JOHN CYMRU The Council recommends a grant of £42,000 to St. John Cymru to fund a replacement emergency vehicle in Deeside, North Wales and to make a contribution towards a replacement vehicle in Holyhead. St John has a rolling programme of replacing its ambulances in Wales. Some of the cost is raised locally in each region and St. John seeks to raise the balance from charitable foundations.

j. PROSTATE RESEARCH CAMPAIGN UK The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 payable over three years in equal instalments to Prostate Research Campaign UK to fund four booklets on specific prostate diseases, including prostate cancer. The booklets are reprinted three times a year to allow for constant updating. The aim is that the booklets will contribute to a reduction in the number of men presenting late with prostate diseases as early intervention makes a significant difference to the treatment and cure of all prostate diseases.

k. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ONE PARENT FAMILIES The Council recommends a grant of £26,000 to the National Council for One Parent Families. There are 1.8 million one-parent families in the UK in which about 500,000 single parents have a disabled child. The charity provides a dedicated advice worker to provide a telephone call back service, an e-newsletter and an e-forum providing a peer support network for lone parents with disabled children. The disabilities are wide ranging, but the most frequently helped are those who have children with learning disabilities.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

l. BRATHAY HALL TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 payable over two years in equal instalments to Brathay Hall Trust as a bursary fund for disadvantaged young people. Brathay Hall is an educational trust that helps young people to develop their potential through a mix of practical and creative activities on mainly residential training courses. In addition to those young people who join the residential courses, youth leaders are also trained at Brathay Hall and go on to deliver training locally.

m. FAIRBRIDGE CYMRU The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 payable over two years in equal instalments to Fairbridge Cymru to fund the salary of a development tutor. Fairbridge provides support for some of the most socially excluded and disaffected young people in the country. The development tutor will design and deliver a range of projects and activities with the aim of retaining seventy per cent of young people on a

long-term Fairbridge programme and will deliver further follow-on courses to develop specific skills.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

n. **ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CAMPAIGN** The Council recommends a grant of £100,000 payable over two years in equal instalments to the Arthritis Research Campaign to fund research into the fundamental initiation of the inflammatory destruction of cartilage by enzymes. The aim is to develop new drugs to act as road blocks to switch off enzyme production and prevent further joint destruction.

o. **DEAFNESS RESEARCH UK** The Council recommends a grant of £49,000 to Deafness Research UK to fund research into age-related hearing loss. A pilot project will investigate the degeneration of the lining cells in the ear to confirm the role of such cells in the maintenance of hair cells and the possibility of using stem cell technology to replace the lining cells.

p. **DIABETES UK** The Council recommends a grant of £39,000 to Diabetes UK to fund research to identify genes that are responsible for the inherited component of susceptibility to Type 2 diabetes. The risk of developing Type 2 diabetes arises from a combination of inherited genetic factors and environmental factors such as diet and exercise. The research will focus on investigating four genes that might affect the risk of an individual developing such diabetes.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

q. **SALISBURY CATHEDRAL**. The Council recommends that £5,000 be given to Salisbury Cathedral via the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire towards maintenance and restoration.

END OF REPORT

COMMENT ON THE REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Having taken this report as read, with the exception of paragraph 3 and the appendix, which is subject to a separate item on the Agenda, I propose that it is adopted and entered in the minutes.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,
and was agreed by the members.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Agenda item 4 a) to q) seeks the approval of this meeting for seventeen non-Masonic grants. The grants total £715,000 and are for a variety of causes to fund important work in their respective fields. In accordance with our regulations, I have to propose that initially, the approval of the seventeen grants be taken together, rather than individually.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,
and was agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President and Members - I now move that the seventeen grants set out under Agenda item 4 a) to q) and totalling £715,000, be approved.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,
and was agreed by the members.

The President introduced WBro Dr Kenneth C. Harvey, PAGDC, Deputy Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, who outlined the work undertaken by the Committee and emphasised some of the recent changes that had taken place.

The President introduced Laura Chapman, Chief Executive of The Grand Charity.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: One of the primary reasons that The Grand Charity was established in 1980 was to enable the Craft, as a whole, to make donations to non-Masonic charities. With these grants, The Grand Charity seeks to achieve four objectives:

- to make a significant difference to people in real need
- to support issues that individual Freemasons and their families are concerned about and will be glad to be helping
- to maximise the impact we achieve
- and finally, through the publicity received from grants to national charities, to raise public awareness about Freemasons' charitable support.

As you will have seen from the 25th Anniversary leaflet, The Grand Charity has made grants totalling more than £33 million pounds to many different non-Masonic charities since it was established. Since 1984, it has donated more than £6 million to hospices throughout England and Wales.

Here, in the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding, 13 hospices are being supported, with nearly £440,000 donated to help with their annual running costs over the years. The scale of The Grand Charity's non-Masonic donations makes it among the leading grant giving bodies in the UK.

In the year to end of November 2005, grants were made to 324 charities in England and Wales, totalling more than £2 million. Again, referring to the Charitable Grants leaflet, The Grand Charity supports charities under five main headings:

- Medical research;
- Vulnerable people;
- Youth opportunities;
- Hospices; and
- Emergency relief work.

The Chief Executive then introduced speakers from Emmaus UK and the Alzheimer's Research Trust.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Thank you for those fascinating insights into the work of your charities. It is always encouraging to hear when our grants are used so well.

Whilst The Grand Charity, as the major grant-giving charity of the English Masonic Constitution, provides help on a national and international scale on behalf of all our Freemasons, it is far from being the only source of Masonic charity. On occasions, people have suggested various sums as being the total that has been donated by all Freemasons, but such figures cannot be accurate, since much of what is given in the name of Freemasonry is privately donated from funds that simply cannot be catalogued.

As well as four central Masonic charities, there are many individual Lodges and Chapters that have always given freely, and we know from the use made of The Grand Charity's Relief Chest Scheme that they continue to do so both for Masonic and non-Masonic purposes. There are also many Provincial Grand Lodges, with more substantial funds, that give regularly to needy causes. Indeed, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding's own charity is a leading and most outstanding example. It is fitting then, that we should now hear something of the work it achieves and I have much pleasure in asking the Provincial Grand Master for this

wonderful Province, which is our host today, to say a few words and to introduce the guest speaker from one of the local charities that he and his members support. Ladies, gentlemen and Brethren - the Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding - John Clayton.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER FOR YORKSHIRE, WEST RIDING: May I extend to you all a warm Yorkshire welcome to this meeting of The Grand Charity. I hope that you, Vice Grand President, the President and Members of the Council of The Grand Charity have found the arrangements to your satisfaction. It is the second time a meeting of The Grand Charity has been held in the Province, in this delightful spa town of Harrogate, for which you Mr Mayor can be justly proud. I am particularly pleased that you are in the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding as we reach the culmination of our 2007 Grand Charity Festival.

Can I say how delighted we are that Civic Leaders from across the Province have joined us today. We have with us:

The Mayor of Harrogate
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford
The Mayors and Mayoresses of Knaresborough and Pateley Bridge

and I extend to you all a very warm welcome. Your attendance here today is a reflection of the links we are establishing with the community, developing a dialogue with Civic Leaders, and supporting their particular charities.

You referred President to the work of the Province in supporting local non-Masonic charities. For some 20 years we have, through the Provincial Grand Master's Fund, donated over £1.4M to these charities. This has covered areas such as youth work, the elderly, community projects and the health sector, including the work of hospices. To mark the millennium substantial donations, totalling over £430,000, were made to non-Masonic charities and specific community projects in the Province. It is worth noting that all this money has been raised from Brethren themselves, their families and friends, and not the general public. We have with us today a number of the charities that we, and The Grand Charity support, and I urge you to visit their stands downstairs after the meeting. As a Province we are also actively involved in the Duke of York's Community Initiative. The Initiative encourages the enhancement of community spirit throughout Yorkshire. The Province not only assists in providing assessment and advice, but also finances the plaques awarded to successful initiatives.

The Provincial Grand Master then introduced Professor Malcolm Reed, Director of the Board of Trustees of the Cavendish Centre in Sheffield, one of the charities supported by members of his Province, who spoke about the Centre's work supporting adults and children with cancer, and their families.

CLOSING ADDRESS

The Vice Grand President, RWBro the Rt Hon Lord Lane of Horsell, PSGW, then addressed the meeting. He thanked all those involved, in particular those who had attended.

The meeting was closed.

END

DIARY DATES

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2007 Festival
held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding
Saturday, 28 April 2007
Royal Armouries, Leeds

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity
held with the support of the
Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London
Thursday, 28 June 2007
Freemasons' Hall, London

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity
held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales, Eastern Division
Wednesday, 3 October 2007
Cardiff

*All these events are open to Freemasons and their non-Masonic guests.
See inside for details where available.*

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