

# The Lincolnshire Masonic Charity Association

Minutes of the half yearly meeting held at The Lincoln Masonic Centre

on

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

Present: Rt. W. Bro D.M. Wheeler, Provincial Grand Master  
V.W.Bro J.B. Crutchley, Deputy Provincial Grand Master  
W.Bro B. M. Goodman, Assistant Provincial Grand Master  
W.Bro S.C. Hallberg, Provincial Grand Treasurer  
W.Bro A.D. Miller, Provincial Grand Secretary  
W.Bro P. Tong, Provincial Charity Steward  
W.Bro W.S. Read, Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary - **Secretary**

There were also:      4 Grand Officers  
                                 6 Almoners  
                                 12 Charity Stewards  
                                 1 Other

Apologies:      Apologies were received from:  
                         42 Brethren

## 1-2. Introductory Remarks by the Rt. W. Provincial Grand Master

The PGM thanked everyone for attending but stated that 42 apologies had been received, and he wondered if this (September) meeting date should be reviewed.

The NPBF grants (£500/£1000) were being processed to all Lodges.

That the 2025 Festival is commencing in January 2020, it could be that the future amount(s) could be less.

The PGM thought that it might be preferable to, say, make one large donation, or to combine Lodges to make one geographical donation. The PGM called for a 'straw-poll' and members proffered their views and opinions. By a showing of hands the members favoured Lodges supporting their local nominations even if this meant receiving a lesser amount.

The PGM advised that charity giving envelopes will be used at HRA meetings.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The Chairman said that those minutes had been circulated and with no issues raised, were duly accepted as a true record, and then signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

5. To receive and discuss the Provincial Grand Charity Steward's Report

W.Bro. P Tong began by thanking Charity Stewards for their help and assistance, to date. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Concerning the 2025 Festival, W.Bro.TJ Mason enquired if there would be one fund. W.Bro. Tong advised that this would be the 2025 Festival Fund.

W.Bro. RH Smith wondered if there would be Festival Stewards. W.Bro. Tong confirmed that Lodges can appoint a Festival Steward. At future Festival pre-launch advisory meetings at Grimsby, Grantham and Horncastle, will be included a talk on "The Psychology of Giving" to help Festival Stewards to encourage brethren with their givings.

W.Bro. Tong further advised that there would be no, league tables and no Lodge comparisons. But Lodges will be encouraged to indicate their potential financial contribution.

W.Bro. Tong said honorifics would be from the MCF and the Province has no costs against this, so funds are not diluted.

W.Bro. A D Miller issued a plea on behalf of Lorraine Miller at the Provincial Office, that the charity envelopes be forwarded to her on a monthly return thus to ease her workload. Some returns had been amassed over months before being submitted, with then, protracted administration.

Hand written entries on the envelopes should be clearly legible too.

The Chairman heartily thanked W.Bro. Tong for his first year's work, and the quality of his report.

The Chairman added that a Festival Steward should not invade too much on the Lodge Charity Steward's role.

6. To Report on forthcoming changes to the Trustees of both Provincial Charity Funds

The Chairman said that two Trustees had decided to stand-down: Rt.W.Bro. G Ives and W.Bro. J F Warwick.

Two replacements would be voted for in the future.

7. To provide updated information concerning the Masonic Charitable Foundation

W.Bro. Tong indicated that a representative from the MCF would attend the 2020 Festival launch event.

8. Any other business

The Chairman had nothing to report under this heading.

W.Bro. R H Smith advised of a Brother's donation to the RNLI. The Chairman said this was a private donation and not within the auspices of Freemasonry.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 1400 hrs at the Lincoln Masonic Centre.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1435hrs.

W.S. Read

Signed .....

W.Bro. William S. Read

Rt. W. Bro D.M. Wheeler,

Secretary

Chairman

# Provincial Charity Committee

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6 Almoners  
12 Charity Stewards  
1 Other

Apologies: Apologies were received from:  
42 Brethren

1. Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman advised that W.Bro. D J Grimwood, Provincial Grand Almoner, had given his apology as his wife was due major medical surgery. Good wishes would be sent.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting

The Chairman advised that those minutes had been circulated, were then duly proposed and seconded, and accepted as a true record. The Chairman then signed the minutes.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. To receive and discuss the Provincial Petitions Committee Chairman's Report

W.Bro. S C Hallberg, Provincial Grand Treasurer, gave a summary on behalf of the PCC Chairman, who had sent his apology, as he was relocating to live near his daughter, outside of the Province. W.Bro. Hallberg proffered his thanks for the PCC Chairman's sterling work.

The Petitions Committee Chairman's report was included in the Treasurer's report.

The Chairman indicated that W.Bro. Paul A Ellis, PProvJGD St James Lodge 7415 is now the Chairman of the Provincial Petitions Committee.

5. To receive and discuss the Report of Provincial Grand Treasurer (previously circulated)

W.Bro. S C Hallberg gave a brief but comprehensive summary of the financial reports, and had little further to add, other than that the investment portfolio had been much improved of late.

He advised that the Provincial Masonic initiative to hand over the checking and maintenance of Lodge defibrillators to others had a cost.

The Chairman said that some defibrillators were 15 years old, with batteries needing replacing. It was expected that the defibrillators would be sited on the outside of Lodges of some 21 centres, where "LIVES" could service and maintain them. And of course, be then accessible for public and emergency services use.

This initiative removes responsibility of the upkeep from the Lodge and gives a community service by Freemasons. Weatherproof housings for the unit will be provided and will display a Masonic emblem.

The likely cost will be £20,000 (from the Old Fund). However, the Lincolnshire Bi-centenary Lodge of Installed Masters 9467 had pledged £5000 towards this initiative.

W.Bro. R H Smith was concerned about vandalism. The Chairman was able to advise that there was little vandalism to defibrillators across the County.

The Chairman thanked W.Bro. Hallberg for his comprehensive report.

6. To receive and discuss the Provincial Almoner's Report

The Chairman read from his mobile, a brief report.

Copy attached.

7. Any Other Business & Confirmation of the Date of the Next Meeting

There was no further business other than to record that the next meeting will be on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 1400 hrs at Lincoln Masonic Centre.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1450 hrs, having thanked everyone for attending.

W. S. Read

Signed .....

W.Bro. William S. Read  
Secretary

Rt.W. Bro D.M. Wheeler,  
Chairman

## A Short Report form the Provincial Grand Almoner

### Grand Officers Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

This report is a brief update of my report which appeared in the Provincial Summons, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

The Quarterly Stats from MCF for Lincolnshire, 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.'19 to 30<sup>th</sup> June '19.

Grants awarded,

Family / Children 6 grants, £4,086 awarded.

Financial 12 grants, £57,235 awarded.

Health / Medical 19 grants, £19,545 awarded.

RMBI residents 4 £27,378 cost

6 Self-funding.

The MCF received 39 enquires from Lincolnshire in the same period.

The Visiting Volunteers are kept busy in our Province and are all doing an excellent job.

Also, in the same period the Old Benevolent Fund has assisted 8 of our members from 8 Lodges.

I am arranging a special Almoners meeting for October 2019 to receive a presentation form Mike Martin, the MCF Provincial Engagement Manager, entitled "The Changing Role of the Almoner".

I circulated the MCF "Almoners Briefing Note July 2019"

I will attend, with my assistant, the Group Six PGA meeting in Great Queen Street, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The Almoner Initiative was launched in March 2019 on our Provincial website and sent to all Lodge Secretaries. This is a long-term initiative and not a short-term fix and it is hoped it will help in appointing the right Lodge member to this very important role.

As always, I thank our VV's, Almoners and the Petitions Committee for their continued help and support.

John Grimwood, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019