



## **PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE of MARK MASTER MASONS of WORCESTERSHIRE**

**Provincial Grand Master R W Bro Eric John Rymer**

**MINUTES of the COMMITTEE of GENERAL PURPOSE MEETING**  
held on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 19.30hrs by Zoom Conference

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***The NEXT MEETING of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE is arranged for 26th January 2022***

*Those eligible to attend the meeting are all Past Masters and the following Lodge Officers : -*

- *WM/WCN, Treasurer, Secretary/Scribe, Almoner, Charity Steward*

***The Provincial Grand Master is anxious that as many Members of the Province attend and contribute to the meeting as possible and you are therefore encouraged to put this date in your Diary for January 2022 now.***

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### **1.0 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES** *(see separate sheet)*

The Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Eric John Rymer opened the meeting and welcomed the Brethren present, thanking them for their support, noting with pleasure the attendance of 65 members of the Province.

Apologies: V W Bro Gee and W Bros Milner, Rice, Wainwright and Henderson. All unavoidably absent.

### **2.00 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the GPC Meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Worcester on 29th January 2020 having been previously circulated and approved by the Executive Meeting, were submitted, duly proposed by the Provincial Grand Master and approved by the Brethren.

### **3.00 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 having been circulated, were submitted with one correction in that W Bro Mervyn Cummings was present, duly proposed for acceptance by Brian Scoffield, seconded by Alan Payne and approved by the Brethren.

### **4.00 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Provincial Grand Secretary had received no correspondence to be brought before the GPC meeting.

### **5.00 PROVINCIAL FINANCES**

The Provincial Grand Treasurer reported that the PGL General Account will likely have a modest surplus and the Benevolent Fund a small loss for the year. £1,719 received in Gift Aid from HMRC. Donations made since April 2020 total £5,256: £256 to Worcestershire Association of Carers and £5000 to 10 Food Banks (£500 each). Following the PGM's decision to reduce Lodge Provincial Dues to zero for period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, 4 Lodges have received refunds totalling £360.

### **6.00 ANNUAL DUES**

The Provincial Grand Treasurer confirmed 2021/22 will revert to that prior to Covid 19 level, remaining at £3.75.

### **7.00 FEES OF HONOUR**

All Fees paid for 2020/21. All Appointments and Promotions will be on Provincial web site following the meeting. The Provincial Grand Treasurer stated that there would no increase in Fees of Honour charges for 2021/22.

### **8.00 MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE**

The PGL meeting has been booked for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at Kings Heath. In the current situation, whilst plans have been made, they cannot be firmed up. An Executive Meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to consider arrangements that can be made for the PGL meeting bearing in mind the prevailing and possible future restrictions relating to the Covid-10 Pandemic.

The Provincial RAM Grand Assembly scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 has been cancelled.

### **9.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 26th January 2022, 19:30hrs at the Masonic Centre, Rainbow Hill, Worcester.

There being no further business the Provincial Grand Master closed the Meeting at 19.55 hrs.

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**MINUTES of the MARK BENEVOLENT FUND MEETING**

Held on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 19.55 hrs by Zoom Conference.

**1.0 REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHARITY STEWARD**

The Provincial Charity Steward reported that the Province continues to support the Worcestershire Carer’s Association. The Lottery Bonus Ball Scheme continues to grow resulting in payment to lucky winners of £560. The Birmingham Ladies Hospital had received a donation of £500 from the Lottery Bonus Ball Fund for the “Little Feet” memorial garden. The annual for donations to Churches put forward by members of the Province, apart from one for £250, again paid from the Bonus Ball Lottery Fund, has been deferred due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. A donation of £1000 was paid to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal with monies raised by the Bonus Ball Lottery Fund. The Province had been pleased to support the East Lancs MBF Festival for 2021 with a donation of £1000. He stated that 10 Food Banks had received donations as mentioned by the Provincial Grand Treasurer in his report, as follows:-

Worcester (Lechmere 59), Black Country Brierley Hill (Athlumney 590), Spark Hill Tyseley (Moseley 667), Black Country Halesowen (Perseverance 733), Redditch (St Laurence 893), Kidderminster (Vernon 923), St Mary’s Church (Teme Valley 1260), Pershore (St Egwins 1135),Malvern Hills (Malvern Priory 1351) & Northfield (Millennium 1822).

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W Bro Mike Gage PAGDC, announced that it was his intention to retire from his post for family reasons at the end of his term of office this year. He thanked the PGM, R W Bro Eric John Rymer for allowing him the honour and privilege to serve him and the Province in general. Which had been very rewarding. He thanked the Brethren for all their support whilst carrying out his duties and advised that the PGM had been pleased to appoint W Bro Mark Winfield GStwd, to be Provincial Grand Charity Steward with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021. In the meantime he will be pleased to work with Mark Winfield to ensure a smooth handover of the duties of his important office.

The PGM thanked W Bro Mike Gage for all that he has done, in particular with regard to his creation of the Bonus Ball Lottery Fund, which has made a valuable contribution to the Provincial Charity Giving, particularly at this time when little or no funds have been contributed from Regular Lodge Meetings.

**2.00 REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER**

The Provincial Grand Almoner reported that most members will be aware of the recent passing of W Bro Tom Gray. It had been brought to his notice that two members of the Province were currently ill with Covid-19. He was currently assisting a member who lives abroad with possible funding of optic injections and working with the MCF and if necessary the MBF, who are aware of the case.

**3.00 Any Other Business**

The Provincial Grand Secretary has volunteered to assist in the local organisation of Covid-19 vaccinations and has been warmly welcomed. He encouraged as many as possible to sign up to help in any way possible. He also hoped, following the donations to the 10 Food Banks in conjunction with various Mark Lodges, that Lodges across the Province would reciprocate by cascading Lodge Charity donations back up to the Benevolent Fund to enable it to continue with it’s good work.

The Deputy Grand Secretary provided details of a promising update he had received on one of the members mentioned by the Provincial Grand Almoner as having Covid-19.

**4.00** There being no further business the Provincial Grand Master closed the meeting 20.13 hrs.

Signed .....Dated  
Provincial Grand Master

Bill Southgate ProvDepGSec  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2021