

Minutes of the Virtual Business Meeting of the Province of Cheshire & North Wales held on Wednesday 19th August 2020

R.Wy.Bro. David Littlewood Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Cheshire & North Wales welcomed everyone to the meeting including the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, the Assistant Grand Supreme Ruler and 10 P.G.S.R.'s from other Provinces accompanied by D.P.G.S.R.'s, Grand Recorders and other distinguished Brethren. He was also pleased to report that all his Conclaves were represented at the meeting.

1. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler declared the meeting duly open.
2. The Provincial Grand Recorder read out the letter of Authority granting permission to hold a Provincial Virtual Business Meeting.
3. The minutes of the meeting of Provincial Grand Conclave held at Christleton, Chester on Wednesday 19th June 2019 having been posted on the Provincial Website and distributed to all members were approved on proposition of Wy.Bro. Anthony Stringer D.P.G.S.R. and seconded by Wy.Bro. Angus McKenzie.
4. Wy.Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt Provincial Grand Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year ending March 2019, copies of the accounts had been available on the Provincial website and forwarded to all members previously.

Wy.Bro. Ray Whitticombe confirmed the accounts had been audited and that they were in good order.

A query was raised by Wy.Bro. John Moritz as to why we were approving the accounts for 2019 when we had distributed and published the 2020 accounts.

The Treasurer responded and explained that this historically is how it is done due to the timescales involved to prepare and audit the accounts .

The D.P.G.S.R. Wy.Bro. Anthony Stringer proposed and Wy.Bro. Alan Harrison Provincial Grand Recorder seconded that the Accounts should be approved.

There being no dissension the P.G.S.R. declared the accounts as accepted.

5. The Treasurer Wy.Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt proposed and the D.P.G.S.R. seconded that the Provincial Dues for the year 2020-2021 should be cancelled.

The proposal was carried unanimously by show of hands.

6. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler announced the next item was to elect the Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The only nomination received was for Wy.Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt and in the absence of any other nominations or any brother requiring a ballot the P.G.S.R. declared Wy.Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt as Treasurer for the ensuing year and thanked him for his work in maintaining the Provincial finances.

The Treasurer thanked the Brethren for the continued confidence shown in him.

7. The P.G.S.R. stated that the only nominations for Account Examiners were for Keith Butterworth and Ray Whitticombe and in the absence of any other nominations or any Brother requiring a ballot he declared them appointed and thanked them for their continued expertise in this role.

8. The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Wy.Bro. Anthony Stringer gave an In Memoriam report of the Brethren who had passed to higher service during the year namely :-

M.Wy.Bro. Peter Glyn Williams, Past Grand Supreme Ruler

Derek Harrison, P.G.Std.Br. - Fidelity Conclave No.50

Bernard Morgan Chappel, Pr.G.Stwd. – Vale of Weaver Conclave No. 278

Reginald Wilson, P.G.B.Br. – Shield of David Conclave No. 345

Mark Stutely Holding. Chester Conclave No 155

David Summers Thomson, P.G.Std.Br. – Verney Clayton Conclave No.45

John Dutton, P.A.G.D.C. – Verney Clayton Conclave No.45

Peter Edward Ryan P.D.P.G.S.R. – Fidelity Conclave No. 50

The D.P.G.S.R. also gave a report on the charities and confirmed we had supported Vale of Clwyd MIND and the Wellspring Charity in Stockport the year 2019/20. A donation of £2000 had been made to Vale of Clwyd MIND just before lockdown with the latter still to be made when possible.

Whilst the majority of the fundraising comes from the Sunday Lunch, Verney Clayton Conclave made a significant contribution this year when celebrating their centenary.

The Charities nominated for 2020/21 are the local Parkinson's UK branch and Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry.

He also reported that sadly our funds will be severely depleted this year due to Conclaves not meeting and the fact that the Sunday Lunch is unlikely to take place so he appealed to every Brother to consider the Charities and give generously when we next meet.

9. The report of the outgoing Provincial Grand Guide Wy.Bro. Robert Jordan having been distributed to all members and no amendments being forthcoming the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler declared the report as approved.

Wy.Bro. Robert Jordan was thanked for his hard work over the last two years and the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler wished him well in his new role as Provincial Assistant Grand Summus in the Scarlet Cord.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler also extended his good wishes and thanks to Wy.Bro. Chris Welton the outgoing Provincial Grand Recorder who has been appointed Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Cheshire & North Wales.

10. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler confirmed the appointments and promotions that had been posted on the Provincial website on the 17th June 2020 including the new members of the Arch of Steel.

He thanked those that were leaving active office and expressed his disappointment and regret at not being able to personally invest all those who received a deserved promotion.

11. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler briefly addressed the meeting and stated that his full address had been posted on the Provincial website and distributed to the Brethren so he would not repeat it all again today but limit himself to thanking everyone for their support in finding the time to attend the meeting today and to Andy Tong for hosting the meeting on behalf of the Province and to the Provincial Grand Recorder for organising the days events.

12. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler asked the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler R.Wy.Bro. James Robert Hodge if he had any comments he would like to make.

The Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler responded with some very complimentary comments and mentioned how much he had enjoyed the meeting and being able to see each other again and he hoped it wouldn't be too long before we could start meeting again in person.

He complimented the R.Wy. Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler on how he had conducted the meeting and on his well running of the Province of Cheshire & North Wales.

13. The R.Wy. Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler declared the Virtual Provincial Meeting duly Closed.