

Virtual Lodge Meeting – 4th November 2020

Present: WM, SEB,PJW,DAK,GJ,COE,CDL,CJB,PGM,DGH,AEB,JPS,MJSB,RAS,JET,TWH,CAT and PTJ.

Apologies: DRB,MAO'N,RPS,MS,MSP,PMT,CJH and CJW.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and it was good to see a fair turn out of members.

We discussed the impact of covid-19 on our members financial and personal situations. It was revealed that a few members were having financial worries and a discussion ensued regarding either the reduction of subscriptions for the year commencing the 1st Dec 2020 or that they be paid in full from Lodge funds. Our treasurer gave a snapshot view of the Lodge's current financial situation which was quite healthy. The Donald Kay bequest was made "for the benefit of the brethren" and it was felt that this was a time to use it. It was resolved that the Lodge would cover the individual subscriptions for the ensuing year, (£210) but if any brother still wished to pay all, or a contribution, they could do so. Such payments would be credited to the Good Works Account.

As it would have been our Installation Meeting is was decided to make a charitable donation to ELMC in the sum of £2,000. The treasurer to make this donation forthwith.

There was a discussion on the second payment due to the BMA for our Lodge rental invoice. David Hilton, the BMA Deputy Chairman, addressed the brethren on the position of the BMA. He stated that the BMA would not consider any reduction in the Invoice dated the 1st June 2020 and urged all Lodges etc to pay their dues in full. He did say that the question of a possible reduction in Lodge rentals from the 1st June 2021 was to be considered at a board meeting to be held on the 5th December 2020. He also stated that there was a need for more transparency in the workings of the BMA and therefore he would be producing a Newsletter to outline dealings in the future. He also gave a list of work that needed to be done at the Hall which would cost in the region of £20-25,000.

There was genuine concern as to why these works had not been carried out, especially as the Hall was not being used. Some brethren voiced their concerns on the fairly large amount held by the Company in Investments and on deposit, suggesting that a fair percentage of it could be used to alleviate the member Lodge's contribution to their rental cost.

As a result of the information supplied by David it was resolved to wait until the Secretary had received replies to his previous letter to the other Lodge Secretaries and the Board meeting on the 5th December before embarking on a course of action.

As only one of possibly two Lodges to complete their payments it was felt that we were in a weak bargaining position, so we were happy to wait until the 5th Dec to take a view.

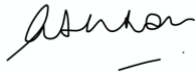
The December meeting was to be deferred to the 9th Dec, with Stuart Browning amending the Zoom calendar accordingly.

In Any other Business, Chris Eccles informed us that David Brown had negotiated a Charitable bequest in the sum of £3,500 to Bury Hospice to supply new uniforms. Well done to Dave for that!

The Charity Stewards Raffle was to go ahead with brethren buying tickets on-line through Chris Eccles, who would then send ticket numbers. The draw would take place at the District Dinner in May.

David Hilton reported that all the bar stock at the Hall had been given to Hewlett Court. The Secretary confirmed that as the meeting should have been our Installation, all members were to remain in post until our next 'live' meeting, when the WM would be proclaimed as the WM until Nov 2021 with all officers remaining in post until then.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashton', with a horizontal line underneath.

WBro Malcolm N. Ashton JP, PProvGSwdB
Secretary
Earl of Lathom Lodge No.2560