Virtual Lodge Meeting – 9th December 2020

Present: WM,MNA,SEB,PJW,DAK,GJ,COE,CDL,CJB,PGM,CJH,DGH,MJSB,RAS,CAT.

Apologies: DRB,MAO’N,RPS,MS,PMTand CJW.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

The meeting was arranged for a week later than usual so that the Dep Chairman of the BMA could report on the findings of the Directors Meeting held on the 3rd Dec.

CJB had been appointed Financial Director much to the relief of all concerned.

It was clear that the Board were not prepared to release a copy of the minutes to myself, the Shareholder, on behalf of the Lodge members after I had placed a request for the same.

David Hilton reported that the Board had decided not the grant a per capita holiday next year as there was a raft of work that needed to be done at the Hall amounting to a considerable sum. This included refurbishment of the Jack Huddart Suite, both the Gents and Ladies toilets, re-pointing the front of the Hall, Checking the roof, eradicating the damp in the cellar and major work regarding the lift.

They did however think that if the projected expenditure was not as high as they feared, they would look again at the per capita contributions in 2022, with a view to either making a reduction or maintaining the charges at their current level.

DGH had agreed with the Board to produce a quarterly Newsletter to outline the work that was being done and contemplated by the Board. This was to be circulated top all Secretaries.

CJB then commented on the cost of actually opening the door to the Masonic Hall. No one had done any investigation into this and he was to tackle this matter after perusing former utility bills etc. The purpose being that if we knew what the cost of opening the door was we could then levy a charge to outsiders that was realistic.

The District Charity Steward, COE, informed us of grants made to Rammyman (£500), Rossendale Hospice (£2,500) and Emmanuel Church Community Centre.

Chris Taylor voiced his concerns at the “political” road the discussions were taking and announced his disappointment with the way things were going. No-one had spoken to him and that he felt somewhat out on a limb. It was resolved that all members should do their best to try and speak to one another during the current state of lockdown to try and alleviate the very feelings that Chris has been experiencing.

The secretary voiced his concerns regarding Bro Gareth Williams. He had tried to make contact via email, mobile and texts but to no avail. He had even sent a letter earlier that week and was hoping for a positive response.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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WBro Malcolm N. Ashton  JP, PProvGSwdB

Secretary

Earl of Lathom Lodge No.2560