



Bourne Freemasons Club (BFC)

Annual General Meeting at the Masonic Centre on Monday November 5th 2024.

Meeting Opened at 19.20 hrs.

PRESENT: Ian Bratley (Chair), Barrie Church(Acting Secretary), Gareth Derbyshire (Treasurer), Ian Greenfield (Hirings), John Gregory and Stewart Rodgers

APOLOGIES: M Haynes, R Bowden, A Bowden, G Dayes and R Thorpe

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed attendees and outlined the objectives of this evening's meeting. The outgoing Committee were also thanked for their efforts last year. Thanks, and appreciation was also conveyed to the Chairman for his sterling work during the same period.

MINUTES: The Minutes of Previous Meeting were formally agreed and signed. Chair will upload them to the BFC Website for viewing.

CHAIRMANS REPORT: See appendix 1

TREASURERS REPORT: See appendix 2. It was agreed that the accounts for 2024 should be audited. For independence it was agreed that the masters of Herward and Aveland Lodges should be appointed.

It was confirmed that expenses incurred by Officers doing their duty could be reimbursed.

HIRING OFFICERS REPORT: See appendix 3

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS: There were insufficient attendees to confirm the officers. Barrie Church and Gareth Derbyshire agreed to continue. Ian Bratley and Ian Greenfield also agreed to continue on the basis of having sufficient officers to allow the BFC to operate.

Vice Chairman –Barrie Church

Secretary –

Treasurer –Gareth Derbyshire

Hirings – Ian Greenfield

Safety Officer/s – Ray Bowden?

Bar - Michael Haynes

Possible ordinary members for next year included Philip Knapp,

On the basis that there were still vacancies for the offices and being no further business for this AGM, the Chairclosed the meeting at 19.30 hrs.

These above minutes are a true and accurate record of the discussions and resolutions passed at the Annual General Meeting on 5th November 2024

Signed

Signed

Chair

Secretary

Date

Date



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Appendix 1 – Chairmans Report

I am pleased to say that with the assistance of the committee members and Trustees we have continued to manage and maintain the smooth running of centre which I hope is to everyone's expectations.

It follows our work in standardising the outdated hiring and capitation system and the inclusion of another order joining us in February 2025 which brings the number of lodges/orders using the centre to 8.

I should note that the by the change from capitation to fixed fee and the inclusion of another Masonic group, both Hereward and Aveland and Hereward Chapter will enjoy a reduction in their total contribution.

In addition, by securing and renewing the ongoing usage by the 3 social groups actively using the facilities leaves us in a sound financial footing for the medium term future.

We continue to monitor the day to day needs of the premises and are in the process of acquiring sliding doors to the hall/bar area and have more work to do regarding the recent addition of furniture. We also had a cupboard created for Knight Templar and next year I think we need to look closely at interior decoration as there are certain areas now in the building looking quite tired. In addition we know the bar fridge is 'fragile' and we should consider a replacement soon. It was also brought up that the choice of drinks available at the bar is down to the sole discretion of the Bar Manager .

We organised and held our traditional Christmas Luncheon which once again we hope to continue with this year, and have maintained the services of our caterer for the following year to which we have highlighted their catering safety regulations on our web site.

We must all recognise the hard work by the Treasurer, Hirings and Bar Manager and other offices held and note that these positions are for one year only to be re-appointed at the AGM. You will also be aware that both the chair and hirings officer did not seek re-election last year but did however continue in their respective offices resulting in fewer actual meetings replaced by an increased use of email communication and updates.

The vacant appointments will be discussed and hopefully resolved by the next meeting however, should the same issue arise this year, the club will not function.

In the meantime I wish to thank all the members on the BFC committee for the work and support throughout 2023/4.

Ian Bratley : Chair

Appendix 2 – Treasurers Report

In summary, I am pleased to confirm that the finances are in a healthy position. As of today, the bank balance is approx £37000, This compares with an opening balance on 1 January 2024 of £33,967.54.

72% of income this year has been derived from venue hire with 14% from each of capitation and bar sales. Expenditure has been broadly consistent through the year with the greatest expenditure being just over £2,300 on bar furniture.

All payments to the BFC for hiring are up to date and there are no outstanding payments to be made by the Club. All necessary licences have been renewed and the required utility safety checks have either been completed or are



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scheduled for completion in advance of their expiry date. New contracts have been agreed for the supply of gas and electricity on competitive tariffs.

Next year, it is expected that the BFC's core income source of venue hire will increase slightly to reflect additional bookings and the revised charging model. Business rates are likely to increase but even allowing for this, the cost of folding doors in the bar area and ongoing expenditure the BFC has adequate financial resources to meet its liabilities for the foreseeable future.

I am happy to take questions from Brethren.

Gareth Derbyshire
BFC Treasurer

Appendix 33 – lettings Officer Report

As of 1st November 2024

The hall is continually in use, and a brief outline of those bookings etc from January 2024 to the end of October 2024.

2023 - January 1 – October 30th. Income from lettings @ £10,500. Average £1050 per month.

2024 – January 1 – October 30th. Income from lettings @ £11550. Average £1150 per month. This is an increase of approximately 10% year on year. This is due to the increase in hiring fees since January 2024.

As well as our regular hirers the building has also been used for other functions, these being chiefly:

Birthday party – fee charged, plus we provided a bar service. (£220 + bar revenue)

Birthday party for Lodge members daughter – building given for free. Bar run by member of Committee.

Birthday party for Lodge members wife, who is a carer, and the person she looks after had an important birthday. Hall given free. Client paid for 2 bar staff.

Don't Lose Hope – have used the building once. It was effectively given FOC as the £70 hiring fee was donated back to the Charity. (The evening was a thank you from Don't Lose Hope to all their volunteers). Members of BFMC provided the bar service. Takings on the night @ £200.00.

We gave the hall free of charge for Blood Cancer Research to hold a Race Night(4 hours) where £1450 was raised. No bar.

Golf Club – AGM's and Christmas lunch etc. are being charged for.

We will have also given the building to the following FOC.

Little Miracles – (2 hours – Halloween themed party for disabled persons and carers). No bar.

Hazel Batteley– Shine On Bourne – 2 two hours slots for disabled persons and carers. First one given free of charge, second one paid for – one other booking before Xmas. No bar.

Cancer Research – December - Wreath making – (4 hours)

During December we will have Xmas lunches for Joint Lodges, Line dancing, Toft Golf Club, and a Free Xmas lunch for disabled persons and their carers.



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Next year (2025).

As per recent minutes of meetings etc the hiring fees for one off hirers have been increased and agreed. Letters sent to our 3 main hirers regarding their fees. Lodge secretaries will be sent letters shortly advising them we are moving to a cost per meeting £70 for all lodges. This creates an even and equal cost for all Masonic orders using the premises.

We also have an 8th lodge starting meeting in 2025, Knights Priests, which should bring in £210 plus income from the bar.

No booking for the Armed forces lodge this year.

We engaged the services of a new cleaner at the beginning of the year. As yet, (tempting fate) I have had no complaints from anyone regarding the standard of cleaning. The lodges have by and large improved their house keeping too, with just the odd exception.

Ian Greenfield