



Bourne Freemasons Club (BFC)

A meeting of Bourne Freemasons Club was held at the Masonic Centre, Roman Bank, Bourne on 226th September 2023. The meeting opened at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Ian Bratley (Chair), Ian Greenfield (Vice Chair), Nigel Lindley (Secretary), Ray Brooks, Clifford Crump, Roger Thorpe, Michael Haynes, Barrie Church, Tony Elton, Ray Bowden, Anthony Heyes-Bowden.

APOLOGIES:

Apoloiges had been received from, Gareth Derbyshire (Treasurer), Peter Flint, Mike Dench,

MINUTES: The minutes of the last meetings were signed by the Chair and Secretary and will be posted on the BFC website in due course.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed everyone.

Correspondence – The Secretary had received a further email chasing news of the Aslackby Preceptory (KT) storage cupboard as no further progress has been made since the last BFC meeting. Ray Brookes confirmed he will discuss the situation position with John Gregory to establish when it will be constructed – John has had issues that have delayed the progress of this. The outcome is that, if John cannot complete the work in the near future it will need to be outsourced - if there is no one within the Masonic group who is prepared to or is able to complete the project instead.

Treasurers Report – In the absence of the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman provided an outline of the Treasures report, which is as follows.

A new bank account was opened in August 2023 with Metro Bank with an initial working balance of £5,000. The Chairman and the Treasurer are the authorised signatories. The new account offers online facilities, and the majority of ongoing expenses are now paid from this account. In addition, invoices on behalf of the BFC are being issued with the Metro Bank account details and invoices have been paid to date. As at 22 September 2023, the account balance was £4,581.20 (with a further transfer of £15,000 to follow – see below).

The HSBC account remains open to accommodate the remaining direct debits that have not yet been transferred (Gas) and any recurring expenditure. As at 13 September 2023, the balance was £17,233.25. Subsequently, the sum of £15,000 has been transferred to the Metro Bank account leaving a working balance of £2,233.25. The remaining balance will be transferred to the Metro Bank account when it has been confirmed that there are no longer any items of recurring expenditure. The account will be closed at that time.

The chairman also pointed out that a new gas account has been agreed and that the estimated for gas in the coming 12 months will be some £2,000, which is over double the current cost. Furthermore, the centre will now be paying for electricity at an estimated cost of some £5,000, another significant increase given costs to date.



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Additionally, should the Committee agree to propose a permanent Caretaker/Janitor for the centre the estimated cost would be some £4,000.

While the BFC has sufficient capital funds to cover the vast increase in expenditure, it will be for a limited time only. Particularly if further expenditure is to be set aside for the planned refurbishment of the hall and bar area.

While the Treasurer will provide a more accurate income v expenditure, there followed a debate over the use of the hall and the hiring terms currently in place, Subsequently, a proposal to put forward (prop C. Crump, seconded A Heyes-Bowden) to also review all external hiring fees in line with the anticipated increase in costs.

It was also proposed that consideration be given the ways in which the Masonic Centre can become more self-sustainable, and A. Heyes Bowden has agreed to research the potential use of and costs of solar panels at the centre.

Safety Officer – Although not present, our Safety Officer has voiced concerns over the difficulties we may face at the Masonic Centre in complying with an onerous Health and Safet programme – this follows a H&S audit earlier in the year. There is clearly work to be done, which will quite possibly require outsourcing to suitably qualified people and in a number of areas. This will add to the annual expenditure of the centre unless suitably trained volunteers are found.

This is work in progress and further reports will follow as the situation becomes clearer.

Any Other Business

Catering – It was proposed by Ian Greenfield and seconded by Ray Brooks that our current caterer Georgina, be reappointed for the coming year and it was unanimously agreed. Craft and side degree members should however be aware that the cost of meals will be increasing as follows - £18 for 4 courses and £16.50 for 3 courses.

Addendum – since the recent BFC meeting Georgina has received the health and safety catering standards booklet and will be responding to the chair in due course regarding her, and her staffs, obligations regarding allergens and the preparation of food.

Building Exterior – New guttering has been installed near the front door and repairs have also been made to other areas of the guttering. The Gutters have also been cleaned.

Hiring's Officer Report

Hiring is healthy and currently capacity is low for additional 'regular' hirers, which is good given the provision of a regular income to the BFC account.

It has been agreed that following a previous request, the Bridge Club may have an Honours Board in the body of the main hall - they are long-term hirers hence the concession.



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Décor – Bar and Hall

It was brought to the attention of the committee that little had been done to the décor and furniture following the meeting on Sunday 5th March. While ideas and some outline plans were put forward (they were circulated - see link below) there is still much to do.

With this in mind, the cost of fitting sliding or BiFold doors is to be investigated and we will be looking to purchase replacement for the bar area, along with some pictures and artificial plants. The objective is to create a bar area where members and partners will want to meet and enjoy a social evening, every bit as much as it being practical for masonic events. Progress will be reposted following the next BFC meeting.

BFC is also investigating how to improve the washing up and glass cleaning operation in the bar and Ray Brooks has kindly offered to re-design the sink area to accommodate the glass washing machine. - it will also be discretely screened off - carrying wet glasses through the bar to and from the dishwasher is creating a health and safety issue!

Ladies Toilet – It was suggested that BFC draft a report for the Trustees, outlining the problems with the Ladies Toilets. There have been numerous negative comments made about the Ladies Loo and given that there needs to be some extensive work, it was felt that the Trustees are made aware. At the next meeting the BFC will draft a proposal.

Note. link to Bar Refurb ideas <http://bournefreemasonsclub.co.uk/bar.html>

Flags - New flags are now adorning the flagpoles.

Car Park – There are currently no plans to add lines and designated parking spaces in the car park.

Date of Next Meeting and the Annual General Meeting Tuesday November 7th 2023 7pm Masonic Hall

A brief meeting of the BFC will take place prior to the Annual General Meeting. Currently the are Committee Members and Officers standing down and new members will be required. This is the opportunity for every craft and side degree member to have a say and be involved in the running of the Masonic Centre.

Note. As each body need to be represented would members consider giving a small amount of their time to be part of this Bourne Freemasons Club Committee.

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Signed Chairman.

Signed Secretary:

Date.

Date:



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