

Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire.

Minutes of Almoners Committee Meeting.

Held within the premises of Lodge St John, Midcalder No.272 @ 10am

Present

Tom Chmylowskyj (PGC)

Kenny McMaster(PGA), Keith Stirling(13), Phil Harvey(272), Norman Colborne(548), James Kirkton-Vaughan(636), Jim Henderson(1145), Jim Robertson(1186), Rodger Muir(1305), John Glendinning(1587), Ernie Lamond(1658)

Apologies

Jim Ellis (PGM)

John Ward(17), John Hendry(374), Gordon Dow(827), Robert McConnell(927).

Welcome

Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Almoners' concert

Bro Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that Almoners' concert had gone extremely well and thanked the almoners who assisted on the evening. He confirmed that working with Bro. Jim Ellis(PGM), Bro. George Preston(PPGM) and Bro. Jim Cole(PM 1658) an article together with some photos would appear in next years Grand Lodge Year book. He also read an email containing feedback from Dawn Oliff, Homes and Charities Manager in Grand Lodge. He also mentioned that Bro. Robert McConnell(927) had already booked his lodge for next year's Almoner's fair and concert.

Children's Halloween Party

Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that the Children's Halloween Party had also been a success despite numbers being lower than last years event. He highlighted that on the day some of the kids costumes had been great and also that Bro. Jim Ellis(PGM) and Bro. Ronnie Gemmill(DPGM) had been dooking for apples.

Almoners Race Night

Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that the race night had been successful and on the evening had raised the sum of £871. However, on Tuesday evening Bro. John Anderson WSW, Lodge St Margaret 548 had donated £29 taking the total to £900. PGA also said that perhaps we needed to discuss whether to proceed with the race night given what's already going on in the province or alternatively consider a better date in the calendar. A further discussion will take place at our February committee meeting.

A vote of thanks to Bro. Jimmy Robertson(1186) for organising the race night.

Post meeting : Bro Jim Henderson(1145) donated £10 so the total is now £910.

Xmas Hampers

Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that the Xmas hampers would be available for collection on Friday, 2nd December and that every almoner should arrange for their hamper to be collected due to transport restrictions. He confirmed that he had also requested the same at the Provincial Committee meeting on Wednesday evening.

Bro. Rodger Muir(1305) asked whether there was any value in continuing with the hampers given that some elderly people would be unable to use all the contents. PGA acknowledged that this was a valid point but in his experience the family of his recipient last year had asked if it would be ok for them to use some of the contents. Bro. Phil Harvey(272) also said he had given his hamper to a care home.

PGA suggested that we have a further discussion at our next committee meeting in February 2017.

The time of collection from Asda's in Armadale to be advised. Action : Provincial Grand Almoner.

PGA also thanked Bro. Robert McConnell(927) for organising the hampers.

Sir James McKay fundraising

Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) read out some feedback from Dawn Oliff, Homes and Charities Manager in Grand Lodge about the £200 donation made to Sir James McKay House and passed to Bro. Norman Colborne(548) so that he could read it out at his next lodge meeting.

PGA advised that he was busy trying to organise an afternoon in Sir James McKay House on Saturday, 15th April 2017 and hoped that the families of the Residents would be in attendance with their Children. He also hoped to organise egg painting and egg roll on the day and give out Easter eggs to the children. PGA said that any help would be appreciated.

Bro. Jim Henderson(1145) suggested that perhaps we could have a magician who could entertain the Residents, their families and children.

PGA also advised that his next fundraising meeting would be on Tuesday, 29th November within Sir James McKay House commencing at 7pm should any of the almoners wish to accompany him.

Almoners Fund

Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that he, Bro. Jim Ellis(PGM), Bro. Gavin MacDonald(PPGM), Bro. Norman Austin (PPGM) and Bro. Tom Chmylowskyj had met recently to discuss what we wanted to do with the almoners fund going forward.

PGA advised the main outcomes from the meeting where :

- the almoners will have a say in how funds are spent.
- a process needed to be put in place to agree what, how and when we spend monies.
- the process needed to be flexible and timely

PGA further advised that he and Bro Ellis(PGM) had spoken informally about having a process in place for spending monies and that they both recognised the challenges they faced with the frequency of meetings of both the Almoners Committee, Provincial Grand Committee and communicating with everyone concerned.

PGA said currently two ideas were under consideration :

1. using the Almoners fund to purchase an item for use by Meadowvale Care Home.
2. Almoners badges that could be worn when visiting the sick and also within their communities.

After a wide ranging discussion the almoners agreed that they needed to consider ideas throughout the year rather than rush to distribute funds at the end of year. They also agreed that communication was important and perhaps we should consider having adhoc meetings if the need arises.

Bro. Phil Harvey(272) suggested that we should perhaps consider purchasing a Mobility Scooter for the use by the elderly within our province.

Bro. Norman Colborne(548) expressed his frustration that the almoners were not given regular updates on the amount currently in the almoners fund. PGA agreed with Bro. Colborne and took an action to give regular updates going forward.

Vote of Thanks

Bro. Tom Chmylowskyj expressed the sincere thanks of Provincial Grand Lodge to the almoners of the province for the hard work they undertook.

There being no further business Bro. Kenny McMaster(PGA) expressed his sincere thanks to the almoners of the province for all their support over the last nine months. He also took the opportunity to wish the almoners and their families a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. The was closed at approximately 10.45am.

Post Meeting Note

Brethern, rather remissly I forgot to place on record my sincere thanks to Bro. Jim Ellis(PGM) and Bro. Tom Chmylowskyj for the support they have given me and the almoners of the province since February this year. My apologies to both these brethern for this omission.

Next Meeting

Saturday, 18 February 2017 @ 10am

Venue : To be confirmed.