



the Company of Servers

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SELBY MASONIC HALL
SATURDAY, 5 MAY 2018
MINUTES**

01) Welcome & Prayer

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our new Chaplain-General, Fr Kevin Maddy SCP, who offered opening prayers.

02) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Blackburn & Liverpool – Matthew Rides, Nicola Rides & Jason Burrow

Chelmsford – Rhona McEune

Leeds – Jean Radley, Gordon Radley, Sue Ford & Glenn Middleditch

London – Fiona Andrews, Sion Hughes-Carew, Cathie Beresford, David Beresford, Patricia Brown & Fr Matthew Catterick SCP

Norwich – Robert Horne, Graham Owers, Alan Powell & David Adams

Southwark – Helen Goepel & Mark Charlton

York – Bill Hardy

47 Members were in attendance

03) Minutes of previous Meeting (6 May 2017)

These were approved subject to correcting Barry Moore's name at Item 7 and were duly signed by the Chair.

04) Chair's Report - Belinda Hornby

The Chair expressed her thanks to the York Chapter for hosting the Festival and AGM at Selby – particularly, commending David Simpson and Tony Parker for their hard work in bringing it all together so well. Bishop Stephen and Fr Kevin were also thanked for Presiding and Preaching at the Festival Mass.

The Chair spoke about the nature of service with a personal reflection on pastoral care within her parish.

It was noted that next year is the tenth anniversary for the Company and so it was hoped the Festival on 11 May 2018, following Bishop Stephen's invitation, would be at Ely, but if this was not possible, Chelmsford Chapter had willingly stepped forward to be our hosts and this was warmly accepted.

In regard to the life in local Chapters, it was noted that London and Southwark are working closely together whilst Lichfield has been newly formed.

It was wonderful to grant Honorary Life Membership to David Wridderholt (Chelmsford) to mark his 50 years as a server & he expressed his gratitude for this honour.

The Chair hoped to expand the prayer diary operated in the Blackburn & Liverpool Chapter to other Chapters, keen to express the importance of prayer in our lives and service.

It was announced that a Chairs & Chaplains meeting would be held at 12 Noon on Saturday, 8 September at Southwark Cathedral; trusting that as many as possible could attend and travel expenses would be reimbursed.

For the time being, the text of the Handbook would be available on the website whilst the cost of re-printing is explored further and an appeal for a new set of photographs was made to fulfil our remit of inclusivity.

Communication is, of course, very important and the new Twitter account was commended.



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A presence is called for at the York session of the General Synod and so volunteers to operate the joint Catholic Societies' stall were asked to let the Chair know so that proper ID could be applied for. Finally, with vacancies arising on the Central Committee, the Chair hoped that the opportunity had arisen to make it more diverse, inclusive and representative of the wider membership of the Company.

05) Treasurer-General's Report - John Kitchener

In reference to his hand out, the Treasurer-General remarked on the subs paid and that there is a healthy balance in the Account of approx. £1,300 – although this year's Festival had been more expensive than in the past & some bills had yet to be settled.

The Treasurer clarified that the Central Committee will pay travel costs to the Central Committee for meetings, and 50% of costs for those travelling to the Chairs and Chaplains meetings when they are held. The likely cost of re-printing the Handbook would be in the region of £3,000 and so we would have to look at whether it was possible to afford to do this again rather than stick with the online version.

The Accounts were formally adopted by the Meeting.

The Independent Examiner needed to be re-appointed – Clare Stephenson had confirmed that she was willing to continue in this role and this was appointment was formally approved by the Meeting.

06) Election of Secretary-General, Treasurer-General, Communications Officer, Membership Officer & one Ordinary Member

It was noted that Michael Lewis was stepping down as Secretary-General and he was thanked for the filling the role over the past year.

John Kitchener (Southwark Chapter) as Treasurer-General, Mark Charlton (Southwark Chapter) as Communications Officer and William Varlow (Southwark Chapter) as Membership Officer had all served a further fixed term but were willing to continue in these roles and they were duly re-elected by the Meeting without a vote being necessary.

There were 2 candidates for Secretary-General and Barry Moore (currently an Ordinary Member, Norwich Chapter) was duly elected by the Meeting following a vote.

This meant that there were now 2 Ordinary Member vacancies for which 4 candidates decided to stand and, following a vote, Michaela Sorensen (Norwich Chapter) and Yvonne Bowling (York Chapter) were duly elected by the Meeting.

07) Adoption of revised Safeguarding policy

The Chair advised that any safeguarding issue should be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese in which the local Chapter is situated.

However, if further advice was needed, the Central Committee has engaged the "as required" consultancy services of Jill Sandham (recently retired Safeguarding Officer for Southwark Diocese).

The revised policy can be seen on the website.

This was noted by the Meeting.



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08) Honorary Life Membership - making of award following nomination revision of clause 3.4.2 of Constitution

The Chair advised that, going forward, Honorary Life Membership would be awarded on the basis of nominations from local Chapters – as had been the case today for David Wridderholt (Chelmsford) and Sion Hughes-Carew (London).

Also, clause 3.4.2 of the Constitution should be revised to permit Honorary Life Members to vote at the AGM on the basis that they are still active servers.

Both changes were approved by the Meeting.

It was confirmed that Clergy recipients are not permitted to vote.

09) Any Other Business

- a. The total number of CoS members across the Country was queried: The Membership Officer and the Treasurer-General advised that this could only be gleaned from subs paid and Membership returns being made from each Chapter & not every Chapter was fulfilling these requirements.

The new Committee would follow this up more vigorously.

- b. GDPR – David Simpson (York Chapter) presented a paper highlighting the need for CoS to follow the requirements of the new data protection regulations as urgently as possible in view of the deadline of 25 May 2018 by which all organisations should comply.

The Chair advised that the Central Committee had immediate actions in hand to meet this requirement and a Consent form was being drawn up for all Chapter Secretaries to issue to its membership for completion – this would be issued very soon.

10) Prayer & Close

Thanks were expressed to Belinda Hornby for being our excellent Chair.

The Chaplain-General closed the meeting with the Grace.