**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF ST. STEPHEN,**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 12TH JUNE 2021,**

**VIRTUALLY ON MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Michael O’Leary (Honorary President) in the Chair, and 16 members entitled to vote.

**APOLOGIES:**

Fr. Dennis Touw (National Director), Fr. Keith Stoakes (Westminster Diocesan Director), Quoc Anh-Tran (Hon Treasurer), Tony Barter (Reading), Michael Chute (Brook Green), Rose Curry (Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral), John McCormack (Ingatestone), Anthony Ogunseitan (Westminster Cathedral) and Patrick Taylor (St George’s Cathedral, Southwark).

**WELCOME:**

The Honorary President opened the meeting by welcoming all delegates to the postponed 2020 meeting. It should have taken place towards the end of November 2020 but due to the Covid lockdown it had to be postponed to a later date and for the first time it is being held virtually by Microsoft Teams.

The President reported the very sad news of the death of Peter Rollason the former Secretary of the Birmingham Guild who died during 2020 and asked the meeting to remember Gillian and her family in their prayers.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 30th November 2019 had been made available for members to download and read before the meeting began. Their acceptance as a true record was proposed by Mr. Jon Woodford (Ware) and seconded by Ms. Catherine Burns (Wanstead and signed by the Chairman).

**MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS:**

In presenting the Central Council’s Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2020 (downloaded prior to the meeting), the Chairman explained that because of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown the year effectively ended in March 2020 and only two orders were received from the middle of March until the end of June but approximately 200 goods orders were received during the financial year. Compared with the deficit the previous year a surplus of £634 was recorded.

The Annual Reportand Accounts was then proposed by Mr Michael O’Leary (Honorary President) and seconded by Ian Mulholland (Preston) and accepted by all present.

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S ADDRESS:**

As Fr. Dennis was unable to join the meeting due to Wifi difficulties his address will be published on the website.

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

There were nominations for two places on the Central Council submitted by Mr Paul Briers ( Ms Catherine Burns and Mrs Liz Woodhouse. A short CV was given for the nominees.

The election took place on line with the votes sent to Stefan Wicek anonymously who then collated them and texted the results to the Chairman.

The Central Council for 2020-2021 will consist of:

Honorary President: Mr Michael O’Leary (Lincoln Inn Fields)

Honorary Vice-President: Mr Jon Woodford (Ware)

Honorary Secretary: Mr Michael Malone (Enfield)

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Quoc Van-Tran (Limehouse)

Goods Manager: Vacant

Communications Officer Paul Woodhouse (Blackpool) Co-opted

Members of the Council:

Mr Paul Briers (Workington)

Mr Marc Besford (Billingham)

Ms Catherine Burns (Wanstead)

Mr Ian Mulholland (Preston)

Mr Anthony Ogunseitan (Westminster Cathedral)

Mr Philip Prior (Stamford Hill)

Co-opted members:

Mr Stefan Wicek (Stamford Hill) – Web Master.

Mrs Elizabeth Woodhouse (Westminster Cathedral)

Honorary Counsellors:

Mr Michael Chute (Brook Green)

Mrs Rose Curry (Liverpool Cathedral)

Mr Michael Moriarty (Kingsland)

Mr Nicholas Tilbury (Westminster Cathedral)

All Dioceses are able to nominate representatives to attend Central Council meetings and those listed below have been regular attendees:

Brentwood: Catherine Burns (Wanstead)

Southwark: Patrick Taylor (St. Georges Cathedral)

**APPOINTMENT OF THE EXAMINER FOR THE ACCOUNTS:**

The Chair proposed that Mr Alan Worsfold be appointed as Examiner for the Archconfraternity’s Accounts. The proposal was carried unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS:**

**The Annual National Mass for Altar Servers:** will be held in St Mary and St Joseph’s Church on Saturday 25th September 2021 at 12pm.

**The Westminster Diocesan Altar Servers Mass:** will be held in Westminster cathedral on Saturday 2nd October 2021 at 2.30pm.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Under Anthony Ogunseitan’s leadership the Moving the Guild forward working team was established, and the Northern Province Meeting for Diocesan Directors and senior Servers was held in Leeds on Saturday 17th February 2020. Many good suggestions came from the meeting on how to revitalise the Guild and Paul Woodhouse was co-opted to the Central Council as the Communications Officer. Paul introduced himself and outlined how the Guild can move forward starting with the introduction of Instagram and Twitter accounts alongside the existing Facebook account. The website will also be revamped and there will be practical help on how the Guild operates. Paul Briers also said the from the Leeds meeting 12 critical subjects will be discussed by the working group on moving the Guild forward.

James Noakes (Nottingham) said the Nottingham Diocesan Altar servers Mass will take place at Nottingham Cathedral on 4th September 2021at 11am.

**CLOSE OF MEETING:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no other business proper to an Annual General Meeting. The meeting was closed with ‘Hail Holy Queen’ led by Paul Briers,

**Signed:**

**Printed:**

**Dated:**