**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

**HELD ON SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2021,**

**AT ST MARY AND ST JOSEPH’S CHURCH, POPLAR AND VIRTUALLY ON MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Michael O’Leary (Honorary President) in the Chair, Fr Dennis Touw (National Director),Fr. Keith Stoakes (Westminster Director), Deacon Tony Barter (Radlett), Rick Hodgkiss (Cardiff Director) and 16 members entitled to vote.

**APOLOGIES:**

Canon Chris Matthews (Shrewsbury Director), Quoc Anh-Tran (Hon Treasurer), Vince Shalvey (Business and Goods Manager), Michael Chute KSG (Brook Green), Patrick Taylor (St George’s Cathedral, Southwark)

**WELCOME:**

The Honorary President opened the meeting by welcoming all delegates to the meeting. This is the first time the meeting has been held virtually as well as face to face in Poplar.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the postponed Annual General Meeting held on the 12th June 2021 had been made available for members to download and read before the meeting began.

Deacon Tony Barter requested the minutes to be amended. In apologies it was stated that he was from Reading but his parish is in Radlett.

Their acceptance as a true record was proposed by Mr. Paul Briers (Workington) and seconded by Mr Jon Woodford (Hon. Vice President) and signed by the Chairman).

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS:**

The Central Council’s Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 30th June 2021 had also been made available before the meeting began. The Chairman gave members a few minutes to re-read them and then asked members to approve the accounts for 2020-2021.

Acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts were then proposed by Mr Michael O’Leary (Honorary President) and seconded by Mr Ian Mulholland (Chelmsford). All present voted in favour.

The Annual Report and Accounts was then proposed by Mr Michael O’Leary (Honorary President) and seconded by Ian Mulholland (St Anthony, Preston) and voted by all present.

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S ADDRESS:**

In his address Fr. Dennis Touw spoke of the difficulties the pandemic has caused in maintaining both physical and spiritual lives and during that time it has not been possible for most servers to carry out their ministry. As the situation is starting to improve some servers are able to return to serving in a socially distanced way and wearing face masks. He said the introduction of Guild face masks is an excellent idea but hopefully for not too long.

Fr. Dennis thanked Fr. Keith Stokes for all the work he does so enthusiastically for the Guild in Westminster and beyond and also thanks to all members of the Central Council for their hard work during the pandemic.

Fr. Dennis spoke about the relics of St Bernardette coming to the United Kingdom during September and October 2022.

On behalf of His Eminence and all Bishops and Priests from all dioceses he congratulated and thanked all those in spite of the many difficulties during the past year who have received medals of special recognition and they are richly deserved.

Finally, Fr. Dennis thanked all parish servers for their loyal service and it is from them that many vocations to the priesthood and religious life come forth.

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Nominations were received for Honorary President, Honorary Vice President and four elected places on the Central Council. Each nominee gave a short account of themselves before voting. The on line votes were sent to Fr. Keith for collating

The Central Council for 2021-2022 will consist of:

Honorary President: Mr Paul Briers (Workington)

Honorary Vice-President: Ms. Catherine Burns (Wanstead)

Honorary Secretary: To be appointed

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Quoc Van-Tran (Limehouse)

Goods Manager: Mr Vincent Shalvey (Clerkenwell)

Communications Officer Paul Woodhouse (Blackpool) Co-opted

Members of the Council:

Mr Marc Besford (Billingham)

Mr Ian Mulholland (Preston)

Mr Philip Prior (Stamford Hill)

Mr Michael O’Leary (Lincolns Inn Fields)

Co-opted members:

Mr Stefan Wicek (Stamford Hill) – Web Master.

Mr Anthony Ogunseitan (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)

**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.

**MOVING THE GUILD FORWARD:**

Under Anthony Ogunseitan’s leadership the Moving the Guild Forward working team has had a busy year and has not just been a ‘talking shop’. Better technology will be used to facilitate the Annual General Meeting in future. The team is working closely with Maryvale in putting together a vocational course for senior Altar Servers. Nicola Chrismas (South Chingford) has been asked to work with the Central Council with the planning for the National and Westminster Diocesan Masses in Westminster Cathedral. Anthony also asked Jon Woodford (Ware) to join the Moving the Guild Forward team.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS:**

**The Annual National Mass for Altar Servers:** will be held in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday October 1st at 2.30pm.

**INCOMING PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS**:

Mr Paul Briers (Workington) thanked the outgoing President for all that he done during his time in office. He said that his primary role will be to achieve positive change embracing opportunities and contributions will be dependant on the efforts of all members. He would like the Guild to be involved in Flame 23 plus projects and activities to interest all members and with their help to make things happen.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**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:**