



Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7AB

Tel: 01284 754462 | Email: [enquiries@ashlarhouse.com](mailto:enquiries@ashlarhouse.com) | Web: [www.ashlarhouse.com](http://www.ashlarhouse.com)

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ashlar House Hall Company on 06 Jun 2023 1900hrs

Present:

James Orlopp (JO)	Chairman
Ian Gray (IG)	Treasurer
Paul Rayner (PR)	Director
Murray Phillips	Director
Karl Hortt (KH)	Director
Nigel Gregory (NG)	Social Representative
Mark Dunn (MD)	Secretary and Group 3 Representative

Adrian Warne	Magna Carta 8017	Worshipful Master
Adrian Baugh	Solea Lodge 9498	Worshipful Master
Kevin Keeble	Abbey Lodge 1592	Worshipful Master
Daryl Griffiths	Abbey Lodge 1592	Secretary
William McColl	Solea Lodge 9498	PPJGW Roff representative
Oliver Coote	Solea Lodge 9498	Junior Warden

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Barker, Mike Heller and Kevin Purvis (WM Royal St Edmunds 1008).

### 2. Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

Due to a transfer of secretary during the year the minutes of the last AGM have not been written.

### 3. Matters Arising

Due to the minutes not being written there can be no matters arising.

### 4. Chairmans Report 2023

The Chairmans Report 2023 was circulated to all secretaries to be forwarded to all members. The report was also read out during the AGM and is attached to the minutes of this AGM for reference. There were no further comments from the members in attendance.

### 5. Treasurers Report 2021-2022

The Commentary on the Accounts was read out by Ian Gray the Company Treasurer which is also attached for reference. In summary there was a profit of £37,218 for 2021-2022, and a profit of between £40-£50K is forecast for 2022-2023. Ian was thanked for all his hard work especially during the trying times of the pandemic.

The floor was opened for any questions of which the majority revolved around the status of corporate bookings for the venue and weddings and celebrations. It was also agreed that Gooderham PR should obtain feedback from corporate events to help plan for the future.

St Edmundsbury Masonic Hall Company Limited

Registered Office: Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7AB

Registered in England Company No: 00029668. Incorporated 09 Sep 1889. VAT No: 114 566 719



Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7AB  
Tel: 01284 754462 | Email: [enquiries@ashlarhouse.com](mailto:enquiries@ashlarhouse.com) | Web: [www.ashlarhouse.com](http://www.ashlarhouse.com)

The accounts were proposed by Kevin Keeble and seconded by Adrian Baugh. The accounts were put to vote of which was unanimously carried and therefore the accounts for 2021-2022 were accepted.

**6. Election of Examiners:**

D Robertson and Co, Chartered Accountants were nominated by the Board to be auditors for the upcoming year. This was proposed by Adrian Warne and seconded by Kevin Keeble. The vote was put to the floor which was carried.

**7. Update from the Board Members Regarding:**

**a) Website**

The website was reviewed and members were shown the access area. Cards have been printed with members only and general access login details. It is the aim that this website shall be the repository of all information regarding lodges and upcoming meetings, and will be promoted by the Group 3 representative when attending meetings.

It was agreed that the chairman would look into contacting people with an auto contact form when people are looking at the website for corporate events, weddings and celebrations.

**b) Marketing**

Gooderham PR have been contracted to carry out marketing on behalf of Ashlar House and have produced a plan, which again is attached to these minutes for reference. Gooderham PR will produce A5 leaflets for circulation to various outlets regarding weddings, conferences and celebrations.

**c) Repairs and Renewals**

Repairs and renewals is a constant ongoing process not only for the Lodge but the Hall as a whole. The lodge chairs and Masters chairs are being renovated by Steve Norman of Elmswell, pictures of the process are on the website. Other members of Lodges help out when and where they can, with particular thanks to Nick Berry for the upkeep of Lodge furniture and fixtures.

**d) Air Conditioning**

Air conditioning for the temple is on hold due to financial restrictions after cost benefit assessment.

**e) Pillars**

Barry Whymark has done a sterling effort negotiating with Chilstone. Whilst Chilstone do not accept liability, they are prepared to enter into negotiations to reach a satisfactory compromise. This will be a resin coating as a replacement will be too expensive, in the range of £100K. A report by WBro Whymark is attached.

**f) Roof repairs**

Repairs to the roof above the Senior Wardens pedestal is progressing, and the work will be concluded prior to the start of the new masonic season in September 2023.

**g) Solar Panels**



Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7AB  
Tel: 01284 754462 | Email: [enquiries@ashlarhouse.com](mailto:enquiries@ashlarhouse.com) | Web: [www.ashlarhouse.com](http://www.ashlarhouse.com)

The board has been looking into solar panels with no capital cost to Ashlar House. West Suffolk Council have a scheme where they would lease the roof for 25 years, and the array would generate 26K KW/year, which would not make us self sufficient but would save us around £800 pa. The board are currently looking into all the legal aspects prior to making any decision.

#### **h) Company Shares**

A tax accountant has been contracted to look into the tax aspects of either levelling out the shares or new shares to level out across the lodges. However, we require non statutory clearance from HMRC so we can transfer without a tax charge. There will be no further investigation until the board receives feedback from HMRC.

#### **8. Membership of the Board**

Murray Phillips has recently joined the board of directors and has reviewed and updated the Health and Safety Policy for Ashlar House.

Any member of lodge is entitled to help with the running of Ashlar House and if anyone has a particular skill set they think may be helpful then they should contact a Board Member.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

9.1 Oliver Coote of Armstrongs Funeral Service has agreed to make plaques for brethren who have gone to the Grand Lodge above to be attached to the remembrance wall of Ashlar House. A donation from the Lodge of £50 will cover the cost of the plaque and for a plant to be planted in the remembrance garden. This will be done through the Ashlar House secretary who will contact Lodge secretaries to let them know the process.

9.2 Abbey Lodge are looking into fund raising specifically to reduce the borrowing costs, and it is hoped that other Lodges may follow.

9.3 St Edmund Chapter Rose Croix donated £2500 to the Hall of which the Hall is very grateful.

9.4 A question was asked as to why the overhead costs have risen from £40K to £100K. There has been a general increase in costs overall along with new gardening contracts, new dishwasher and wine cooler, and it was felt the question could not be properly answered unless there was a direct comparison between the two periods.

#### **10. Close of meeting**

The meeting was closed at 21:05. The next AGM will be announced after the next Board Meeting.

#### **Attachments:**

- 1 Chairmans report
- 2 Commentary on the Accounts 2021-2022
- 3 Ashlar House Marketing Plan 2023

Mark Dunn  
Company Secretary  
07 June 2023