



**GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS FRIENDLY SOCIETY NO: 204F**

**MINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
(COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT)  
held on  
SATURDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**Tel No: 0161 872 3356  
Fax No: 0161 848 8574  
Email: [quooFs@aol.com](mailto:quooFs@aol.com)  
Web Site: [www.quooFs.com](http://www.quooFs.com)**

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**The Grand Master, Sister Marian A. Blankson-VanDyck presided  
and the Meeting commenced at 09.36 a.m.**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Sister M. A. Blankson-VanDyck</b>	<b>Chairman/Grand Master</b>
<b>Sister S. R. Whitehouse</b>	<b>Vice Chairman/Deputy Grand Master</b>
<b>Brother N. Robinson</b>	<b>Grand Secretary</b>

**Directors:**

**Sister P. A. Palmer  
Brother M. Gordon  
Brother P. C. A. Hlland**

**Also Present:**

**Principal Directors of the Grand United Trustees Limited:**

**Brother V. M. Houldsworth – P.G.M.  
Brother D. B. Whittaker – P.G.M  
Sister J. Birch**

**And**

<b>Brother D. Oakes</b>	<b>Deputy Grand Secretary</b>
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The Grand Master, Sister Marian A. Blankson-VanDyck warmly welcomed everyone to this April Board Meeting and hoped that all had a good Easter despite restrictions. The Grand Master informed that the Annual General Meeting of the Central Lodge would commence promptly at 2.00 p.m.

**2021/4/1      APOLOGIES:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED, AGREED: “that the apologies for non-attendance by Brother R. W. Penn be accepted and he be wished a speedy recovery.”**

**2021/4/2 IN MEMORIAM:**

**Brother A. Baptiste – Pearl of Trinidad No: 8013**

Brother C. Chanicka, Secretary of Trinidad Star Lodge No: 4736, West Indies, emailed that Brother A. Baptiste, Secretary of the Pearl of Trinidad Lodge No: 8013 died in 2017 and that all Pearl's correspondence should now be forwarded to him.

**Brother P. A. Avorkliyah – Past Worshipful Council Master – London United Lodge No: 11636**

Brother Joe Wryter, Secretary of London United Lodge No: 11636 emailed that Brother Patrick Avorkliyah, PWCM passed away in Ghana on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Brother Patrick Avorkliyah was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1939. He joined "London United" Lodge No: 11636 – London and the Order in 1981. He was an active member and served the Lodge in many capacities.

He rose through the ranks and became a Past Worshipful Council Master. Brother Avorkliyah went back to settle in Ghana and it is believed he died at home after a short illness.

Brother Patrick Avorkliyah will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

May his soul rest in peace.

At the request of the Grand Master, the meeting observed a minute's silence in remembrance of all Brothers and Sisters that had passed away since the last Board Meeting.

**2021/4/3 MINUTES:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED AGREED:** "that the Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021, numbered (2021/2/1 – 2021/2/22) be now signed, when possible, by the Grand Master as a correct record of the business conducted thereat."

**2021/4/4 ANNUAL RETURNS/ACCOUNTS:**

Noted, the deadline for receipt of the Consolidated Lodge Returns was the 28<sup>th</sup> February and all Returns had been received and copied to the Actuary and the Lodge Secretaries be thanked for their hard work in adhering to the deadline date.

Further Noted, the Accounts and Committee of Management Reports are required to be forwarded to the Regulators by the 30<sup>th</sup> June or

fourteen days before the Branch Annual General Meeting, whichever is the earlier date.

**2021/4/5 NUMERICAL STRENGTH:**

Noted, the strength of the Order at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – including comparatives for the previous year were detailed to the meeting.

**2021/4/6 ORDER ASSURANCE/HELPING HAND ASSURANCE FUNDS:**

Noted, for the 12 months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, four Cashbuilder Plan Policies had been issued, terms of 10-25 years, annual premium £1,080.00 and Sums Assured with Profits £22,318.00 plus three Helping Hand Savings Plans, annual premium £456.00, with Sum Assured with Profits £3,750.00.

**2021/4/7 OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

Noted, the current policy terminates on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 the premium last year £2,763.00 for £3M cover, after consideration:

**IT WAS RESOLVED, AGREED: “That the Grand Secretary have authority to renew the policy and secure the same level of cover as last year.”**

**2021/4/8 SOCIETY’S ACTUARY/ACTUARIAL INVESTIGATIONS:**

**12.0** Noted, The Actuary is being provided with the data he requires to complete the Triennial Actuarial Investigation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and when he warned about likely branch valuation deficits it was based on the low valuation rate of interest on fifteen year gilts which at the time of his warning was 0.55% and the rate at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, when taken into account was 0.54%, meaning branch valuation deficits are now inevitable.

**12.1** Noted, In accordance with the agreement of the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Board Meeting,

M&G Advisory Services have been commissioned to provide an initial view of the legality of transferring a sum from the surplus in the Industrial Branch Fund to the Order and they estimate about 10-12 hours work to provide the initial view to enable the Order to be in a better position to decide if any further additional work will be required.

**2021/4/9 ORDER DIARY:**

**“2022” Edition:**

Noted, a quotation had been received for 175 Special Order Diary Inserts as detailed to the meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED: “that 175 Special Order 2022 Diary Inserts be purchased and re-sale price of £4.00 each excluding postage and packing be agreed”.**

**2021/4/10 THE ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL MUTUALS:**

Noted, to comply with the Associations Corporate Governance requirements, Elaine Fairless has produced a template now revised after consultation with the Grand Secretary which is subject to approval for inclusion on the Order website since which the Society’s Auditors have provided a few tweaks.

There is then the option of including it in full in the Annual Report of the Committee of Management included in the Financial Statements or making a statement in the Annual Report of the Committee of Management along the following lines:

“The Society as a member of the Association of Financial Mutuals complies with the principals of the AFM Corporate Governance Code. The Society’s Corporate Governance Report which has been approved by the Board is available on the Society’s website [www.guooofs.com](http://www.guooofs.com).”

**IT WAS RESOLVED, AGREED: “that the template be approved for inclusion on the website with the Auditors tweaks and also to be included in full in the Annual Report of the Committee of Management.”**

**2021/4/11 PROGRESSION OF THE ORDER:**

Noted, the Actuary had been asked for further information on the Compass Friendly Society’s policies and investments, particularly the longevity of policies in place if the majority of policies are close to maturity, it could adversely affect the Directors of the Order welcoming or progressing a potential Transfer of Engagements but if considered viable, the Directors would also like a breakdown of the investments of Compass.

The Actuary initially said he would put in hand the actions required but the Grand Secretary read out an email from the Actuary received on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 informing that the Compass Board have now concluded it would be in the best interest of their members to explore alternative options for Compass and he has ceased working on a transfer.

**2021/4/12 FAMILY FUN DAY:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED, AGREED:** “that the Grand Secretary write to Lodge Secretaries to ascertain the level of interest of members in attending a Fun Day in August, being an open air event with large spacing, and Branch Secretaries be requested to inform The Grand Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

**2021/4/13 REPORT BY THE SOCIETY’S TRUSTEE:**

A Board Meeting had been held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and the Chairman Brother V. M. Houldsworth, P.G.M. reported:

**i) Old Trafford:**

The office roof has finally been attended to, the problem appearing to be a build up of rubble in the valleys stopping rainwater dispersing, with the valleys and hoppers being unblocked and slates and flashings being repaired for the sum of £280.00.

When cleaning the front and rear downpipes, the roofer discovered blockages underground which he didn’t have the tools or equipment to deal with and as suggested, Metro Rod have been contacted and a response is awaited.

**ii) Houldsworth Square, Reddish, Stockport:**

No developments reported.

**iii) Money on Deposit:**

The current position was highlighted to the meeting.

**iv) Portfolio/Brokers:**

Legal advice awaited on the possibility of the Order adopting the sponsored crest route to paperless transactions.

**v) Ground Rents:**

**Lechmere Avenue and 10, Garages, Fontayne Gardens:**

Noted, No developments reported on this or any individual lease extensions and Justin had promised to issue an update in time for this meeting which had just been received

**vi) Climate Change Plans:**

Nothing to report.

The Trustees were thanked for their comprehensive and informative report.

**[The meeting adjourned for coffee/tea break at 10.16 am and resumed at 10.23 am]**

**2021/4/14 ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020:**

**21.0** Noted, there have been no reported revisions from the figures produced in February.

**21.1** Noted, the Deputy Grand Secretary reported on the current period and the Financial Report was accepted. The Deputy Grand Secretary was thanked for his comprehensive and informative report.

**2021/4/15 CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS:**

Noted, nothing to report.

**2021/4/16 FRATERNAL MOVABLE CONFERENCES/AFFILIATED LODGES:**

**Puerto Rico & Jurisdiction**

Noted, the Grand Master of the Jurisdiction, Brother Carlos M. Sepulveda Irazarry, was in Court Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 against Simon B. Ceballos Hidalgo and Ebeneer Lopez Ruyol claiming to be Grand Master and Grand Director respectively who Brother Sepulveda claims have been expelled from the Order, in Court the Judge recognised Brother Sepulveda as the Grand Master elected by the Fraternal Movable Conference and will make his final decision on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**2021/4/17 “2021” ANNUAL MOVABLE CONFERENCE:**

**25.0** Noted, formal Notice was served as required by the General Rules. If any General Propositions or Rule Amendments contained therein are deficient, any alterations if received before the 7<sup>th</sup> April must be notified to Branches by the 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**25.1** Noted, It is normal for the April Meeting to decide who should be invited to act in certain capacities but not applicable for a Zoom meeting.



**IT WAS AGREED: “that if any member wished to observe the Conference, they be able to register to do so subject to being muted and to have no involvement in proceedings .”**

**25.2** Noted, Resolved, the adopted Board of Directors Report, subject to being updated due to recent developments.

**25.3** Noted, a full refund of the £19,500 deposit has been received from the Jurys Inn, Brighton Waterfront Hotel.

**2021/4/18 “2022” ANNUAL MOVABLE CONFERENCE:**

Noted, Resolved, Agreed, a proposition be put to Conference due to the exceptional circumstances of the last two cancelled Conferences and the moving of Spring Bank Holiday for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration, the Board is proposing the 2022 Annual Movable Conference be held Saturday and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Noted, the Grand Secretary to ascertain availability of accommodation and meeting room at the Blackpool Village Hotel.

**2021/4/19 “2023” ANNUAL MOVABLE CONFERENCE:**

Noted, Agreed, it be a one day A.G.M. to be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and the Grand Secretary to check availability of the chosen venue.

**2021/4/20 HEAD OFFICE STAFF/PREMISES:**

Noted, the office roof has finally been attended to, the problem appearing to be a build up of rubble in the valleys stopping rainwater dispersing, with the valleys and hoppers being unblocked and slates and flashings being repaired for the sum of £280.00.

When cleaning the front and rear downpipes, the roofer discovered blockages underground which he didn’t have the tools or equipment to deal with and as suggested Metro Rod have been contacted, and a response from the company is awaited.

**2021/4/21 LUNCHEON ARRANGEMENTS:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED AGREED: “that everyone again be responsible for their own arrangements”.**

**2021/4/22 ANY OTHER ADMISSIBLE BUSINESS:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED, AGREED: “that the GUOOFs website include a message regarding Prince Phillip.” It was also resolved agreed, “to look into streaming future Conferences.”**

**2021/4/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED AGREED: “that the next Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors be held in accordance with the General Rules on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The Grand Secretary to look into a possible room for a socially distanced Board Meeting if restrictions are still in place.”**

**[The Meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.]**

**SIGNED: ..... (Chairman)**

**DATED: ..... (2021)**