



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL

held at the Swansea Marriot Hotel
on 7th September 2019

There were present: The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, President (in the chair) and 110 leaders and guests of the Brigade.

1. WELCOME

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened proceedings with prayer. A particular welcome was extended to Mr Michael Good, the National Director of BB New Zealand who was visiting the UK.

The Brigade Secretary intimated that a total of 231 votes had been registered. These were comprised of 82 Company / Battalion, 50 Proxy and 99 Postal votes

2. MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, PATRON OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The President read the message of Loyal Greeting sent to Her Majesty the Queen:

“Members of The Boys' Brigade wish to convey to Your Majesty, our Patron, loyal and affectionate greetings on the occasion of our Annual Meeting of the Brigade Council in Swansea on 7th September 2019.

Over the past year we have been aiming to grow and develop the organisation and have opened a number of new companies. As we continue to strive to advance Christ's Kingdom we greatly appreciate your continued interest in our movement.

The Reverend Dr Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, President”

Her Majesty graciously replied as follows:

“Please convey my thanks to the Members of the Boys' Brigade for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Brigade Council which is being held in Swansea today.

As your Patron, I was pleased to learn of the organisation's aim to develop and grow and, to that end, that a number of new companies have opened this year.

I send my best wishes to you all for a most successful gathering.

ELIZABETH R.”

3. ADOPTION OF BRIGADE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Copies of the Standing Orders for Brigade Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. The President proposed the adoption of the Rules and they were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

It was agreed that the Brigade Staff would act as tellers in the event of a ballot being required.

4. COMMEMORATION

Leigh Maydew, Brigade Chaplain nominate, led the commemoration to remember those members who had passed to higher service during the year.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL – Edinburgh 2018

The minutes of the Brigade Council meeting held in Edinburgh on 1st September 2018 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

6. REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Printed copies of the annual review were made available before the meeting.

Council members also viewed a video presentation which highlighted key events and achievements from the 2018/19 Session.

7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018-2019

The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2019 were presented by the Brigade Treasurer, Mr Clifford Bygrave, who proposed that they be received.

The Auditors, Whiting and Partners, had given an unqualified Report on the Accounts and the supporting disclosures and documentation.

The Treasurer reported that it had been another challenging year financially as we had continued to see a drop in income from capitation fees and supplies, and as a result, after the losses on the defined benefit pension scheme, the accounts showed an overall deficit of £5,241.

The Balance Sheet showed that at 31st March the Brigade had total assets of £4,369,003 The deferred income of £349,566 related to the proportion of capitation fees received prior to 31 March for the year to 31st August 2019.

The Treasurer indicated that difficult decisions had been made with regard to the staffing complement and he hoped that this would help stabilise the financial situation. He stressed that there was a continued need to ensure there was strict control over all aspects of expenditure.

The Treasurer recorded his appreciation to Gina Alderson and her team for the dedicated service which they continue to give to the Brigade on a day-to-day basis.

The presentation of the financial statements was seconded by Mr Paul Haggan, Member, Brigade Executive, who also paid tribute to the Treasurer for all his leadership and work during the past year.

8. ANNUAL CAPITATION FEES FOR THE 2020/2021 SESSION

The Annual Capitation Fees were proposed by Mr Ronnie Campbell, Member, Brigade Executive, who outlined the proposed fees for the 2020/2021 session.

In doing so he stressed that the Executive were well aware of the various financial pressures facing companies. Mr Campbell also explained that the Executive were introducing a new system of two- tier capitation fees. This would result in one charge to cover HQ expenditure and another element which would cover costs in the Regions. It was hoped that this would result in greater transparency and accountability on how funds were spent across the Brigade.

The proposals were seconded by Rachael Knowles, Member, Brigade Executive.

Mr David Doggart, 42nd Belfast Company questioned why there was still a cap on the fees for large companies. Mr Campbell gave an assurance that the Executive would review this.

Having noted that the Regional element for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were still to be agreed by the respective regional committees, Council agreed the following fees for 2020/21 by a large majority.

Fee Type	HQ Element	Regional Element	Total Fee
Fee per Young Person	£13.50	£9.00	£22.50
All Officers	£13.50	£9.00	£22.50
(Second person at same address)	£11.00	£7.50	£18.50
Battalion & District Officers (not on Company Roll)	£13.50	£9.00	£22.50
Officers in receipt of state retirement pension	£11.00	£7.50	£18.50
Officers in full time education or training	£11.00	£7.50	£18.50
Helpers	£10.00	£7.00	£17.00

The fee in respect of an Associate Member would be £28 and the maximum fee that a Company would pay in respect of young people would be £2,100.

9. BRIGADE AUDITORS

The Treasurer proposed on behalf of the Executive that Whiting and Partners be reappointed as auditors of The Boys' Brigade and that the Brigade Executive be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Mr Paul Haggan, Member, Brigade Executive, seconded the proposal.

The motion was carried by a substantial majority.

10. APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADE OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2019/20 SESSION

On behalf of the Brigade Executive Mr Robert Cunningham proposed the nomination of the following as Brigade Office-Bearers. In doing so he noted the proposed new appointments of Ian Rumbelow, Captain of 1st Martock and Hamdon, as a Vice-President and of the Rev Leigh Maydew as Brigade Chaplain

President: The Rev Dr Lord Griffiths of Burry Port

Vice President: Mr David Aubrey Q.C.

Mr Alistair Burrow

Mr Ian Rumbelow

Chaplain Rev Leigh Maydew

Treasurer: Mr Clifford Bygrave FCA

The nominations were seconded by Mr Carl Brace, Member, Brigade Executive.

Following individual votes all the above office-bearers were elected by a large majority in each case.

11. Motion to amend the size and length of service for Brigade Executive Members

Alistair Burrow, Vice-President, proposed a motion in the name of the Brigade Executive which would reduce the size of the Brigade Executive and change the maximum length of service from nine to six years. In doing so Mr Burrow noted that there were differing views on the optimum size of the Executive but that these proposals were a workable compromise.

Ms Vicki Brownlee, seconded the proposals on behalf of the Executive.

Mrs Irene Lowry, Belfast Battalion proposed an amendment in the name of five leaders from Northern Ireland which would require the Brigade Chaplain to be a trustee as at present. This was seconded by Mr David Daggart, 42nd Belfast Company. After a short debate the amendment was carried by 126 votes to 102 when put to a vote.

London District had also proposed a number of amendments; however, these had been withdrawn by the District shortly before the meeting.

There was no further discussion and the amended motion when put to the meeting was carried by a large majority.

12. Motion in the name of the Brigade Executive regarding correspondence to Heads of State / Government

David Aubrey QC, Vice-President, proposed a motion on behalf of the Brigade Executive amending Brigade Regulations to require that any correspondence with HM The Queen, the President of the Republic of Ireland and government ministers should be submitted via BBHQ or the appropriate Regional Office.

Mr Aubrey explained that such a provision had previously featured in Brigade Regulations and following some recent experiences the Executive felt it necessary to bring this back to Council and re-instate the provision to Regulations

Mr Drew Buchanan, Member, Brigade Executive, seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this item and the motion was carried by a large majority.

13. Motion in the name of the Brigade Executive regarding Districts / Regions with coterminous areas.

David Aubrey, QC, Vice-President, proposed a motion on behalf of the Brigade Executive permitting Districts, where the District and Regional boundaries were co-terminous, with prior consent of Brigade Executive, to undertake the functions of the Region. Mr Aubrey explained the rationale behind this change which meant that it would be possible to reduce a layer of un-necessary bureaucracy.

Following a question from Mr Alan Privett, Dublin Battalion it was confirmed that this provision would need to be triggered by a Regional Committee and was not mandatory.

On being put to a vote by show of hands, this motion was agreed by a large majority with two abstentions.

14. Accountable Autonomy – report from Brigade Executive regarding the Northern Ireland Motion approved in 2017.

David Aubrey, QC, Vice-President, reported that since last year's Council there had been further discussions between the Brigade Executive and the Northern Ireland District Executive relating to safeguarding and two-tier capitation fees. Mr Aubrey said that a review of the Safeguarding processes had been carried out and that the Brigade Executive had approved a new Safeguarding Policy and Procedure which was now in operation. Therefore, the position in relation to Safeguarding had been resolved. Mr Aubrey was hopeful that a final agreement on the remaining outstanding question relating to two tier capitation fees would be reached before next year's Council.

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The President thanked the Director for England and Wales, Brigade Staff and the members of the Wales Regional Committee who had contributed to the success of the weekend.

The President also paid tribute to the Brigade Secretary who would be leaving the Brigade's service at the end of the year.

16. Invitation to Birmingham 2020

Members were invited to attend Brigade Council which would take place in Birmingham from the 4-6 September 2020.

The meeting was closed at 3.50 pm.