



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL

held by Video Conferencing  
on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

The meeting was chaired by Drew Buchanan MBE (Chair of Trustees) and joining The Chair at The Lighthouse Church were Jonathan Eales (Chief Executive), Leigh Maydew (Brigade Chaplain), Natalie Whipday (Director for Operations) and John Sharp (Director for Development and Communications) and a number of Trustees. In total 182 leaders had registered to attend the meeting online, representing all parts of the UK and RoI.

### 1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that it was being held virtually due to low numbers registering to attend in person. However, it was hoped that in 2023, it will be possible to hold a face-to-face conference to mark our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Members were reminded that all the papers required for the meeting had been made available to download from the website.

A total of 89 votes had been registered. These were comprised of 51 ordinary votes and 38 postal votes.

The process for voting and speaking during the meeting was explained.

### 2. OPENING WORSHIP & COMMEMORATION

The Brigade Chaplain, Rev Leigh Maydew, was invited to lead the opening devotions and to lead the act of commemoration. It was noted that Rev Leigh Maydew steps down at the end of the meeting. A message from Rev Stewart Cutler, proposed new Chaplain formed part of the opening devotions.

### 3. MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, OUR PATRON

The Chair 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 to be held at the Lighthouse Church in Salford on 3rd September 2022.*

*Members from across The United Kingdom and beyond participated in activities and events earlier in the year to celebrate Your Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, and to mark seventy years as our Patron.*

*The delivery of our ambitious five-year strategy, centered on the quality of experience for Children and Young People remains our focus, and during the past year new*

*programmes have been launched to engage with the over 11s age groups. As an organisation, we remain committed to providing opportunities for Children and Young People to learn, grow and discover.*

*As we continue to strive to advance Christ's Kingdom, we greatly appreciate your continued interest in our movement.*

*Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive"*

Her Majesty graciously replied as follows:

*"Please convey my warm thanks to the members of The Boys' Brigade for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Brigade Council, which is being held today at the Lighthouse Church, Salford.*

*As your Patron, I was interested to learn of the new programmes launched this year to engage and provide opportunities for Children & Young People.*

*I much appreciate your kind words, and in return, send my best wishes to all those who are present.*

*ELIZABETH R"*

#### **4. ADOPTION OF BRIGADE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

Copies of the Standing Orders for Brigade Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was highlighted that these were a bespoke set of Standing Orders to take into account that we were holding the meeting virtually and were the same as the version used last year.

The Chair invited those that had registered to vote during the meeting to adopt the set of standing orders.

*The meeting APPROVED the adoption of the Standing Orders.*

#### **5. MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL – 2021**

The minutes of the Brigade Council meeting held via video conferencing on 4th September 2021 were APPROVED as a correct record of proceedings.

#### **6. REVIEW OF 2021/22 SESSION**

The Chair acknowledged that the last twelve months had been a busy period for everyone and invited the Chief Executive to update the meeting on the status of the strategic plan, reflect on the last session and to introduce others that will be participating in this section of the meeting.

The Chief Executive began by sharing his disappointment of being unable to meet face to face but looks to next year when hopefully, we can meet face to face to celebrate our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Glasgow.

He went on to explain how although this session hasn't been 'normal', it's been great to see people meet face to face and experience new opportunities for Children and Young People to learn, grow and discover and to learn more about the love of Jesus which is central to all we do.

A short video presentation was played showcasing some of the year's highlights.

Following the video presentation, the Chief Executive explained how delighted he is to see the strategic plan progress but acknowledged that there are still bumps in the road due to COVID and the increased changes to daily living. We have had to adapt in ways to move with these changes and some hard decisions have had to be made. For example, the sale of Felden Lodge as well as discussions regarding the future relationship between Northern Ireland District and The Brigade. The organisation's structure must be addressed to maintain financial stability. However, there is always hope and the Chief Executive quoted Katherine Booth, one of the founders of the Salvation Army.

*'In order to better the future, we must disturb the present'*

The Chief Executive introduced Natalie Whipday (Director of Operations) to give an update on the delivery of our strategic plan and John Sharp (Director for Development and Communications) outlined the findings of the Census.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive, Natalie and John for their presentations.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2021/22**

The Chair explained that Steve Mann (Treasurer) was unable to join due to a family commitment so the overview of the Accounts would be presented by Ronnie Campbell (Member of the Finance Committee and Trustee). Ronnie discussed the financial report and financial statements on behalf of Steve for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which were made available on the Brigade website. These were fully audited and APPROVED by the Brigade Executive.

Ronnie explained that Steve had asked him to present his report which would cover the financial outcome for last year and where that leaves us, the effect of the sale of Felden Lodge and reflect on the work of the Finance Committee.

Ronnie reported that we incurred a substantial deficit, as our 5-year financial plan indicated. Whilst our income was up to £2million, our costs also rose as we came out of the pandemic giving rise to a deficit of £205,000 worse than 2021 when we had a surplus of £58,000.

Ronnie explained that income was up due to supplies, training centre income, donations and legacies. Ronnie offered a heartfelt thanks to all that donated to the work of The Boys' Brigade and Girls Association and to those who left generous legacies. Without these The Boys' Brigade would be in a far worse financial position than it is; in essence these gifts sustain The Boys' Brigade.

Ronnie informed the meeting that we have the funds to operate, but are at a loss and must take action to correct this. We have set a budget with a deficit of £140,000, which includes the capitation fee increase which we will propose based on £25 per member. The inevitable outcome of such deficits is that at some point the Brigade will run short of money. It is through selling Felden Lodge and by investing the funds, that we will be able to maintain financial stability as an organisation.

A short slideshow was shown showcasing the key information of our financial position.

Looking ahead, Ronnie commented on the work of the Finance Committee. He explained that they meet 4 times a year to support the Chief Executive in his work. They work on the budget, the 5-year financial forecast, the year end accounts and now have agreed a regular and specific focus on the 4 types of income we receive – donations, capitation, houses, and investment income. They also monitor costs and plan to re tender the audit work in Autumn 2022.

Thanks was given to Gina Alderson (Finance Manager) and the Chief Executive as well as volunteers on the Finance Committee for the support and encouragement they have given.

Ronnie asked on behalf of the Executive that the meeting adopt the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022.

*Proposed by: Ronnie Campbell, Brigade Executive  
Seconded by: Rev Leigh Maydew, Chaplain*

*Following questions the meeting APPROVED the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (76 votes for, 0 against).*

## **8. TO RE-APPOINT INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

The Chair asked the meeting to re-appoint Whiting and Partners as the independent auditors of The Boys' Brigade until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and to authorise the Brigade Executive to fix their remuneration.

*Proposed by: Ronnie Campbell, Brigade Executive  
Seconded by: Rev Leigh Maydew, Chaplain*

*The meeting APPROVED the reappointment of Whittings & Partners as independent auditors (79 votes for, 0 against).*

## **9. CAPITATION FEES FOR 2022/23**

The Chair explained that the proposal had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive, Jaime Ellis proposed the capitation fees for the 2022/23 session. The meeting was reminded that the proposal included a £1.00 increase.

It was explained that the Brigade face many challenges financially since coming out of COVID as Brigade numbers are still recovering. Members of the Brigade Executive considered this matter very carefully and believe that costs are being well managed and expenditure is being prioritised correctly to support our companies and the strategic plan.

Proposal Fees for the 2022/23 session:

<b>/Category</b>		<b>Fee</b>
Fee per young person		£25.00
Adult fees	Officers / Leaders	£25.00
	(Second person at the same address)	£21.00
	Battalion & District Officers not on Company roll	£25.00
	Officers / leaders in full time education or training	£21.00
	Helpers	£19.50

The fee in respect of an Associate Member is £28.00.

*Proposed by: Jaime Ellis, Brigade Executive*

*Seconded by: Paul McCarroll, Brigade Executive*

*The meeting APPROVED the capitation fees for the 2022/23 session as proposed (64 votes for, 19 against).*

**10. TO APPOINT BRIGADE OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2022/23 SESSION AS PROPOSED BY THE BRIGADE EXECUTIVE**

The Chair explained that bios for those being nominated had been circulated in prior to the meeting.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive, Paul McCarroll (Member of Brigade Executive) proposed the Office Bearers for the 2022/23 session.

President: Rev Dez Johnston  
Vice-Presidents: David Aubrey QC  
Alison Chambers  
Mervyn Murdock  
Ian Rumbelow

Chaplain: Rev Stewart Cutler  
Treasurer: Steve Mann

*Proposed by: Paul McCarroll, Brigade Executive*

*Seconded by: Jaime Ellis, Brigade Executive*

*Following individual votes for each Office-Bearer the meeting APPROVED all the appointments as proposed.*

**11. TO AMEND BRIGADE REGULATIONS, PART THREE, AS FOLLOWS:**

The Chair explained that the proposal in the name of the Brigade Executive following on from work undertaken by the Governance Committee. The Brigade Executive are asking the meeting to amend the Brigade Regulations in relation to length of service for Regional Committees, continuity of service and the quorum arrangements for the Brigade Executive.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive Robert Cunningham proposed the three motions as detailed below:

### **Motion 1**

a) To amend Brigade Regulations, PART THREE, Schedule B, paragraph B2, in relation to Regional Committees, to read

a. "Representative Members shall be elected for three years at a time and may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms of office, retiring for at least one year before becoming eligible for re-election. The period of service shall start on 1<sup>st</sup> September following election".

b. "Where a person who is a Representative Member has undertaken any combination of Representative Member, Young Person, Co-opted Member and/or Brigade Office Bearer roles in succession, his or her maximum aggregate term of office as a member in any of those roles or a combination hereof shall be nine years from the date of his or her first appointment as a member as notified to Brigade Headquarters. Where the nine-year period is exceeded part way through a Brigade Session, he or she shall retire on 31 August thereafter."

*Proposed by: Robert Cunningham, Brigade Executive*  
*Seconded by: Michael MacAulay, Brigade Executive*

*Motion 1, relating to the maximum length of service for Regional Committees, was agreed (76 votes for, 7 against).*

### **Motion 2**

In Brigade Regulations, PART THREE, Schedule B, insert a new paragraph B18 as follows:

"for the avoidance of doubt, a break in service comprising less than one year in aggregate shall be deemed to be continuous service for the purposes of paragraph B16."

*Proposed by: Robert Cunningham, Brigade Executive*  
*Seconded by: Michael MacAulay, Brigade Executive*

*Motion 2, relating to the definition of breaks of service for Trustees, was agreed (75 votes for, 4 against).*

### **Motion 3**

In Brigade Regulations, PART THREE, Clause 72 delete the words:

"of whom at least one shall be an Office Bearer, two shall be Representative Members and one a Young Person."

*Proposed by: Robert Cunningham, Brigade Executive*  
*Seconded by: Michael MacAulay, Brigade Executive*

*Motion 3, relating to the quorum for the Brigade Executive, was agreed (70 votes for, 13 against).*

## **12. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS**

The Chair explained that there was no further business at this time.

The Chair expressed thanks to David Aubrey, Leigh Maydew and Michael MacAulay who have all come to the end of their terms of service on the Brigade Executive. They were thanked for their commitment and service to the Brigade.

The Chair thanked the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers for their dedication and

service over the past year.

A short video presentation was made by our President, Dez Johnston.

Rev Leigh Maydew in his final act as Brigade Chaplain, brought the meeting to a close.

