



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL

2nd September 2023 at 2pm

**Held at Crowne Plaza Hotel
Congress Road Glasow**

The meeting was chaired by Drew Buchanan MBE (Chair of Brigade Executive) and was joined by the Chief Executive, members of Executive, Brigade Staff and 107 leaders.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that it was great to be meeting face-to-face this year, and especially to be meeting in Glasgow as the organisation approaches its 140th anniversary.

It was explained that the papers required for the meeting had been made available in advance via the website, and copies were also included in the conference pack.

A total of 184 votes had been registered. These were comprised of 68 ordinary votes, 47 proxy votes and 69 postal votes.

2. OPENING WORSHIP & COMMEMORATION

The Brigade President, Rev Dez Johnston, was invited to lead the opening devotions and to lead the act of commemoration.

3. MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

The Chair read the message of loyal greeting sent to His Majesty The King:

Members of The Boys' Brigade wish to convey to Your Majesty, loyal and affectionate greetings on the occasion of our Annual Meeting of the Brigade Council to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 2nd September 2023.

Members from across The United Kingdom and beyond participated in activities and events earlier in the year to celebrate Your Majesty's Coronation.

As an organisation we will mark our 140th Anniversary in October and as part of our celebrations will be highlighting the value and benefits of volunteering. It is the dedication and commitment of volunteers that has enabled the organisation to achieve this milestone.

The delivery of our ambitious five-year strategy, centred on the quality of experience for Children and Young People is our focus, and we remain committed to providing opportunities for Children and Young People from all backgrounds to have the chance to live life to the full.

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

Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive”

His Majesty graciously replied as follows:

“Please convey my warmest 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 in Glasgow.

I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and value your continued support. I was pleased to be reminded that The Boys’ Brigade was founded in Glasgow in 1883, and that you are celebrating the organisation’s 140th anniversary this year.

In return, I send my warmest good wishes to you all for a memorable and successful gathering.

CHARLES R”

4. ADOPTION OF BRIGADE COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULES

The Chair explained that the Procedural Rules for Brigade Council had been circulated prior to the meeting and is the same version adopted to conduct the business at the Extraordinary meeting of Brigade Council, held this morning.

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

The Chair invited those that had registered to vote during the meeting to adopt the Procedural Rules.

The meeting APPROVED the adoption of the Procedural Rules.

It was stated that the intention was to take votes by a show of hands, and that only those with voting cards are eligible to vote. The Chair advised the meeting that he had determined that the vote in respect to the property motion (Item 12) relating to the sale of Felden Lodge will be conducted by card poll.

It was explained that other card polls can be taken if required and can be requested by 10 or more members. It was requested that the vote in respect to Office Bearer Appointments (Item 10) also be held by card poll. As this request was supported by more than 10 members, this was approved.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL – 2022

The minutes of the Brigade Council meeting held via video conferencing on 3rd September 2022 were APPROVED as a correct record of proceedings.

6. REVIEW OF 2022/23 SESSION

The Chair reminded members that a printed Annual Review was included in the conference packs.

The Chief Executive shared his reflections on the past 12 months and included a video highlighting the achievements and opportunities experienced by young people over the past year.

The funding received from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport was starting to have an impact and was focused on delivering projects that form part of the five-year strategy to improve the quality of experience for Children & Young People.

The number of Companies signing up to be part of the Building Stronger initiative has been really encouraging and the creation of the Ministry Team was enabling us to explore new expressions of BB that can complement our existing model and support churches engage with teenagers.

It was acknowledged that the decision to sell Felden Lodge was difficult for some to accept and that negotiating a separation agreement with members in Northern Ireland had been incredibly complex and challenging.

The organisation would be marking its 140th Birthday in October and celebrations would be centred around activities for Children & Young People and in encouraging groups to raise their profile in the local community.

An important aspect of the strategy was enhancing the role Young Leaders have in shaping the organisation, with the formation of the Young Leaders Network an important step forward. Rachael Knowles (Young Leaders Group Chair) and Sam Templeton (Trustee and member of the Young Leaders Group) gave an overview of all that had been achieved over the past year.

The Chair thanked Jonathan, Rachael and Sam for their presentations and invited questions from members.

7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The Chair invited Steve Mann (Treasurer) to present the accounts for the 2022/23 financial year on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

The presentation focussed on:

- Outcome to 31st March 2023
- Balance Sheet and Cash Position
- Reserves
- Prospects for the year ahead

It was explained that the accounts have been approved by our auditors and copies have been made available in advance of the meeting.

Income has increased from £2m to £3m and the core income streams (Capitation, Training Centres and Supplies sales) have all recovered well following the pandemic. Donations and legacies have also increased by nearly 200k to £448k compared with the previous year. Due to our partnership with Bolton University and the successful funding application to DCMS grant income has increased to £462k.

Expenditure has increased from £2.2m to £2.8m and is expected as there is increased activity following the pandemic. The Treasurer reassured the meeting that costs are under good control and is something the Finance Committee monitors.

Overall before investment losses and changes to the pension scheme, the financial year ended with a surplus of £190k. It was stated that without the legacy income there would have been a substantial deficit.

The Treasurer explained that the balance sheet was strong, with our reserves primarily comprising of the two properties and investments.

Looking forward, it was stated that a deficit budget has been set, as without legacies, even with good cost control, the BB runs at a loss, which is not a position that can continue in the long term. The meeting was reminded that the Trustees have a responsibility to ensure financial sustainability.

It was explained that the monies received from the sale of Felden Lodge will be kept separate from the current reserves, will be invested and are expected to generate returns of approximately £300k per annum. This will enable the organisation to operate with a surplus and enable investment in areas that support leaders and in line with the objectives of the strategy.

The Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 together with the associated reports were proposed by Steve Mann and seconded by Ronnie Campbell on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

A number of questions were asked by members relating to the accounts and the position following the sale of Felden Lodge.

The Accounts were APPROVED by the meeting on a show of hands.

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: Steve Mann, Brigade Executive

Seconded by: Ronnie Campbell, Brigade Executive

The meeting APPROVED the reappointment of Whiting & Partners as independent auditors by a show of hands.

9. CAPITATION FEES FOR 2023/24

The Chair explained that the proposal had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and that the Brigade Executive were proposing that capitation fees for the 2023/24 session remain at existing levels.

Proposal Fees for the 2023/24 session:

/Category		Fee
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: Stewart Cutler, Brigade Executive

The meeting APPROVED the capitation fees for the 2022/23 session on a show of hands.

10. TO APPOINT BRIGADE OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2023/24 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, Sam Templeton (Member of Brigade Executive) proposed the Office Bearers for the 2023/24 session, and this was seconded by Philip

Daley.

President: Rev Dez Johnston
Vice-Presidents: David Aubrey KC
Alison Chambers
Ian Rumbelow

Chaplain: Rev Stewart Cutler
Treasurer: Steve Mann

As decided earlier in the meeting a separate card poll was taken for each Individual nominated.

Following the vote, the Chair reported that the meeting had APPROVED the appointments as proposed.

11. TO CONSIDER A MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE BRIGADE EXECUTIVE TO JOIN TOGETHER THE ENGLAND & WALES REGIONS.

The Chair invited Robert Cunningham, Chair of Governance Committee and a member of Brigade Executive to provide the background to the motion and to propose it on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

Lee Bird seconded the motion on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

Motion wording:

1. That Regulation 56 be amended by (a) amending Regulation 56.1 to read “England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands”; (b) deleting Regulation 56.4; and (c) renumbering Regulation 56.5 as 56.4.
2. That Regulation 70.1 be amended by deleting clause (e) iv) and renumbering clause (e) v) as (e) iv).
3. That Schedule A be amended by renaming “England” as “England and Wales” and adding to the listing of Electoral Areas under that amended heading

Wales	Wales	1

There were no questions raised by members and the motion was APPROVED as proposed by a show of hands.

It was explained that this change to the Brigade Regulations would take immediate effect.

12. TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN THE NAME OF PAUL BRACHER, VICKI BROWNLEE, PAUL HAGGAN, CALVIN HANKS & JOHN TIBBLES.

The motion wording had been circulated prior to the meeting together with the rationale. The reasons the Brigade Executive opposed the motion were also made available.

Motion wording:

To instruct the Brigade Executive to ensure that a new property (following the sale of Felden Lodge) will be acquired by the Brigade, to provide residential and non-residential accommodation for training and events in England.

Paul Bracher proposed the motion on behalf of the named leaders and explained the background and rationale to the motion.

David Hann seconded the motion on behalf of Calvin Hanks, as he had been unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments.

The Chair invited Steve Mann to speak on behalf of Brigade Executive to explain their rationale for opposing the motion.

A number of questions and comments were raised by members.

It was explained that as the motion seeks to restrict the actions of the Trustees, with the agreement of the proposers, it has been necessary to designate the motion as a special resolution. This means that for the motion to pass it will require 75% of those registered to vote, voting in favour of the motion.

A card poll was taken and the Chair informed the meeting that the motion had been DEFEATED with the following votes cast.

In favour 62 (12 ordinary votes, 22 proxy votes and 28 postal votes)

Against 122 (56 ordinary votes, 25 proxy votes and 41 postal votes)]

13. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS

Alan McIntosh, Captain 1st Buckie Company and President of Banffshire Battalion highlighted an initiative the North Scottish Area have organised to mark the 140th Anniversary and to raise the profile of The Boys' Brigade in communities across the North of Scotland. A baton run was underway across the North Scottish Area and would be transported in a range of imaginative ways.

Alan was able to confirm that HM The King had set the baton off on its journey this afternoon at the Braemar Gathering.

The Chair commended the North Scottish Area on this initiative and thanked Alan for highlighting this to the meeting.

The Chair explained that a number of members of Executive had come to the end of their term of service. Thanks were expressed to Ronnie Campbell, Lee Bird and Margeret Pang for all they had contributed, and gifts were presented on behalf of the Brigade.

Steve Mann made a presentation to Gina Alderson who was leaving the role of Finance Manager after more than 20 years of service at the end of the month. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Gina for her dedicated service to the Brigade.

On behalf of the Brigade Ronnie Campbell expressed the Brigade's thanks to Drew Buchanan who was standing down as Chair of Executive at the end of the meeting. It was stated that Drew had led the Executive through a particularly challenging period and his commitment and desire to do the very best for the organisation had always been his focus. A presentation was made to Drew on behalf of the membership.

Drew thanked the meeting for the gift and for the opportunity to serve on Brigade Executive since 2018, and as its Chair for the past three years.

The Chair informed the meeting that Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland has been co-opted to the Brigade Executive and has agreed to serve as Co-Chair for the coming session.

It was explained that due to a prior engagement Martin was unable to attend, however, he had recorded the closing devotions which were played to bring the meeting to a close.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.