



THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

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5 June 2020

To: All Secretaries, Scribes, Registrars and Recorders

Cc: All Provincial and District Grand Secretaries, Provincial Vice-Chancellors, Provincial, District & Divisional Grand Recorders and Prefecture Chancellors

Dear Sir and Brother

Virtual Business Meetings

During these unprecedented times, we need to adopt a more flexible approach in dealing with the administrative affairs of our Units which have been delayed because of the General Suspension of Masonic Activity.

The ready availability of robust video conferencing technology provides an ideal vehicle to enable administrative tasks to be dealt with in virtual business meetings and the accompanying guidelines set out the process for doing this.

Initially, this scheme is only being made available to Units that have not met because of the current suspension, provided they can demonstrate that it is necessary. We will evaluate its usefulness in the coming weeks to understand whether it could be extended later as part of our blueprint for an exit strategy.

You will note from the accompanying guidelines that if you wish to hold a virtual business meeting you will require an exemption from the General Suspension Notice and a Dispensation to meet without the Warrant being present. These can be obtained from your Provincial Secretariat (or equivalent).

The items permitted to be transacted in a virtual business meeting are clearly listed in the accompanying guidelines. In view of the prevailing 'special circumstances' items of business which would normally require a ballot may, if no objection is received, be conducted by a show of hands. If any member objects to this, the item must be deferred until the next physical meeting of the Unit is held.

Whilst this scheme breaks new ground for the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, I believe it is an appropriate and proportionate response to the challenges arising from Covid-19.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W.
Grand Secretary