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Grand Secretary
G. Selby R.O.H.

GLCL/01/07/20/GS

1st July 2020

GRAND LODGE CIRCULAR LETTER No. 56/2020

To All P.G. Secretaries (Home and Overseas)
Minor Lodges Secretaries
Grand Lodge Direct Lodges
Grand Lodge Management Committee
Grand Lodge Treasurer
Grand Lodge Trustees

Grand Lodge Meeting September

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Grand Lodge Management Committee held an online meeting on the 30th June to discuss the forthcoming September Grand Lodge meeting and the items that would normally appear on the agenda.

We have been in contact with the venue and they have advised us that they are still awaiting the Government to issue concrete guidance on what procedures they need to implement to ensure the safe opening of the venue.

Considerations were also given to the current Government advice on social interaction between members of different households and the current maximum number of people allowed to gather in one place, together with the recommendation that meetings should, where possible, be held electronically. Additionally, considering the demographic of the majority of the membership who attend Grand Lodge, the GLMC took the decision to **cancel** the September Grand Lodge to ensure the Brethren are not put at risk.

The GLMC will continue to review the Government advice and liaise with the venue with respect to the November Grand Lodge meeting and will provide an update when possible.

With regards to the Election of Officers for 2021, a number of different options were considered, which included the various items of correspondence submitted by Provinces on the subject, and GLMC have decided to defer the elections that would normally take place

at the September meeting until September 2021. Any nominations submitted for this year's elections, will need to be resubmitted in 2021 and the Brother re-nominated.

For confirmation this would mean that the Grand Primo, Deputy Grand Primo and Grand Lodge Officers for 2020 would remain in Office until the end of 2021 should they wish to do so. It will not be compulsory for a Brother to stay in Office and they should not be pressured into doing so.

Should PGLs, Knights Chapters and ROH Assemblies wish to follow a similar path and retain their current officers then the decision is theirs to take, but the GLMC would not have any issues should they choose to do so.

Again, it must be stressed that no Brother should not be put under any form of pressure or duress to stay in Office should he wish to step down.

It is the intention of GLMC to provide information regarding items like amalgamations, results of competitions, etc via Grand Lodge Circulars, and the presentation of the Elwell Shield and Seladang News to the winning Lodges will be carried out at a later safer date. A circular will be issued in due course regarding the proposed fees for 2021 for discussion at the next available GL meeting.

This has not been any easy path to choose and the decisions have been taken after the open and frank debate of all possible avenues and have ultimately been taken with the best interests of the long-term survival of the Grand Lodge of England at heart.

The Grand Lodge of England Trustees have been informed of the decisions and fully endorse the actions of the GLMC to enable the GLE to maintain stability during the current period of uncertainty and we hope the membership will concur as well.

Yours fraternally



Grand Secretary