

**Provincial Grand Masters Meeting with Liaison Committee and Retention  
Option team**

Minutes of Meeting in PGM's Office 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Present

R.W. Brother J.S. Dunlop  
R.W. Brother J. Watson  
V.W. Brother J. Dickson  
W. Brother B. Hood  
W. Brother R. Wilson

Also in attendance V.W, Brother I. Gillespie

The Provincial Grand Master thanked the Brethren for attending and R.W. Brother J. Watson for his contribution.

The Provincial Grand Master commented on:

Church Negotiations.

The Provincial Grand Master said that he was reluctant to send a letter at the present time to the Rosemary Street Church Session and committee, in relation to a previous request from the Retention team to forward a letter to the church requesting talks on the possibility of DDA access, due to previous friction with the Church. W Bro R Wilson enquired what had caused the dispute, and the Provincial Grand Master replied that it was not relevant for advancing today's meeting

'Luke' Removal.

This would be best left until we decide what is happening with the hall.

New Build

This was at present with the Property Advisory Committee.

Capital Gains Tax.

At present there are conflicting reports and there would be a proposal to the finance committee to seek the independent advice of experts on Capital Gains Tax.

By Law changes.

These were being dealt with at present by R.W. Brother N. Millar  
W Bro R Wilson commented that the bylaws at this stage had nothing to do with the Retention team and were outside the agenda for today's meeting

The Provincial Grand Master stated that he supported and always has supported the Retention Team but would like their proposals presented in a proper manner without any unnecessary sniping or criticism. The Provincial Grand Master stated that he had been approached by Brethren who were very concerned by the continual sniping and

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he further stated that he was the Provincial Grand Master and would make decisions and would like to be left to make his own decisions.

W Bro Hood stated that the Board of General Purposes were very aware of the facts. The Provincial Grand Master advised he had taken a number of telephone calls at home as well as being approached at other venues and felt Brethren were confused by the information being presented W Bro R Wilson stated that the Retention team information as presented is correct and not refuted.

The Provincial Grand Master said he wanted the RT and the PAC to succeed in their presentations so that we could arrive at a proper decision on the matter.

The Provincial Grand Master then said he wanted to get down to the "nitty gritty" of the matter as a lot of items were being asked for which were not relevant at this time

The Provincial Grand Master thought that it was now time to get down to the facts and figures and costing as the brethren do not know what is going on, The Provincial Grand Master's idea is that we sit down now and prepare the initial proposals from both parties, that is that the Retention Team and Property Advisory Committee, and put together their figures and proposals as they know them to be at the present time

The Provincial Grand Master said the facts and figures could be presented in detail and an estimate could be provided for what we are not sure of at the present time for confirmation in the future.

With this in mind the Provincial Grand Master wishes both parties to present facts and figures to the Liaison committee and it would be the responsibility of the Liaison Committee to prepare a report and present this report to the BOGP in an unbiased manner at a subsequent meeting

Disabled access. W B Hood said that we should note that although we had no permission His present figures were assuming through the Church car park. He also stated that we needed more costing and detail and be prepared for questions on same.

W Bro Wilson concurred that all should be on an equal footing and matters properly validated

W Bro Hood said that his concern was the investment option, the retention option "various in number" Sale of the hall and vesting all had to be properly researched

A discussion followed as to what information should be presented as the RT had several options and at present were working on figures only for Disabled Access. R.W. Brother Watson suggested that options should be presented without any criticism of either side, and further suggested that it would not be practical to present anything to the Brethren at the October Board of General Purposes, but it could take place at a subsequent meeting, and a statement should be made to this effect.

W. Brother Hood commented that the Liaison Committee should satisfy themselves that the presented facts were correct. R W Bro J Watson retired at this stage in the meeting.

*Paul Power* LM 8/10/08 2/4  
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W B Wilson said we need a price for title deed insurance and should see Sun Alliance to get a price. He also suggested that we should use our own solicitor and that all figures as presented would require verification

He also asked about old minutes of previous meetings with Ewarts

W B Wilson continued by saying that the Liaison committee would have to elaborate on all figures and added that we will need to define the terms of reference for the Liaison Committee which could be challenged it was important that the Liaison committee was in a neutral state

The Provincial Grand Master appreciated all the work which would be involved and asked that we use the Liaison Committee.

It was agreed that the Brethren should be informed of all the options and then decide, and since the Retention Team had many options it may be better to focus on one.

After any decision there would have to be procedures for driving the chosen scheme forward

R.W. Brother Frazer advised that Disability Action had been invited to look over the building and advise.

W. Brother Hood expressed concerns that Disability action would not make a presentation given EHS involvement.

W. Brother Hood also added that the Retention Team were looking at the developer funding any change.

R.W. Brother Frazer thought that by using the rear access would class disabled users as 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

W. Brother Wilson asked if there had been a report in the past on DDA. And W Bro Hood answered yes there had been under the administration committee, but it resolved it was impractical using the front door entrance alone

W. Brother Hood stated that the EHS accept the building is not DDA compliant but the RT scheme shows that it can work. via the other entrance as suggested by the retention team

R.W. Brother Frazer asked that the Fairweather report be treated as confidential. W B Hood said if the report could not be challenged it should be withdrawn. The report was withdrawn

W. Brother Wilson asked if we would still take bookings for any rooms in the hall?  
R.W. Brother Frazer explained that we had to take bookings to remain exempt of rates, and W. Brother Wilson was advised that the Finance Committee had given guidelines for use by outside bodies.

W Bro Wilson explained that he had called into the office at 15 Rosemary street and had spoken to Rosemary reference a meeting that the Belfast City Management and

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shop traders and a member of the DSD wished to hold in the P M H and that he had personally suggested to Rosemary the fee that was likely to be charged if held in Arthur Square

Regarding Title insurance W. Brother Wilson stated that Title Insurance would be less expensive if some of the facts were readily available, and asked how costs could be computed without all the facts.

Agreed as a true record ~~for~~ 22/14/2006

for lead Personal  
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