



# Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset

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14th March 2020.

Companion all,

Following the advice and guidance which is being disseminated on a daily basis by UGLE, and the subsequent cancellation of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in April, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has with regret, concluded in the interest of protecting the health and welfare of the Companions; and more especially those over the age of 65, that all future Chapter visitations/team visits from the Provincial Executive and Officers will cease until further notice. It would after all be considered irresponsible to ignore the advice from UGLE, not to mention Her Majesty's Government's decision on Thursday to move from Containment to Delay in respect of the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

With the current situation changing on a daily basis, the feasibility of holding the Annual Convocation on 21<sup>st</sup> May is and will remain under constant review, and whilst it has not been cancelled at the present time, there is every possibility that it will need to be re-scheduled to a later date in the year.

As far as individual Chapters are concerned, it will remain the memberships responsibility to determine the feasibility of their ongoing Chapter Convocations, however, irrespective of whatever the decision, summonses must continue be published as usual. Providing sufficient numbers are in attendance including the appropriate number of Officers, the Convocation can proceed as per the summons agenda; If it becomes apparent that the majority do not wish to attend, the preferred option is to arrange for a quorum of a minimum of five Companions to attend, then open, address the business and close the Chapter. Two of the quorum must be past or present Principals of the Chapter; this option also gives the Chapter the opportunity to hold any necessary ballots etc. If less than five members attend, then the Convocation must be abandoned and the facts recorded in the subsequent minutes. The suggested wording of the minutes is as follows:-

*'The convocation of the Chapter on .... was duly called in accordance with the attached summons. Owing to a fire at the premises/adverse weather conditions/national pandemic the required number of Companions to open the Chapter could not be assembled and the meeting was abandoned'*

It is only possible to abandon a Convocation on the day, not before.

I trust the foregoing is clear enough, but please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Beaumont". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Beaumont".

Tony Beaumont. Prov. Scribe E.