

**PAUL BUSBY**  
Provincial Grand Secretary

15 DELAMORE WAY  
LONG SUTTON  
SPALDING  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
PE12 9DX

To All Lodge Secretaries & Scribes

01406 478635

[EssexProvSec@britishmasons.uk](mailto:EssexProvSec@britishmasons.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

### **Local Suspension of Face-to-Face Meetings**

Dear Brother Secretaries/Scribes,

Due to the current restrictions enforced by Covid-19 any prospect of face-to-face Meetings in the Province of Essex for the Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Degrees seems to still be a considerable distance away. With this in mind the Provincial Grand Master has regrettably extended the Local Suspension of all face-to-face Meetings which he imposed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

This will now stay in place until our local Civic Authority lifts its restrictions by relaxing the rules and permitting public gatherings, enabling us once again to resume Lodge Meetings in the Province of Essex.

The Provincial Grand Master has asked that I again remind all, that the use of the media platform Zoom is a great way to keep in contact both formally and informally with your Lodge Members.

Several Lodges have already used Zoom for Virtual Business Meetings and found that any general administration and outstanding business of the Lodge is kept up to date using this platform. I will remind you that there is ample Guidance on Keystone Online of what can and can't be added to your Paper of Business.

You are also reminded that any VBM's are to replace your existing Regular Meetings and are to be within 14 days either side of that Meeting. In all cases you are required to apply to the Province for an Authority and a Dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master, there are no forms to complete just forward a copy of your Paper for Business for approval.

If you require any assistance holding a VBM please contact me direct and I will gladly assist you so that you have a successful VBM.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

*Paul Busby*

W.Bro. Paul Busby  
Provincial Grand Secretary