STATUTES – APPROVED 24 OCTOBER 2026
THE ANCIENT MASONIC ORDER OF ALFRED THE GREAT

1. The title of the Order shall be the Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great, the following abbreviations acceptable in common use: Order of Alfred the Great, the Ancient Order, the Ancient Order of Alfred the Great, hereafter referred to in these Statutes as the "Ancient Order".

2. The Ancient Order is a Sovereign Order of Freemasonry, membership being drawn exclusively from subscribing Past Masters of Courts of recognised Constitutions of the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

3. The Ancient Order claims exclusive worldwide oversight and control of the membership Grades of Knight Emeritus (KEAG), Knight (KAG), Knight Commander (KCAG) and Knight Grand Cross (GCAG) and all associated rituals.

4. GOVERNANCE OF THE ANCIENT ORDER

i. The Head of the Ancient Order holds the title Sovereign Grand Master (SGM).

ii. The Sovereign Grand Master will appoint or confirm a deputy on an annual basis, with the title of Grand Legate (GL).

iii. The Sovereign Grand Master will appoint Grand Chancellors for the purpose of presiding over the Regions of the Ancient Order, one Grand Chancellor per Region, as defined from time to time.

iv. The Sovereign Grand Master, the Grand Legate, Grand Chancellors, the Grand High Reeve and the Grand Collector of the Geld shall together form the Senate, which shall constitute the Executive of the Ancient Order. At duly notified Senate meetings, the quorum shall be 4 members and votes decided by simple majority.

v. The Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and Provinces Overseas *pro tem* shall hold an ex-officio position on the Senate without voting rights.

vi. Retirement from active office will also result in retirement from the Senate.

vii. All members of the Senate shall hold the Grade of GCAG.

5. MEETINGS OF THE ANCIENT ORDER

i. The Sovereign Grand Master or the Grand Legate shall convene the annual Assembly of Knights of the Ancient Order, known as the King's Council, for the transaction of the business of the Ancient Order.

ii. The King's Council shall be held on the fourth Friday in the month of October each year, or within 14 days before or after the Annual Assembly of the Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas.

iii. Only the Sovereign Grand Master or the Grand Legate may preside over meetings of the King's Council unless the offices are vacant, in which case the Senate shall nominate a temporary Regent to preside until one or the other is filled.

iv. Regional Councils for the purpose of admitting new Knights (KAG) may be summoned and presided over by the Grand Chancellor for that Region or the Sovereign Grand Master or Grand Legate.

v. Regional Councils shall meet no more than three times in any 12-month period and meetings shall not clash with those of the King's Council.

vi. Regional Councils are only permitted to work the ritual grade of Knight (KAG).

vii. The above notwithstanding, at the discretion and dispensation of the Sovereign Grand Master additional meetings of Knights of the Ancient Order may be called at any time and location to consider any business that may be deemed appropriate.

viii. A meeting shall not constitutionally work with less than three members of the Ancient Order present including the Sovereign Grand Master or the Grand Legate or a Grand Chancellor but excluding candidates, unless an appropriate dispensation is received from the Sovereign Grand Master.

6. GRADES AND DESIGNATIONS OF KNIGHTS WITHIN THE ANCIENT ORDER

i. Grades of membership are:

- Knight Grand Cross, designated GCAG
- Knight Commander, designated KCAG
- Knight, designated KAG
- Knight Emeritus, designated KEAG

ii. New members are admitted at the Grade of Knight (KAG) at meetings of the King's Council, or a Regional Council summoned for that purpose. Members may receive subsequent Advancement to Knight Commander (KCAG) and Knight Grand Cross (GCAG).

iii. The Grade of Knight Emeritus (KEAG) may be sanctioned by specific dispensation of the Sovereign Grand Master for candidates for the Grade of KAG who by reason of long-term infirmity are unable to attend an Admission ceremony of the Ancient Order.

iv. Knights Emeritus are eligible to attend any Admission ceremonial for the Ancient Order. Should a Knight Emeritus attend any such Admission ceremony, he will automatically be admitted to full Knighthood, adopt the appropriate postnominal (KAG) and be entitled to all rights and privileges of Knighthood, thereafter, including eligibility for further Advancement within the Ancient Order.

v. There are no quotas or restrictions on the number of members within each Grade of the Ancient Order.

7. SENIOR OFFICERS

i. The Sovereign Grand Master is elected by the King's Council and shall hold office for a period of three years. Eligible nominees will be any present or past members of the Senate of the Ancient Order, nominated and supported by at least three members of the current Senate excluding the nominee. Nominations shall be submitted to the Grand High Reeve by 1 July in election years or within 4 weeks after the Senate has received notification that the office is vacant.

ii. The Grand Legate is an annual appointment or reappointment at the sole discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master from members of the Ancient Order holding the rank of GCAG.

iii. The Grand Chancellors are annual appointments or reappointments at the sole discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master.

8. REGIONAL STRUCTURE

i. The Order shall adopt a Regional structure for local governance and the admission of candidates for KAG.

ii. Regions of the Ancient Order may be defined, created, erased, subdivided or combined or boundaries otherwise modified on the authority of the Sovereign Grand Master.

iii. Regions are subject to governance in accordance with statutes 4(iii) and 9(vi).

9. OFFICERS

i. The Sovereign Grand Master heads the King's Council. The remaining officers of the King's Council are, in order of seniority:

Grand Legate
Grand Chancellors
Grand Prior
Grand High Reeve
1st Grand Ealdorman
2nd Grand Ealdorman
3rd Grand Ealdorman
4th Grand Ealdorman
Grand Collector of the Geld
Grand Marshal of Ceremonial
Deputy Grand Marshal of Ceremonial
Deputy Grand Reeve
Deputy Grand Collector of the Geld
Grand Orator
Grand Captain of the Fyrd
Grand Sword Bearer
Grand Banner Bearer (East)
Grand Banner Bearer (West)
Grand Lieutenants of the Fyrd
Grand Scop

Deputy Grand Scop
Grand Sentry
Grand Sentinel

ii. Except for the Grand Collector of the Geld, each appointment is at the discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master, who will confirm appointees on an annual basis and conduct investitures at the annual Assembly of the King's Council. The Grand Collector of the Geld shall be elected annually by the Knights of the Ancient Order at that meeting.

iii. The Grand High Reeve shall be the chief administrator of the Ancient Order and the Grand Collector of the Geld shall be its treasurer, both discharging the standard and accepted duties of those offices.

iv. A Deputy Grand Reeve and a Deputy Grand Collector of the Geld may be appointed subject to the needs of the Ancient Order and the approval of the Sovereign Grand Master.

v. The number of appointees to the rank of Grand Lieutenant of the Fyrd each year is at the discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master.

vi. Grand Chancellors may appoint officers in their Regions as defined in vii below, for the discharge of Regional business and ceremonial. Regional Collectors of the Geld shall be elected annually by the appropriate Regional Council.

vii. The Officers of a Regional Council shall be:

Knight Prior
1st Ealdorman
2nd Ealdorman
3rd Ealdorman
4th Ealdorman
Knight Scribe
Knight Collector of the Geld
Knight Marshal of Ceremonial
Knight Deputy Marshal of Ceremonial
Knight Orator
Knight Captain of the Fyrd
Knight Sword Bearer
Thane Banner Bearer (East)
Thane Banner Bearer (West)
Royal Scop
Knight Sentry
Knight Sentinel

10. RANK DESIGNATIONS

i. The designation of Past Sovereign Grand Master (PSGM), Past Grand Legate (PGL) and Past Grand Chancellor (PGCh) are only available to those who have given previous service in the corresponding active office. Other past rank appointments or designations are not made in this Order except as provided in Statute 10(iv).

ii. Active officers of the King's Council are titled as per their office.

iii. Officers of a Regional Council are titled as: (office) of the Regional Council (of region), i.e Knight Sentry of the Regional Council of the Northern Shires, or Knight Orator of the Regional Council of the USA. Past officers have no formal title except as provided in 10(i) and 10 (iii).

iv. Officers present and past of the Kings Council or Regional Councils will be distinguished by post nominals as follows:

- Officer of the King's Council: **CR** (Latin: consiliarius regis, counselor of the king). *Example: Sir Knight A N Other, KCAG, CR*

- Past Officer of the King's Council: **QCR** (Latin: quondam consiliarius regis, once a counselor of the king) *Example: Sir Knight A N Other, KCAG, QCR*

- Officers of Regional Councils **CC** (Latin: consiliarus cancellarii, counselor of the chancellor)*Example: Sir Knight A N Other, KCAG, CC*

- Past Officer of a Regional Council: **QCC** (Latin: quondam consiliarius cancellarii, once adviser to the chancellor) *Example: Sir Knight A N Other, KCAG, QCC*

11. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA, ADMISSION AND ADVANCEMENT

i. The Order is strictly invitational, admitting only invited brethren meeting the membership criteria.

ii. Invitation to membership is made to the individual by the Sovereign Grand Master.

iii. Membership of the Ancient Order is drawn from subscribing Past Masters of Courts of recognised Constitutions of the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

iv. Brethren meeting the requirement of statute 11(iii) are eligible for invitation to membership following the third anniversary of their Installation or Special Progression.

v. Brethren preferred to Grand Rank or Past Grand Rank in the Order of Athelstan are eligible for invitation to membership of the Ancient Order without time qualification.

vi. Qualification for membership does not of itself infer automatic admission or invitation and no Brother has any claim to right of membership at or promotion to any Grade for himself or others, regardless of perceived qualification.

vii. The process of nomination to membership from Regions is primarily the responsibility of Regional Grand Chancellors in consultation with the Sovereign Grand Master, who may take advice from Provincial Grand Masters of the Order of Athelstan within their Regions as appropriate. The Sovereign Grand Master must endorse all nominations for membership prior to admission. Nominations for Advancement within the Ancient Order are the prerogative of the Sovereign Grand Master in consultation with the Senate. Nomination forms must be submitted by Regional Scribes to the Grand High Reeve at least 4 weeks before any intended admission to KAG and in the case of Advancement, by 1 July each year for Advancement at the King’s Council in October.

viii. Approved candidates will be admitted either at an assembly of the King's Council or at a Regional Council within the region inviting their membership.

ix. Admission into the Ancient Order at other assemblies is exceptional and requires the specific dispensation of the Sovereign Grand Master in each case, unless the brother is already KEAG.

x. Unless exceptional and specific circumstances apply as provided for in Statute 6(iii), if a Brother or Knight does not attend the specified ceremony to receive his Admission or Advancement, or the next appropriate Assembly called for that purpose, then the Admission or Advancement will automatically be deemed as lapsed and the nomination process must be repeated.

xi. Every Brother on Admission or Knight on Advancement is entitled to a membership certificate for the applicable Grade.

xii. Members of the Ancient Order who have not passed through the Chair of a Court of the Order of Athelstan nor have been Specially Progressed yet were Admitted into the Ancient Order before the adoption of these statutes shall remain full members of the Ancient Order and retain all rights and privileges attached thereto.

12. REGALIA (SEE APPENDIX).

i. The regalia of the Order of Athelstan is not worn at meetings of the Ancient Order.

ii. At meetings of the Order of Athelstan members of the Ancient Order are permitted to wear the collarette of their Grade in addition to the regalia of their rank in the Order of Athelstan. Other regalia of the Ancient Order is not to be worn.

iii. Regalia of the Order of the Scarlet Mantle does not form part of the regalia of the Ancient Order and must not be worn. Knights of the Ancient Order who were first admitted into the Order of the Scarlet Mantle should obtain the current regalia of the Ancient Order appropriate to their grade (see appendix).

iv. The approved tie indicating membership of the Ancient Order (appendix) must be worn by members at all meetings of the Ancient Order and may also be worn in Courts of the Order of Athelstan, including meetings of the Grand Court or Provincial Grand Courts.

v. Members of the Ancient Order attending Court or Provincial meetings of the Order of Athelstan that fall within their own Provincial membership, may opt to wear the Order of Athelstan tie of that Province on such occasions.

13. RITUAL

i. This shall be the ritual as authorised by the Sovereign Grand Master in consultation with the Senate of the Ancient Order from time to time.

ii. The rituals of the Ancient Order are copyrighted and confidential and not for distribution, amendment or storage in other formats without the written permission of the Senate of the Ancient Order.

iii. The Grades of KAG, KCAG and GCAG each have their own separate confidential rituals which are to be used for all ceremonial Admissions or Advancements. The Grades form a sequence and must never be conferred out of order.

14. PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE

i. All members, regardless of Grade, are referred to as “Sir Knight” and are “Admitted” into the Ancient Order and may then be subsequently “Advanced”.

ii. Salutation is given to the Sovereign Grand Master (or Grand Legate if presiding) at meetings of the King’s Council. Regional Chancellors are saluted at meetings of their Regional Council only. At Regional Councils where the Sovereign Grand Master or the Grand Legate is present, the Regional Chancellor may be saluted after the Council is opened and prior to the admission of the Sovereign Grand Master or the Grand Legate, who is then saluted. The salutations protocol shall be as defined by the Senate from time to time.

iii. Salutations are given only to those holding active office.

15. CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF THE ANCIENT ORDER

i. The Obligation taken in the Ancient Order is such that, if in the opinion of the Sovereign Grand Master, a member has breached that Obligation, then sanction may be applied to that member. Prior to any such disciplinary action being taken, the member will be invited to address an extraordinary meeting of the Senate of the Order called for that purpose. Sanctions may include suspension or other sanction, or exclusion from the Ancient Order.

ii. Suspension or exclusion from any Constitution of the Order of Athelstan automatically results in suspension or exclusion from the Ancient Order. Reinstatement in the Order of Athelstan after suspension or exclusion does not automatically result in reinstatement into the Ancient Order. Statute 15 (v) will be applied.

iii. Should a member of the Ancient Order cease to be a subscribing member of at least one Court of a recognised Constitution of the Masonic Order of Athelstan for any reason except for election to honorary membership, then his membership of the Ancient Order will cease automatically with immediate effect.

iv. A member may resign his membership of the Ancient Order at any time by notice in writing to the Grand High Reeve, such resignation being immediate and irrevocable on receipt. The member will immediately cease to wear the regalia or tie or use the honorifics of the Ancient Order in Courts of the Order of Athelstan.

v. Re-admittance of any otherwise-qualified member following previous cessation of membership for any reason will be at the sole discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master and may be subject to an additional fee.

16. FEES AND ACCOUNTS

i. Subscriptions, fees of honour for Admission to the Ancient Order or Advancement within it plus fees for dispensations, as well as apportionment of fees, will be as advised from time to time by the Sovereign Grand Master.

ii. Fees are due in advance of Admission or Advancement. Fees are not refundable on cessation of membership for any reason.

iii. An examined statement of the accounts of the Ancient Order shall be prepared and presented annually to the Ancient Order in regular Assembly, by the Grand Collector of the Geld, for approval.

iv. The examination of accounts shall be undertaken by either (i) professional accountants or (ii) two members of the Ancient Order elected annually for that purpose, the following Knights being ineligible for election as examiners: Sovereign Grand Master, Grand Legate, Grand Collector of the Geld and Grand High Reeve.

v. Regional Councils shall be expected to operate Statutes 16(iii) and 16(iv) *mutatis mutandis,* the Grand Chancellor, Collector of the Geld and Scribe of the Regional Council being ineligible for election as examiners.

vi. A copy of the audited and approved accounts from each Region are to be deposited annually with the Grand High Reeve.

17. STATUTES

i. A copy of the Statutes of the Ancient Order shall be made available to every Knight on his Admission into the Ancient Order.

ii. Changes or amendments to these Statutes must be ratified at a regular Assembly of Knights of the Ancient Order, duly summoned and notified to that effect.

18. GENERAL PROVISION

i. The prerogative of the Sovereign Grand Master shall extend to all matters of this Ancient Order not herein expressly reserved in the foregoing, at all times in keeping with the Constitutions and Regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England.

ii. The Sovereign Grand Master shall have the power to issue dispensations for the variation of these statutes on a case by case basis, always in keeping with the general good of the Ancient Order.

iii. The protocol of the Ancient Order is that all correspondence to the Sovereign Grand Master must be addressed to the Grand High Reeve. However, a Grand Chancellor may address the Sovereign Grand Master or the Grand Legate directly on any matter of relevance to the Ancient Order.

Appendix 1: The Regalia of the Ancient Order

Members of the Ancient Order shall be distinguished by regalia appropriate to their rank and grade as follows.

A1. Knights and Knights Emeritus:

A collarette of dark red ribbon from which is suspended the insignia of the Ancient Order at standard size.

A2. Knights Commander:

A collarette of dark red ribbon with a green band of ribbon centrally mounted, from which is suspended the insignia of the Ancient Order at standard size.

A3. Knights Grand Cross:

A collarette of dark red ribbon with a green band of ribbon centrally mounted, surmounted by an additional band of gold ribbon from which is suspended the insignia of the Ancient Order at standard size.

A4. Officers of the King's Council and Regional Councils

Officers of the King's Council

i. Active Officers of the King's Council will wear a **gold** lion rampant to the defined pattern, above the point of the collarette, from which is suspended the jewel of a King's Council Officer.

ii. Past Officers of the King's Council wear a like **silver** lion rampant above the point of the ribbon, from which is suspended the jewel of a King's Council Officer.

iii. The jewel of office of Officers of the King's Council present or past comprises a 5cm diam disc of gold engraven with the elements of life around the periphery and gold crossed axes in the centre, on a black background, unless the officer has previously held the office of Sovereign Grand Master, Grand Legate or Grand Chancellor, in which case the jewel of that office shall continue to be worn.

Officers of Regional Councils

iv. Active Officers of Regional Councils are distinguished by circular insignia (2cm diam) in **gold** base comprising 'the senses' as depicted on the Fuller Brooch surrounded by the title of the Order, worn above the point of the collarette, from which is suspended the insignia of the Ancient Order.

v. Past Officers of Regional Councils are distinguished by circular insignia (2cm diam) in **silver** base comprising 'the senses' as depicted on the Fuller Brooch surrounded by the title of the Order, worn above the point of the collarette, from which is suspended the insignia of the Ancient Order.

vi. In all cases of multiple entitlement only the insignia of the most senior active office or past office is worn on the collarette. **Multiple insignia are never worn and no other collarette decoration is permitted.**

A5. The Sovereign Grand Master

A dark red sash with gold edging upon which is featured the insignia of the Ancient Order at chest height. Optionally, a robe of scarlet, green and gold to the prescribed pattern.

A **gold** lion rampant is worn above the point of the collarette from which is suspended the jewel of office.

The jewel of office of a Sovereign Grand Master or past Sovereign Grand Master comprises a 5cm diam disc of gold engraven with the elements of life around the periphery and a Saxon Crown in red and gold in the centre, the crown on a black background.

Past Sovereign Grand Masters: As for the Sovereign Grand Master with a **silver** lion rampant worn above the point of the collarette, from which is suspended the jewel of office. A robe is not worn. A dark red sash with gold edging, without the insignia of the Ancient Order.

A6. The Grand Legate

A dark red sash with gold edging.

A gold lion rampant above the point of the collarette from which is suspended the jewel of office.

The jewel of office of a Grand Legate or past Grand Legate comprises a 5cm diam disc of gold engraven with the elements of life around the periphery and a gold princes crown in the centre, supported by crossed swords, on a black background.

Past Grand Legates: as Grand Legate with a **silver** lion rampant above the point of the collarette from which is suspended the jewel of office. A dark red sash with gold edging.

A7. Grand Chancellors

A dark red sash.

The jewel of office of a Grand Chancellor or past Grand Chancellor comprises a 5cm diam disc of gold engraven with the elements of life around the periphery and a gold lion rampant in the centre, on a black background.

A lion rampant in gold is worn centrally above the point of the collarette from which is suspended the jewel of office.

Past Grand Chancellors: as Grand Chancellor with a **silver** lion rampant above the point of the collarette from which is suspended the jewel of office. A dark red sash.

A8. The tie indicating membership of the Order should be worn by members at all assemblies of the Ancient Order after their admission. It is identical to the tie of the Masonic Order of Athelstan save that the pattern is in dark red. Other Masonic ties should not be worn.

A9. Official lapel pins featuring the insignia of the Ancient Order are available but are not considered formal regalia. They may be worn at the members discretion.