

The Portsmouth Lodge No 487

Minutes for the General Purposes Committee meeting
held at the Fareham Masonic Centre.

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

The Meeting was opened at 7.00 pm with W Bro Robert Banks in the Chair

item	SUBJECT	Action
1	Attendance and Apologies There were 13 attendees & 6 apologies as per attendance sheet.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting Minutes of the last committee meeting held at FMC on Tuesday 6 th May 2025 have been circulated, were approved & then signed by W Bro Robert Banks	
2 a	Matters Arising – There were none	
3	Lodge Website W Bro Andy Brown gave a brief demo of the new Lodge website which he has built with the help of Bro Neil McHenry. The GP agreed the new site looks great and thanked both Bro Andy & Neil for their hard work so far. W Bro Andy updated the GP on the costs of the Domain Name and Hosting and was pleased to advise that it will cost only £60/70 for an initial 2 year period. There was some discussion on the site domain name with suggestions ranging from 'Portsmouth Lodge', 'Portsmouth Masonic Lodge' & 'The Portsmouth Freemasons'. It was agreed to go ahead with setting up 'Portsmouth Lodge' and then purchase additional domain names that would redirect traffic to it – W Bro Andy would investigate those options. The public facing site will go live first with the members area following after data from our old site has been copied across. Lastly, W Bro Andy asked that a sub committee be set up for ongoing management of the site and this was agreed.	
4	Candidates Bros Neil McHenry & Robin Ford have a candidate, Mr. Steve Lincoln, who was originally not going to join until January because of the double hit on Lodge subscription fees. However, as we are having an Official Visit from the Solent Area APGM in October, the suggestion was that it would be great to have a 'live' initiation and that, on this occasion, the Lodge could cover this years subscriptions. The GP unanimously agreed to the suggestions which would be put forward in Open Lodge at the next meeting. Bro Neil would confirm with Steve Lincoln if that was possible and ensure the Form P was completed and sent to the Secretary & LMO asap for distribution to the Brethren.	

	<p>W Bro Roger Barnard would arrange a suitable date/time to interview him with the Membership Team and Neil/Robin would propose and second him at the September Meeting.</p> <p>Bro Josh Letzer was still hopeful about his potential candidates and will pick up again now we are back from the summer break.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer Report</p> <p>W Bro Adrian Jones said there was not much to report at this meeting but the accounts are in good order. However, he had to advise that due to increases in Fareham Centre Charges together with increases from UGLE & PGL, that he would propose that the subscriptions are raised in 2026 to £195, an increase of £20.</p> <p>He briefly went through some initial costings for the proposed Ladies Night on Saturday 7th February 2026 (keep the date free!) where the cost is initially looking between £60-80, if we are able to get at least 60 attendees. He would work with our WM and the venue, New Place near Wickham, to finalise costings and report back to the GP at the next meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Charity Stewards Report & 2027 Festival Update</p> <p>Bro Mike Crick advised that he had made cheque presentations to 'Key to Joy' and 'The Moving on Project' on behalf of the Lodge which had been very well received.</p> <p>2027 Festival – the Lodge has pledged £21996 so far which is 95% towards the Silver Honorific.</p> <p>The Charity Account balance is £4,223.13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- So far raised for Worshipful Masters Chairty, Elizabeth Foundation, £323.46- Distributed on behalf of the IPM £2800 <p>Amount available for future disbursements £1099.67</p> <p>Relief Chest Balance is £1205.06 after receipts of £1192.10 and donations of £1100</p> <p>In September he will give a Notice of Motion that a sum not exceeding £200 be allocated to Solent Diabetes.</p>	

7	<p>Almoner Report</p> <p>W Bro Gareth Manson advised that both W Bro Chris Ford and W Bro Barry Filer were now both out of hospital which was good news and that they were both hoping to be at the September meeting.</p> <p>He attended with a large contingent of brethren from 487, the funeral of dear departed Trevor Foster which was a lovely occasion that celebrated his life. He has since tried to contact Mary, his widow without success but will try again soon.</p> <p>There is a PSA event on Saturday 18th October at Cosham Masonic Hall should brethren want to book in for a test.</p> <p>He also mentioned that there are a few 'Amity' groups around the Solent Area, such as the Grumpy mans Group in Fareham and he could point brethren in the right direction if needed.</p> <p>The MCT are again providing Holiday Support for anyone in need so if any Brother knows of someone in need of a break that perhaps can't afford it, then please contact W Bro Gareth.</p> <p>The Provincial Tallships Trust offer experience for young people on the 'Open Seas' and again W Bro Gareth can be contacted if you have an interest.</p> <p>Lastly, he went along to an induction for Almoners which he had found extremely useful and it was good to meet other Almoners from other Lodges.</p>	
8	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Secretary had no further correspondence.</p>	
9	<p>Agenda for the next meeting</p> <p>September Agenda: We will perform a rehearsal of the 1st Degree ceremony of Initiation in preparation for the Live initiation in October. September will be a Past Masters night and our DC, W Bro Danny Letzer asked for willing volunteers to take part.</p> <p>October Agenda: We have an Official Visit of the APGM W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills for which we will hopefully have the live initiation of Mr. Steve Lincoln.</p>	
10	<p>LMO & Lodge Plan</p> <p>W Bro Roger Barnard has circulated his latest plan and mentioned that the next WM would need to consider the position of Junior Deacon for his year.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Membership Team is still planned for 6pm on 16th September</p>	

11	<p>Any other business</p> <p>W Bro Andrew Dollery had sent his apologies for the meeting and advised that due to work commitments he will be unable to attend GP meetings for the foreseeable future. He will be attending Lodge Meetings and will continue to organize Dining.</p> <p>Lodge Skittles is taking place this Saturday 6th September and well done to our WM and W Bro Gareth for organizing.</p> <p>Our annual visit from Dorking Lodge will be on Friday 17th October</p> <p>The Lodge has been invited to visit Dorking Lodge on Monday 6th October. We should continue to encourage these reciprocal visits so please attend if you can.</p> <p>The Lodge Ladies Night, as mentioned previously, will be on Saturday 7th February 2026, more details to follow asap.</p> <p>W Bro Roger Barnard is following up on the purchase of the Blue Lapel Badges</p> <p>W Bro Roger Smith mentioned he had communications from an old member W Bro Bob Pearce who had sent his best wishes to the Lodge.</p> <p>W Bro Bob Cullen mentioned that W Bro Steve Tatford had been appointed as Area Chairman following the resignation of W Bro Clive Dobson</p> <p>Finally, W Bro Bob Cullen mentioned that further to the agreement of the last GP that W Bros Danny Letzer and Kevin Hunt will be put forward for promotion this year.</p>	GM
<p>There was no further business & the meeting closed at 8.12 pm. The next GP meeting @ 7.00pm will be on Tuesday 7th October 2025</p>		

Secretary: R Cullen

Signed: (WM) _____ Date _____