

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Secretary:
W. Bro. R. Cullen
97 Upper Barn Copse
Fair Oak
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 8DB

Tel: 07814 002792
E-mail: 487secretary@gmail.com



Treasurer:
W. Bro. A. Jones
7, Larkspur Close
Southampton
Hampshire
SO32 2RE

Tel: 07971 816770
E-mail: Adrian.d.jones@talk21.com

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487, Held at the Masonic Hall, Queen's Road, Fareham, on Friday 26th September 2025

1 Opening

The meeting was opened by our IPM W Bro Gareth Manson who took over as WM for the evening, at 6.10 p.m.

PRESENT: There were present: 11 Officers, 1 Past Master, 3 Members & 3 Visitors.

APOLOGIES: W Bros: R Barnard, C Ford, H Bownes, K Hunt, G Young, M Childs, N Clayton, B Blackman, N Horsey & D Jenkins, Bros: A Bentley, D Hunt, R Sadler, R Ford, N Bryan & N Sykes.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 23rd May, were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Gareth Manson.

3 To Receive Official Guests

The Brethren of The Portsmouth Lodge No 487 were called to order to welcome their Official Guest, W Bro David Smith, representative of Prince of Wales Lodge No 1705.

SALUTATIONS - The Brethren were called to order by W Bro Danny Letzer to salute officers of Grand Rank in the persons of W Bro Steve Frost PAGESuptWks who responded by thanking the Worshipful Master & Brethren for their kind and fraternal salutations and in return wished them all well and to have a great evening. The brethren were then called to order by W Bro Danny Letzer to salute officers of Provincial, Metropolitan and District Grand Ranks present and past. W Bro Bob Cullen responded thanking the WM & brethren and that he greeted and wished them well.

At this point the Worshipful Master welcomed all visitors and hoped they would have a wonderful time in the temple and at the festive board.

W Bro Roger Smith then gave a very moving Eulogy for Bro Trevor Foster who passed to the Grand Lodge above on 10th June 2025. The Eulogy included the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson called 'Crossing The Bar'. For those not able to be at the meeting this is a link to the poem, which everyone felt moved by.

<https://poets.org/poem/crossing-bar>. The brethren then stood to order with the sign of reverence for a short time.

The Worshipful Master gave thanks to W Bro Roger for his Eulogy.

4 To Complete a Rehearsal of the Ceremony of Initiation

Brother Mike Crick retired to act as the candidate for this rehearsal.

The WM then invited W Bro Bob Cullen to take the Chair of King Solomon for the initiation ceremony.

The ceremony was completed by the following Brethren

- W Bro Bob Cullen received the candidate took him through the Obligation and finished at the discovery of the Three Lesser Lights
- W Bro Wayne Frampton explained the Dangers and Signs
- Bro Josh Letzer presented the EA Apron
- W Bro Pete Ambrose gave the NE corner piece
- W Bro Danny Letzer presented and explained the Working Tools

On this occasion the Charge was not given nor the 'Mode of Preparation'.

W Bro Bob Cullen then handed back the Chair to W Bro Gareth Manson to complete the rest of the Agenda.

5 To Read Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated to the brethren and the Secretary had nothing further to report except that he had received an apology from The WM of Master Builders Lodge who could not make this evening.

6 The Almoners Report

W Bro Gareth rose to read his report which mentioned W Bro Chris Ford who was suffering from severe back pain but improving and wished him a speedy recovery. He also mentioned that W Bro Roger Smith had been in hospital for a procedure but had recovered and it was good to see him in his usual seat at the Organ.

W Bro Gareth reminded brethren of the importance of having a PSA Test and that there were numerous events that they could book into to. There were also 11 Amity Clubs, such as the Grumpy Club at FMC, that brethren could join that act as support groups for Masons.

Lastly, he told the brethren about the 'Well Being Hub' set up in partnership with SGN, which will be held at Gosport waterfront Baptist church, 102 Grove Rd, Elton, Gosport, PO12 4JN on Tuesday 14th October between 10am - 2pm.

7 The Charity Stewards Report

Bro Mike Crick rose to say that his report has been distributed by the Bro Secretary and mentioned that the lodge was 95% towards the Silver Honorific with a grand total of £22298 donated so far. He had also visited both the 'Key to Joy' & 'Moving On' charities to present the cheques on behalf of the Lodge.

Our VO W Bro Pete Ambrose then presented W Bro Bob Cullen with his 2027 Festival 'Vice Patron' Award and the brethren gave a resounding round of applause for his achievement.

8 Collect Alms:

The Alms collection raised £26.75 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

9 AOB

The Secretary mentioned Brethren that 487 has been invited to Dorking Lodge on Monday 6th October and that he would need to notify their Secretary of attendees Monday 29th so please could brethren confirm their attendance asap. He then mentioned that 487 have also been invited to Loyal Manor Lodge on Friday 24th October to attend the Install of Bro Stephen Watkin (son of our own Ed Watkin) and to advise W Bro Andy Dollery if they wish to attend.

Lastly, the Secretary asked the WM to take the apologies as read to which he agreed. He then reminded the brethren of the **next GP Meeting on Tuesday 7th October by a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 17th October.**

RISINGS

The WM rose for the first time and there were no further communications from Grand Lodge.

The WM rose for the second time and there were no further communications from Provincial Grand Lodge

At this point our VO W Bro Pete Ambrose rose to say that there were 3 Official Visits coming up in Solent, one of which was for The Portsmouth Lodge No 487 and that there was a notice circulated on behalf of the Solent Circular advertising the event and asking brethren from all lodges to attend if possible. Hopefully, we'll have a good attendance that evening.

Lastly, he mentioned that the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge were holding a Gentlemen's Evening on Friday 3rd October which was open for all brethren if they wished to attend and either he or W Bro Bob Cullen could assist in the booking.

The WM rose for the third time and thanked all the brethren who had taken part in the ceremony this evening, especially at short notice.

The Charity Secretary, Bro Mike Crick, rose to give a Notice of Motion that in October he would propose a sum not exceeding £250 be donated to Solent Diabetes (Fareham & Gosport).

Bro Neil McHenry proposed that Steven Arthur Lincoln be initiated as a member of The Portsmouth Lodge No 487 and this was seconded by W Bro Bob Cullen on behalf of Bro Robin Ford.

Under this rising W Bro Roger Smith gave greetings from a former member of the Lodge, W Bro Bob Pearce, who had just celebrated 50 years in Masonry.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: W Bro Roger Barnard was unavoidably absent from the meeting and sent his apologies to the WM & Brethren.

10 Closing

The Lodge was closed at 7.40 pm and the first verse of the National Anthem was sung followed by the closing ode. Brethren afterwards dined with their guests where the raffle raised £ 85 .00

Worshipful Master**Secretary**.....

Date: