

# THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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## **Minutes of a Regular Meeting of THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487, Held at the Masonic Hall, Queen's Road, Fareham, on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

### **1 Opening**

The meeting was opened by our IPM W Bro Gareth Manson who took over as WM for the evening, at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** There were present: 14 Officers, 2 Past Master, 4 Members & 21 Visitors.

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

### **2 To Receive the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills**

The brethren were called to order by the Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies W Bro Alan Hares to receive the APGM W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills and his team. They were received with pleasure and in due form.

The WM offered the gavel to our APGM which he took at that point.

**SALUTATIONS** - The Brethren were called to order to welcome their APGM with 5 by the Provincial ADC.

W Bro Adrain thanked the Lodge for receiving him and his team and remarked that the Lodge was 182 Years Old and only 18 years away from it's bicentenary, which would be a wonderful achievement. Going through our history 100 years ago the Lodge had 184 members, 50 years ago 113, 30 years ago 79 and today just 31. This year alone the Lodge has lost 5 people, 2 have died and 3 resigned. He understood how difficult it was for the Lodge currently but urged everybody to really try hard to increase the numbers as best it can and reach that fantastic milestone. He then talked about the changes to bringing in candidates whereby it will soon be agreed that individuals no longer require a proposer & seconder but only a Sponsor which should make it easier to bring people in. However, he stressed the importance of meeting them and their partners outside of the Lodge environment and to strengthen the recruitment process. He also reminded us that we as masons should be encouraged to go through 4 ceremonies, Initiation, Passing, Raising and then the Holy Royal Arch in that spirit of coming together as one organisation. Lastly, he congratulated the Lodge on being 95% of the way towards their Silver Festival Honorific and was certain it would reach that milestone before the Festival ends.

### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Gareth Manson and countersigned by W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills (APGM).

W Bro Adrian then handed back the Chair to W Bro Gareth.

#### **4 To Complete a Rehearsal of the Ceremony of Initiation**

Unfortunately, the candidate did not wish to proceed with the ceremony of initiation and left the Lodge, so a rehearsal was performed,

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
- Bro Neil McHenry expertly presented the Working Tools
- Bro Josh Letzer gave an excellent Charge for which the DC gave a 'brethren all'

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

#### **6 To Read Correspondence**

All correspondence had been circulated to the brethren and the Secretary had nothing further to report.

#### **7 The Almoners Report**

W Bro Gareth rose to briefly read his report that had previously been distributed by the Secretary.

#### **8 The Charity Stewards Report**

Bro Mike Crick rose to say his report had also been distributed by the Secretary but mentioned that he had visited the Downs Syndrome organisation with W Bro Gareth to present the cheque for £1400.

#### **9 To Receive a Proposition from the Charity Steward to donate a sum of £200 to Solent Diabetes (Fareham & Gosport which was seconded by W Bro Bob Cullen**

The proposal was carried unanimously and Bro Mike thanked the WM and Brethren.

#### **10 Collect Alms:**

The Alms collection raised £ 65.50 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

#### **11 AOB**

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 4<sup>th</sup> November by a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.**

**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 well done to the Lodge for continuing with the ceremony, so professionally and expertly, in such difficult circumstances and his and the APMG’s message was that the Lodge should still enjoy the occasion. Pete then informed the brethren, especially the newer ones that the qualification for a Festival Jewel was being extended until 2028 so anyone wishing to start donating to earn one, could do so. He mentioned the Portal and that everyone should take the opportunity to log in and see their record and mentioned that the site will grow in time but very useful as is. There are a number of OV’s coming up:

- Haslar Lodge No 7234 on 21<sup>st</sup> October with the Provincial Senior Warden
- Titchfield Abbey Lodge No 8189 on 19<sup>th</sup> November with the DPGM

Brethren are welcome to book in and go along if they can. Lastly, he mentioned that the next ‘Dine A Friend’ is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The WM rose for the third time and welcomed all visitors both Official and Private 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 £150 be donated to Oakhaven Trust

W Bro Andy Brown rose to advise all brethren that the new Members Section of the website was going live and each member will receive email notification to sign up. In addition, there are links on the website including to the new Portal site.

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:** W Bro Roger Barnard will be distributing his report in due course

**11 Closing**

The Lodge was closed at 7.55 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 £240.00

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

**Date:** .....