

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 19th December 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: 10 Officers, 2 Past Master, 1 Member & 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES: W Bros: D Letzer, R Barnard, G Young, H Bownes, N Horsey, M Childs, N Clayton, B Blackman & D Jenkins, Bros: R Ford, J Letzer, B Letzer, L Donovan, N McHenry, A Spottiswood, R Sadler, D Hunt & N Sykes.

W Bro Chris Ford (Acting DC) rose to give salutations to Grand Lodge and W Bro Steve Frost thanked the WM & Brethren for their sincere greeting and in return wished them well for Christmas and the New Year.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 28th November 2025 were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Gareth Manson.

3 To Read Correspondence

The Secretary has advised that all correspondence has been distributed but did read out a note of thanks from the Secretary of Master Builders Lodge No 8681 on behalf of their WM W Bro Nick Youle on his invite as official guest in November.

4 The Almoner Report

W Bro Gareth will provide an electronic copy of his report that will be distributed with these minutes. He mentioned it was good to see W Bro Bob Blackman in the bar who has had his hip operation, and that W Bro Roger Barnard is starting chemotherapy treatment. The Lodge wishes Roger a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing him back in Lodge as soon as possible. Roger is also able to take calls if brethren want to contact him. W Bro Gareth also mentioned that W Bro Dan Letzer's father died that day who was also the grandfather to Bros Josh and Bobby Letzer. He wishes the family well in these circumstances and the Lodge sends its sincerest condolences to the family. Lastly, W Bro Gareth asked that the Secretary to minute his thanks to W Bro Bob Blackman for all his help in organising the widows payments for this year. His help was invaluable.

5 The Charity Stewards Report

The Charity Steward, Bro Mike Crick will provide a copy of his report to the Secretary for distribution in due course but mentioned that the Lodge total for the 2027 Festival was at £22363 and that we are 95% towards our Silver Honorific..

6 To Receive a Proposition from the Treasurer to increase Lodge subscriptions to £195 for Members and to £173 for Country Members

The proposal was seconded by W Bro B Cullen and passed unanimously with a show of hands.

7 To Collect Alms

The Alms collection raised £21.10 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

8 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 6th January 2026 with a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 16th January.**

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 rising the Secretary rose to give apologies from the Lodge VO, W Bro Pete Ambrose who had passed on Xmas greetings to all 487 Brethren and wished them a Happy & Healthy New Year

The WM rose for the third time to thank those who had stood in offices this evening and wished all 487 brethren a Merry Xmas and a Very Happy New Year. He also hoped everyone has an enjoyable Festive Board and Carol Service with the Portsmouth Band.

Bro Mike Crick rose to give a Notice of Motion that at the next meeting he would propose a donation not exceeding £200 for the 'Friends of the Homeless'. He then proposed W Bro Dan Butcher, an ex-member of Henley Lodge No 1472 & Fitzalan Lodge No 1432, as a joining member of the Lodge. This was seconded on behalf of W Bro Andrew Dollery by W Bro Bob Cullen.

At this point W Bro Bob Cullen rose to advise the WM and brethren that he had sent out details of the new procedure for joining members and candidates in that they no longer need a Proposer & Seconder, just a Sponsor. This will take affect after W Bro Dan Butcher, whose details have been circulated, joins.

W Bro Any Brown rose to advise brethren that the Lodge Meeting dates for 2026 were now posted on the new website as are the Minutes and Summons for meetings.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: W Bro Roger Barnard was unavoidably absent

9 Closing

The Lodge was closed at 6.30 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 £270. The Xmas jumper raised £75 for the 'Scratch Charity' which W Bro Gareth Manson forwarded on behalf of the Lodge.

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

Date: