

The Portsmouth Lodge No 487

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

Tuesday 6th January 2026

The Meeting was opened at 7.00 pm with W Bro Kevin Hunt in the Chair

item	SUBJECT	Action
1	<p>Attendance and Apologies</p> <p>There were 8 attendees & 7 apologies as per attendance sheet.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the last committee meeting held at FMC on Tuesday 4th November 2025 have been circulated, were approved & then signed by W Bro Kevin Hunt</p>	
2 a	<p>Matters Arising – there were none</p>	
3	<p>Lodge Website - W Bro Andy Brown mentioned the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the 2026 dates on are the website as well as a Calendar - The Pictures from our Xmas meeting have been posted - The website now has all the Agendas/Summons/Minutes <p>Additionally, there are links to UGLE and PGL websites and from UGLE you can link to the new Portal site.</p> <p>W Bro Andy asked if we could put forthcoming ceremonies on the site and W Bro Dan Letzer agreed that February would be our usually Business Meeting, March would be the Installation night and April we could Raise Bro Lewis Donovan to the 3rd Degree, if available. W Bro Andy will update the site</p>	AB
4	<p>Candidates</p> <p>There are no new candidates in the pipeline by Bro Mike Crick had proposed W Bro Dan Butcher as a joining member and he will be voted for in January.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer Report</p> <p>W Bro Adrian Jones had sent through his report which the Secretary has distributed so there was nothing further to add. However, the Secretary, on behalf of W Bro Andy Dollery asked if there was any excess from the Dining Fund for the December meeting and could we use that to supplement the dining staff collection. The Secretary said he would ask the Treasurer what could be done.</p> <p>Lastly, the Treasurer asked that brethren be reminded that Subscriptions, of £195, were due on 1st January so please could brethren make payment asap.</p>	BC
6	<p>Charity Stewards Report & 2027 Festival Update</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Charity Steward could not be present at the GP but did send a thank you note from Oakhaven Charity which will be read in Open Lodge.</p>	

	<p>Via W Bro Andy Brown he stated that he would give a NOM at the January meeting that a sum not exceeding £600 would be donated to W Bro Robert Banks Charity – the Elizabeth Foundation.</p>	
7	<p>Almoner Report</p> <p>W Bro Gareth mentioned that he would give a fuller report at the meeting but had been able to visit 5 of the widows and received responses from 4 of them to thank the Lodge for their gift. He would work with W Bro Andy Brown to post the thank you cards on the website.</p> <p>W Bro Barry Filer said that he had seen Peggy Malthouse who unfortunately is unable to see and goes to a Hospice. He has also spoken to Mrs. Gillian Dollery who is in good health.</p> <p>W Bro Chris Ford mentioned that Bro Robin Ford has now been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and will be monitored every 6 months. The GP wished him and any other brother suffering with illnesses a speedy recovery.</p>	
8	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>All Correspondence has been sent to brethren except for a letter received by the Charity Steward that day from Oakhaven Charity mentioned above.</p>	
9	<p>Agenda for the next meeting</p> <p>January Summons – the Secretary mentioned that the APGM W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills is coming along to the January meeting. This is not an Official Visit and he asked for ‘no fuss’. We also have Loyal Manor brethren coming along as our Official Guests. The Lodge would pay for the APGM and the Master of Loyal Manor as guests.</p> <p>February Summons – The February meeting will be the usual Business meeting with no ceremony.</p>	
10	<p>LMO & Lodge Plan</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Membership Officer W Bro Roger Barnard could not attend but will arrange a further meeting in the future.</p>	

11	<p>Any other business</p> <p>W Bro Kevin Hunt asked if we needed the December meeting and after some discussion it was decided to keep it in the schedule.</p> <p>W Bro Bob Cullen suggested that we need to revisit the Lodge By-Laws and produced a revised copy for perusal. If agreed we could circulate the new laws to the brethren and seek a vote to approve in March after a NOM in February. W Bro Barry Filer made a number of observations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By-Law 4: should be amended to state only “ONE other member to be elected annually” - By-Law 10: Should the sum allowed by the WM be raised to £200. This was voted on and agreed unanimously by the GP. <p>These additional changes as well as those below will be explained to Brethren at the February meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By-Law 6: Changed to “There will be no Initiation, Joining or Re-joining Fee payable - The By-Laws referencing the 2025 edition of the BOC <p>The Secretary mentioned that there will be a PM meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 3rd February to interview the Master Elect, Bro Josh Letzer and discuss the next Promotions. There will also be a PM meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 3rd March for the Master Elect to present his list of Officers for Installation</p> <p>W Bro Bob Cullen asked if anything was planned for the May white table and W Bros Dan Letzer & Gareth Manson said they would discuss with Bro Josh as Master Elect.</p> <p>W Bro Andy Brown felt the Lodge needed more Social events and offered to revisit having a Curry Evening or something similar. The GP agreed it was a great idea and was keen for him to proceed.</p> <p>Lastly, W Bro Barry Filer raised the note from W Bro Roger Barnard about new lapel badges but after further discussion and a vote it was decided unanimously that there would be No Further Action on this item.</p> <p>There was no further business & the meeting closed at 8.15 pm. The next GP meeting (TBC) @ 7.00pm will be on Tuesday 3rd February 2026</p>
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Secretary: R Cullen

Signed: (WM) _____ Date _____