

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### 1 Opening

The meeting was opened by our IPM W Bro Gareth Manson who took over as WM for the evening, at 6.05 p.m.

**PRESENT:** There were present: 11 Officers, 2 Past Master, 2 Member & 14 Visitors

**APOLOGIES:** W Bros: D Letzer, R Barnard, A Morris, H Bownes, N Horsey, M Childs, N Clayton, B Blackman & D Jenkins, Bros: N Bryan, J Letzer, B Letzer, L Donovan, N McHenry, & N Sykes.

### 2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Gareth Manson.

### 3 To Receive our Official Guests from Loyal Manor Lodge

The Worshipful Master of Loyal Manor Lodge No 6445, W Bro Stephen Watkin and received with pleasure and due form. On the evening he was supported by 10 other brethren from his Lodge which made for a fantastic evening.

*W Bro Chris Ford (Acting DC) rose to give salutations to the visiting APGM W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills with 5 who thanked the WM & Brethren for their sincere greeting and in return wished them well.*

### 4 To Ballot for W Bro Dan Butcher as a joining member

The details of W Bro Dan, proposed by Bro Mike Crick and seconded by W Bro Andy Dollery, were as shown on the agenda and circulated separately to the brethren.

The ballot was conducted by the WM and the Wardens as no other brother asked for the means to ballot. The ballot proved unanimously in favour and W Bro Dan was welcomed into The Portsmouth Lodge No 487 by the Worshipful Master.

### 5 Rehearsal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Ceremony of Passing

The WM and his team of Officers then gave an excellent rehearsal of the ceremony of Passing, The outstanding piece of ritual was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Tracing Board given by W Bro Chris Ford.

## **6 To Read Correspondence**

The Secretary has advised that all correspondence has been distributed to the brethren

## **7 The Almoner Report**

W Bro Gareth provided an electronic copy of his report but welcomed the brethren back for 2026 and mentioned that:

- W Bro Howard Bownes was suffering from a chest infection
- W Bob Blackman unfortunately ended up in hospital with Sepsis but is now recovering
- W Bro Roger Barnard was still having treatment but wished everyone well

He was sure these brethren would appreciate a call and lastly, it was good to see Bro Robin Ford back in the lodge.

## **8 The Charity Stewards Report**

The Charity Steward, Bro Mike Crick mentioned that his report was now posted on the website which also now has the link to the homepage for the MCF.

The Lodge is 95% towards its Silver honorific for the 2027 festival and we just need that little extra push.

## **9 To Receive a Proposition from the Charity Steward that £200 be donated to 'Friends of the Homeless'**

In pursuant to the Notice of Motion given at the last meeting, Bro Mike Crick made the proposal which was seconded by W Bro B Cullen and passed unanimously with a show of hands.

## **10 To Collect Alms**

The Alms collection raised £ 43.90 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 PM Meeting was at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February followed by the Lodge GP and a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.**

## **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 VO, W Bro Pete Ambrose wished all the brethren a happy and healthy new year and concentrated his address on the Membership pathway or now with the inclusion of the Royal Arch, the 'Building Together' initiative. He then thanked the Lodge for their efforts on behalf of the 2027 Festival and said that 487 was just over a thousand pounds short of their honorific and to achieve that would be fantastic. He reminded brethren of the Official Visits coming up to Prince of Wales Lodge No 1705 on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, and the Master Builders Lodge No 8694 where the VIP would be W Bro Adrian Cleightonhills on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Lastly he gave notice that the Dine A friend in Gosport would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May and that the Solent Area Cheque Presentation evening would be on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

The WM rose for the third time to thank those who had stood in offices this evening, W Bro Barry Filer as IPM, W Bro Chris Ford as DC, W Bro Andy Dollery as SW, W Bro Andy Brown as SD, W Bro Pete Ambrose as JD and Bro Mike Crick, 'Candidate Extraordinaire', for standing again as the candidate and those that had assisted with the ceremony. He also welcomed all our Visitors and hoped everyone has an enjoyable Festive Board.

Bro Mike Crick rose to give a Notice of Motion that at the next meeting he would propose a donation not exceeding £ 523 for the Elizabeth Foundation which was money raised by the WM W Bro Robert Banks.

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:** W Bro Roger Barnard was unavoidably absent but the Secretary did mention a few of the points raised in his latest report which is now available on the website.

**12 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 £ 195 and the Whisky Raffle £54.

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

**Date:** .....