

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 27th March 2026

1 Opening

The meeting was opened by our IPM W Bro Danny Letzer who stood in as WM for the evening, at 5.35 p.m.

PRESENT: There were present: 14 Officers, 4 Past Master, 3 Member & 5 Visitors

APOLOGIES: W Bros: G Manson, H Bownes, B Blackman & D Jenkins, Bros: A Bentley & A Spottiswood,

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 27th February 2026 were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Danny Letzer

3 To Receive the Worshipful Masters of Phoenix Lodge No 257, Harmony Lodge No 309 & Royal Sussex Lodge No 342

Unfortunately the WM of Phoenix Lodge was unable to attend but W Bro Pete Wood from Harmony Lodge and W Bro Chris Hudson from Royal Sussex Lodge No 342 were received with pleasure and in due form.

W Bro Chris Ford (Acting DC) rose to give salutations to members of Grand Lodge in the person of W Bro Darren Lawrence PAGSupWks who responded by thanking the WM & Brethren for their sincere greeting and in return greeted & wished them well.

4 To Install Brother Joshua Aidan Letzer as Worshipful Master of The Portsmouth Lodge No 487 for the ensuing Year

The IM, W Bro Danny Letzer, then asked all Entered apprentices to retire and then asked the following Officers to either remain in place or take the Offices:

Senior Warden – W Bro Andy Brown
Junior Warden – W Bro Wayne Frampton (remained in place)
Senior Deacon – W Bro Adrian Jones
Junior Deacon - W Bro Andy Dollery (remained in place)
Inner Guard – W Bro Kevin Hunt (remained in place)

The IM then Opened the Lodge in 2nd Degree

The DC then presented Bro Joshua Aidan Letzer to the W Bro Danny Letzer as IM to receive the benefit of Installation. The IM then recited the qualifications of taking the Masters Chair and asked Bro Letzer if he was able to undertake the Mastership of this Lodge on these qualifications, to which he answered "I am".

The IM then directed Bro Letzer's attention to the Secretary who read out the Ancient Charges & Regulations to which he gave his unqualified assent by the 'Sign of Reverence' after each charge.

Bro Josh Letzer was then invited to advance to the pedestal to take a Solemn Obligation as regards his duty as Worshipful Master of this The Portsmouth Lodge No 487.

The IM then asked all Fellowcrafts to retire for a short period and opened the Lodge in the Third Degree. Any Officers collars were collected as they retired.

The IM then asked all MM's below the rank of an Installed Master to retire and Opened a Board of Installed Masters and completed the 'Inner Working' to install W Bro Joshua Aidan Letzer into the Chair of King Solomon.

W Bro Bob Cullen, on behalf of our VO W Bro Pete Ambrose, congratulated W Bro Joshua from him and the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Johnathon Charles Whittaker and wished him a fantastic year in the Chair. He had no doubts that W Bro Josh would be a wonderful WM.

MM's were then admitted, and they passed round the Lodge to salute our new Worshipful Master. The IM declared W Bro Josh Letzer for the first time and in the East as our new WM and they greeted him as MM's with Three. W Bro Andy Morris then presented the Working Tools of a Master Mason. The WM then closed the Lodge in the Third degree and re-opened in the Second.

FC's were then admitted, and they passed round the Lodge to salute our new Worshipful Master. The IM declared W Bro Josh Letzer for the second time and in the West as our new WM and they greeted him as FC's with Five. Bro Bobby Letzer presented the Working Tools of a Fellowcraft. The WM then closed the Lodge in the Second Degree and re-opened in the First

EA's were then admitted, and they passed round the Lodge to salute our new Worshipful Master. The IM declared W Bro Josh Letzer for the Third time and in the South as our new WM and they greeted him as MM's with Three. W Bro Andy Dollery presented the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice.

W Bro Joshua Aidan Letzer was then shown the Warrant of the Lodge which was delivered into his care and presented with The BoC and By-Laws of the Lodge.

W Bro Danny Letzer did a fantastic job of installing his nephew W Bro Joshua Letzer into the Chair of King Solomon and brothers Morris, B Letzer and Dollery gave excellent presentations of the tools. With W Bro Chris Ford undertaking the DC role, the Lodge gave W Bro Josh an Installation of real feeling and polish. Well done to all the team.

5 To Appoint and Invest the Officers for the ensuing year

W Bro Joshua Letzer asked the following Officers, who were staying in Office to Stand:

Secretary – W Bro Bob Cullen

DC – W Bro Dan Letzer

Almoner – W Bro Gareth Manson

Charity Steward – Bro Mike Crick

ADC – W Bro Chris Ford

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Assistant Secretary – W Bro Andy Dollery

Membership Officer – W Bro Roger Barnard
Mentor – W Bro Wayne Frampton
SD – Bro Neil McHenry
Organist – W Bro Roger Smith

He thanked them for their continued support and was pleased that they have agreed to remain in Office during his Mastership.

The WM then Appointed or Invested the following Officers very expertly and efficiently

SW – W Bro Wayne Frampton
JW – Bro Bobby Letzer
(The brethren received their Representatives to Grand Lodge in due form)

Chaplain – W Bro Barry Filer
Treasurer – W Bro Adrian Jones
JD – W Bro Kevin Hunt
Inner Guard – Bro Lewis Donovan
Tyler – W Bro Gary Young

Then the following Brethren gave the following addresses which were all given brilliantly.

Address to the Worshipful Master – W Bro Adrian Jones

Address to the Wardens – W Bro Barry Filer

Address to the Brethren – W Bro Roger Smith

The WM then given full control of the Lodge and completed the rest of the Agenda.

6 To Read Correspondence

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

7 The Almoner Report

W Bro Gareth provided an electronic copy of his report which is available on the website.

8 The Charity Stewards Report

The Charity Steward, Bro Mike Crick mentioned that his report was now posted on the website but mentioned specifically:

- His visit to the Elizabeth Foundation to present the cheque for £523
- The Lodge had raised or pledged £21777 for the 2027 Festival and were 93% towards the Silver Honoric

The Charity Steward then enquired of the new WM his Chairty for this year who responded with the MS Society

9 To Collect Alms

The Alms collection raised £28.70 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

10 AOB

The Secretary mentioned the upcoming visit to Dorking Lodge on Monday 30th and said that 5 brethren would be attending: W Bros B Filer, Chris Ford, Bob Cullen, Andy Brown and Bro Mike Crick

The Secretary then asked the WM to take the apologies as read to which he agreed. He then reminded the brethren of the **next GP Meeting was at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14th April followed by a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 17th April.**

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 W Bro Bob Cullen, on behalf of our VO Pete Ambrose mentioned:

- The Approaching the Chair Seminar at Fareham on Saturday 16th May at 9.30am. He asked that The WM, Senior & Junior Wardens advise both himself and W Bro Pete asap if they are intending to go
- The 'Dine A friend' on Wednesday 6th May : details to follow
- The Charity Cheque Presentation Day on Friday 8th May:/ details to follow

The WM rose for the third time to thank those who had stood in offices this evening. He also welcomed our Visitors and hoped everyone has an enjoyable Festive Board.

W Bro Roger Smith rose to say how nice it was to see W Bro Roger Barnard back in Lodge following his treatment and gave congratulations to W Bro Josh as WM from Brothers Bob Pearce and Martin Renaldson.

The Charity Steward gave a NOM that at the next meeting he would be proposing that a sum not exceeding £250 be donated to the MS Therapies Unit in Portsmouth,

The WM rose to give a NOM that he is Sponsoring Bro Josh Watkins as a joining member of the Lodge for whom the Secretary will shortly distribute details.

Lastly, the Secretary rose to advise that the Lodge has a prospective candidate who has completed his information form and his Form P and that he would also be circulating his details in due course.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: W Bro Roger Barnard had nothing to add at this point but his report would be on the website shortly..

11 Closing

The Lodge was closed at 7.35 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 £ 120 and the Whisky Raffle £50.

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

Date: