

# THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Secretary:  
W. Bro. R. Cullen  
97 Upper Barn Copse  
Fair Oak  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire  
SO50 8DB

Tel: 07814 002792  
E-mail: 487secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer:  
W. Bro. A. Jones  
7, Larkspur Close  
Southampton  
Hampshire  
SO32 2RE



Tel: 07971 816770  
E-mail: Adrian.d.jones@talk21.com

## 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> April 2026

### 1 Opening

The meeting was opened by our IPM W Bro Gareth Manson who stood in as WM for the evening, at 6,00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** There were present: 12 Officers, 2 Past Master, 3 Members & 7 Visitors

**APOLOGIES:** W Bros: J Letzer, A Jones, A Dollery, A Brown, H Bownes, B Blackman & D Jenkins, Bros: L Donovan, B Letzer, A Bentley

### 2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Gareth Manson

### 3 To Receive the Representative of Karwan Lodge No 8970 as Official Guest

W Bro Nick Smart of Karwan Lodge No 8970 was received with pleasure and in due form.

W Bro Danny Letzer (DC) rose to give salutations to members of Grand Lodge in the person of W Bro Steve Frost PAGSupWks who responded by thanking the WM & Brethren for their sincere greeting and in return greeted & wished them well.

The WM then rose to welcome all visitors both Official and Private and hoped they have a great evening both in the temple and at the Festive Board.

### 4 To Ballot for as a Joining member – Bro Joshua Watkins, aged 24, a Royal Naval Engineering Technician at HMS Collingwood. A member of Lodge of the Seven Seas No 8603 who was Sponsored by W Bro Josh Letzer in Open Lodge on 27th March 2026

On this occasion the Ballot was conducted by the WM, SW & JW after all brethren were invited to partake if they wished. The Ballot proved in favour of Bro Josh Watkins who was cordially welcomed by the WM and given a copy of The Portsmouth Lodge By-Laws.

### 5 To Pass Bro Josh Watkins initiated on 20th February 2025 in The Lodge of the Seven Seas or to complete a rehearsal of the Ceremony of Passing

The WM asked if any Brother sought advancement and Bro Joshua Watkins stood. All brethren below the rank of a FC were asked to leave the Lodge for a short period.

Bro Josh was conducted to beneath the 'G' where he was excellent in answering his questions before retiring to be prepared for the ceremony. The Lodge was opened in 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

W Bro Gareth Manson then Passed Bro Josh to the degree of a FC and conducted the ceremony wonderfully. W Bro Bob Cullen presented and explained the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Working Tools and W Bro Danny Letzer read the Royal Arch Narrative

On the candidates return W Bro Chris Ford gave a superb explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Tracing Board.

## **6 To Read Correspondence**

The Secretary advised that the Lodge had received Thank You letters from

- The Elizabeth Foundation for the donation given
- W Bro Chris Hudson for being invited as an Official Guest at our March meeting.

He had also received a letter of apology from the WM of Fareham Lodge who could not be with us that evening.

## **7 The Almoner Report**

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

In particular he mentioned that he had spoken to:

- W Bro Bob Blackman who was recovering from an Op but who wished the WM and brethren well.
- Peggy Malthouse who also has not been too well but improving.

Lastly, he mentioned that his mum had not been well but again recovering

The Almoner and the Lodge wished them all well and a speedy return to full health.

## **8 The Charity Stewards Report**

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

- He had met with the representatives from the Elizabeth Foundation who were very pleased with our donation of £523
- The Lodge is at 95% towards the Festival honorific
- That Festival envelopes along with raffle tickets for Zetland Court would be on the tables at the Festive Board

## **9 To receive a Proposition from the Charity Steward**

The Charity Steward proposed that a sum of £250 be donated to the MS Society Portsmouth. This was seconded by W Bro Bob Cullen and passed unanimously with a show of hands.

## **10 To Collect Alms**

The Alms collection raised £ 29.00 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

**11 AOB**

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 5<sup>th</sup> May followed by a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and reminded Brethren that it a White Table event, that the Entertainment was exceptional and that ALL brethren should make the effort to attend. It is going to be a fantastic event and at just £30 pp was great value.**

**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 our VO W Bro Pete Ambrose mentioned:

- The Province is working on the 'Building Together' initiative with closer ties being developed between the Craft and the Royal Arch. More information will follow.
- There are a couple of OV's: 27<sup>th</sup> April at Wessex Lodge of Fidelity with APGM Jonathan Bell & 5<sup>th</sup> June at St Vincents Lodge with APGM Duncan Lilley. These are always good nights and he would encourage brethren to go along if they can.
- Great news that Portsmouth Lodge were supporting the Dine A Friend and hopefully new candidates will be forthcoming
- There is a CPT course on 30<sup>th</sup> May and the Secretary has details should anyone wish to attend
- Lastly, that there is an 'Approaching the Chair' seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> May should the WM and Wardens wish to go along.

The WM rose for the third time to thank those who had stood in offices this evening - W Bro Dan Butcher as JW, W Bro Roger Barnard as Inner Guard. He also thanked W Bro Barry for the SE Corner, W Bro Bob Cullen for the Working Tools and especially W Bro Chris Ford for his excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Tracing Board.

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:** W Bro Roger Barnard had nothing to add at this point but his report was on the website

Mentioned that it was great that we had a number of prospective candidates going along to the Dine A Friend.

**12 Closing**

The Lodge was closed at 7.45 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 £130.00 and the Whisky Raffle £44.00.

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

**Date: .....**