

The Portsmouth Lodge No 487

Minutes for the General Purposes Committee meeting
held at the Fareham Masonic Centre.
Tuesday 1st September 2026
The Meeting was opened at 7.00pm with
W Bro Josh Letzer in the Chair

item	SUBJECT	Action
1	Attendance and Apologies There were 11 attendees & 6 apologies as per attendance sheet.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting Minutes of the last committee meeting held at FMC on Tuesday 5 th May 2026 have been circulated, were approved & then signed by W Bro Josh Letzer	
2 a	Matters Arising – these were included under the individual Agenda Items below	
3	Lodge website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W Bros Adrian Jones and Chris Ford were having trouble signing in but this is no longer the case although Bro Adrian was getting kicked out at times. W Bro Andy Brown would look into this. - W bro Andy mentioned the sad Passing of W Bro Maurice Freeman who had given great assistance in setting up the site. The Lodge is very grateful for the help Maurice gave and mourned the loss of Departed Merit. However, W Bro Andy ow has a new contact for support. - We have had 5 contacts on the site of which 2 are enquiries for joining and these are known to W Bro Roger Barnard our LMO. - W bro Adrian Jones asked who hosted the site and had the issue of Picture sizing been resolved. W Bro advised that the site was being hosted on the Wordpress Servers and that he would continue to monitor the services. W Bro Dan Butcher said that he could with the Picture Sizing issue 	AB
4	Candidates Mr. Stephen Burt has confirmed his intention to be initiated and the Secretary will send him the letter drafted by our LMO. Unfortunately, Mr Mark Smith, the other potential candidate has pulled out. LMO to follow up on the two enquiries from the website W Bro Gareth mentioned that potentially we have 2 new initiates in January, Mr John Milner and another Sponsored by W Bro Chris Ford.	

5	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>The Treasurers report is now on the website and W Bro Adrian advised that he was not able to attend the December meeting. It is therefore his intention to give NOM's in October that in the November he would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propose the Exclusion of those brethren not having paid their Subscriptions - Propose an increase to the Subscriptions for 2027 (TBC) 	
6	<p>Charity Stewards Report & 2027 Festival Update</p> <p>The Charity Steward was unavoidably absent but his latest report will be on the website shortly. Proposing at the meeting to donate £250 towards Connors Toy charity based in Portsmouth.</p>	
7	<p>Almoners Report.</p> <p>W Bro Gareth reported that W Bro Barry Filer had again been in hospital but was back home now and it was good to see him at the GP.</p> <p>He also mentioned that W Bro Howard's wife Dot had been in for a Hip Operation but was recovering.</p>	
8	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>All correspondence had been forwarded to the Brethren</p>	
9	<p>Agenda for the next meeting</p> <p>September: Intention is to do an Initiation for Mr. Stephen Burt as per the notes above. Cost for those candidates joining in September will be £195</p> <p>October: Will be a Ceremony of Raising (Third) for Brother Lewis Donovan. We will be inviting Dorking Lodge as our Official Guests</p>	
10	<p>LMO and Lodge Plan</p> <p>W Bro Roger Barnard was unable to attend but he has sent his papers and has arranged a meeting to interview the two potential candidates on October 15th</p> <p>On this Item the Secretary mentioned that he had received 2 resignations from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W Bro Gary Young - Bro Nick Bryan 	

11	<p data-bbox="326 50 396 84">AOB</p> <p data-bbox="326 126 1485 268">W Bro Gareth mentioned the Gathering of the Clans which 487 has been invited to hold for 2027. There was a short discussion on holding this event and the date. It was proposed that we do agree to Host the next Gathering and that we would apply for a Special Dispensation for the 11th June 2027. This was unanimously agreed by those present.</p> <p data-bbox="326 310 1485 415">The Secretary advised that the 11th June was OK with Royal Sussex Lodge and the date was available in FMC. More thought and effort needed to be given to what we do on the night and what would we give to attendees? Max 110?</p> <p data-bbox="326 457 1247 491">Honours Board – the Secretary will arrange for the boards to be updated</p> <p data-bbox="326 533 1485 676">Promotions: the Secretary will put forward W Bro Andy Dollery and W Bro Chris Ford for promotion. W Bro Barry Filer mentioned that he had spoken to the PGM about being promoted to PPSGW and that we could submit a form. The Secretary would do so but will prioritise them as agreed. 1. W Bro Andy 2. W Bro Chris & 3. W Bro Barry</p> <p data-bbox="326 718 1485 823">W Bro Andy Dollery advised that he is giving notice to the Lodge that he will not continue as Dining Steward at Install in March 2027. The Lodge needs to find a replacement.</p>	
	<p data-bbox="326 1008 1485 1073">There was no further business & the meeting closed at 7.59 pm. The next GP meeting @ 7.00pm will be on Tuesday 6th October 2026</p>	