

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 25th September 2026

1 Opening

The meeting was opened by the WM W Bro Joshua Letzer at 6,00 p.m.

PRESENT: There were present: 13 Officers, 2 Past Masters, 4 Member & 5 Visitors

APOLOGIES: W Bros: M Childs, A Bentley, Andrew Dollery, Wayne Frampton, H Bownes, B Blackman & D Jenkins, Bros: Nil

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 22nd May 2026 were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Joshua Letzer

3 To Receive Official Guests

The Lodge welcomed W Bro Richard Lockwood, Worshipful Master of Fareham Lodge No 8582 with pleasure and in due form.

W Bro Danny Letzer (DC) rose to give salutations to members of Grand Lodge in the persons of W Bro Steve Frost PAGSuptWks, and W Bro Darren Lawrence PAGSuptWks. W Bro Steve Frost thanked the WM & Brethren for their sincere greeting and in return wished them well.

4 To Ballot as a candidate for initiation Mr Stephen Burt, DOB 05/03/1963, Residing at 39 East Cosham Road, Drayton, PO6 2BJ. Occupation: Engineer for Airbus Space & Defence. Sponsored in Open Lodge on 22nd May 2026 by W Bro Roger Barnard

Prior to the Ballot being taken the Secretary rose and gave the declaration that in the opinion of a Committee of members of the Lodge, Mr Stephen Michael Burt was a proper person to be admitted as a member of the Lodge.

The Ballot was conducted just by the Principal Officers as no other member of Portsmouth Lodge expressed their wish to Ballot. The Worshipful Master declared the Ballot in favour of the candidate.

5 To Initiate Mr Stephen Burt or undertake a Rehearsal of the Ceremony of Initiation

The WM and his team gave an excellent ceremony for our new made brother with the WM taking him from the start and through the obligation. W Bro Chris Ford gave the piece on the Dangers and Signs of a Mason, The SW presented the EA Apron, W Bro Pete Ambrose gave the NE Corner ritual and Bro Neil McHenry the Working Tools. W Bro Roger Smith gave the Mode of Preparation and W Bro Danny Letzer the Charge.

All of the team performed their ritual excellently and everyone in the team deserves praise for making the evening very special for our newest member Bro Stephen. Bro Stephen later remarked how much he had enjoyed the evening and the Official Guest at the Festive Board praised the way the whole team gave the ritual directly to the candidate in a way that was informative and meaningful. Great work Team!!!

Lastly W Bro Gareth Manson read the RA Narrative to Bro Stephen informing him of the 4 ceremonies he would need to undertake to complete his journey in Ancient Freemasonry.

6 To Read Correspondence

The Secretary advised that all correspondence had been sent to the Brethren with the Exception of two resignations from W Bro Gary Young and Bro Nick Bryan. Each would be given the 60 day period to reconsider.

In addition he advised all the Brethren that The Portsmouth Lodge had been chosen to Host the next 'Gathering of the Clans', a meeting of Royal Sussex Lodge and all of their Daughter and Granddaughter Lodges. The first two events had proved very successful and we would hope to do the same. At the GP meeting it was decided that 487 should apply for Dispensation to hold an additional meeting on Friday 11th June 2027 and the Secretary has already secured that evening with FMC and applied for the Dispensation. The GP will now work to promote the event and determine how we can make it a special occasion.

7 The Almoner Report

W Bro Gareth provided an electronic copy of his report which is available on the website. He did however, mention:

- W Bro Barry has had two stays in QA but it was good to see him in the Lodge
- W Bro Howard's wife Dot had been in hospital for an op but she is recovering although suffering from Dementia. Subsequently he did see Howard & Dot and they thanked him for the beautiful bouquet of flowers he provided on behalf of the Lodge.
- W Bro Bob Blackan's partner Michelle was now in a care home
- His own Mum is losing her mobility and they are now giving her more care.

8 The Charity Stewards Report

The Charity Steward, Bro Mike Crick advised that a copy of his report was on the website. He did however, mention that:

- The festival figure was now at £22432 or 95% towards the Silver Honorific
- The Widows Sons were doing their annual Toy Appeal (SCRATCH) where brethren can leave unopened toys at FMC or make a donation
- The MCF was being rebranded the Freemasons Charity..

9 To Collect Alms

The Alms collection raised £ 35.05 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

10 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 6th October followed by a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 16th October**

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.

Our Brother VO rose at this time to say that the focus was still very much on the Membership Challenge although now it is the Building Together initiative which incorporates the RA Archway initiative. There will be a Dine A Friend in January 2027 and more details will follow. Lastly, he mentioned that Brethren should check out Solomon as it has an incredible amount of information. It also allows brethren to attempt the Diploma with information and quizzes on EA, FC, MM and Companions. In fact he had a Diploma Certificate to award to W Bro Bob Cullen who had just completed the course. W Bro Gareth Manson also completed it back in April and Bro Neil McHenry is working through it now. Bro Neil thoroughly recommended brethren to go onto the site.

The WM rose for the third time and thanked everyone for coming this evening and for attending the White Table. He hoped everyone has a fantastic evening..

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: W Bro Roger Barnard was unavoidably unable to make the meeting but has made arrangements for a further meeting of the Membership Team where they could also be interviewing a potential Candidate.

The Charity Steward Bro Mike Crick gave a notice of motion that at the next meeting he would propose a sum not exceeding £250 be taken from the Charity Account and given to Connors Toy Library

W Bro Roger Smith rose to pass on best wishes from two ex-members, Bob Pearce and Martin Renaldson

11 Closing

The Lodge was closed at 8 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 £ 95 .00.

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

Date: