

The Portsmouth Lodge No 487

Minutes for the General Purposes Committee meeting
held at the Fareham Masonic Centre.
Tuesday 6th October 2026
The Meeting was opened at 7.00pm with
W Bro Gareth Manson in the Chair

item	SUBJECT	Action
1	Attendance and Apologies There were 8 attendees & 7 apologies as per attendance sheet.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting Minutes of the last committee meeting held at FMC on Tuesday 1 st September 2026 have been circulated, were approved & then signed by W Bro Gareth Manson	
2 a	Matters Arising – these were included under the individual Agenda Items below	
3	Lodge Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W Bro Andy Brown advised that he had looked at the issues experienced by W Bro Adrian Jones but could not find a problem but will monitor the situation - W Bro Dan Butcher has edited the pictures sent by W Bro Adrian and they are now on the website - There are a number of ‘non-users’ of the website, including senior officers and brethren were reminded to use it more frequently 	AB
4	Candidates There are 3 potential candidates that have been invited by our LMO to the Lodge rooms on 15 th October where hopefully we can get firm commitment on joining in the new year.	
5	Treasurers Report The Treasurers report is now on the website and W Bro Adrian advised that dining for October would be £23 and that in October he will be giving a NOM that the subs will be rising. He is still finalizing the exact cost but will advise brethren on the evening.	
6	Charity Stewards Report & 2027 Festival Update The Charity Steward advised that the report will be on the website shortly but mentioned that he is intending to give a NOM in October that a sum not exceeding £250 be donated to the Lifehouse Charity. He will confirm with that charity that they wish to receive it. He also mentioned that the MCF was being renamed to The Freemasons Charity but this has no effect on the Relief Chest.	

7	<p>Almoners Report.</p> <p>W Bro Gareth reported that W bro Barry he was suffering with a bad chest and gave his apologies for not being able to attend the GP.</p> <p>He also remarked on the sad passing of Bro Ed Watkin who had died on 5th October. The Secretary advised that he would provide more details on the funeral when known</p> <p>He also mentioned that our Vo's Father-in-law had passed away and the GP Committee and all the brethren send our sincere condolences to him and the family.</p> <p>Note: Subsequent to the meeting the Secretary was informed of the sad passing of W Bro Chris Russell PPAGDC who had passed away that lunchtime with a bad chest infection. He has sent condolences to his widow Carol and passed on the information to our Almoner W Bro Gareth Manson</p>	
8	Correspondence - All correspondence had been forwarded to the Brethren	
9	<p>Agenda for the next meeting</p> <p>October: We will be performing the 1st Degree Tracing Board Lecture. W Bro's Lawrence Simmons & Bruce Bessinger of Dorking Lodge No 1149 will be our Official Guests.</p> <p>November: Will be the Raising of Bro Lewis Donovan. The Secretary will invite the new WM of Lodge of Harmony and the WM of Prince of Wales Lodge No 1705</p>	
10	<p>LMO and Lodge Plan</p> <p>W Bro Roger Barnard was unavoidably absent but has a membership team Meeting for 15th October where we hope to interview 3 prospective candidates. More details to follow.</p>	
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>W Bro Bob Cullen advised that he would not be at the November meeting and W Bro Andy Brown kindly offered to stand in as Secretary.</p> <p>W Bro Bob Cullen raised concern about the December Meeting and it was decided to canvass the brethren to see who will definitely be attending and their guests. It feels like we won't get enough numbers to make the event worthwhile and need all of our Brethren to commit to being there. He would ask the question when he lets brethren know these minutes and the October Summons are on the website.</p>	
	There was no further business & the meeting closed at 8 pm. The next GP meeting @ 7.00pm will be on Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	